

November 10th, 2016 OT Parent Council Minutes

Attendees: Rob Best, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Roberta Veitch, Marie Day, Carolyn Adams-Hill, Evelyn Uvakov, Olaf Alksnis, Sarita Kaunds, Lil Mortensen, Shohreh Bhatti, Carolyn Holmes, Meena Sahi, Sue Miles, Rose Brooks, Tina Sheldon MacCormac, Tracy Jarvis, Karena de Souza, Meetu Vijay

Motion to approve minutes from October 13th, 2016.

- Approved by Susan Miles, seconded by Sarita Kaunds.

Administrative note: Chris Reidy has advised that due to conflicting priorities, she will no longer be able to assist with Secretary Functions however will still participate on the Parent Council when available as a member at large.

RDC/Student Council Update-None

Principal Update-Meena Sahi

On-Line Literacy test update-

- 2 sessions: morning and afternoon. Cyber-attack on EQAO website. Students couldn't get into the site with their codes. 9:30 realized students couldn't log in and finish the exam, decision made the students wouldn't write, not even for the afternoon session.
- In March, both options are available, paper and online, what the board will do is still under discussion. All grade 10 students will be considered first time writers in March.

Why didn't grades 11 and 12 have school that day?

- More teacher supervision was required for the students writing the exams (two sessions).
- Need to consider a better process next time for students who are not writing the exams. Some students left the school.
- Grade 11 and 12 students had scheduled clinics in which they could choose to participate. Students did attend these sessions but not in large numbers.

Action: Meena to provide feedback to Board on OT's experience to help ensure smoother process next time this is considered.

Athletics

- Sr. Boys Rugby 7's – Ontario Champions
- Sr. Girls Rugby 7's – Ontario Silver Medal
- Jr. Boys Volleyball – Semi-final winners – advance to finals on Monday at Sheridan-close game, loss for OT.

Co-Curricular

- Model UN event participation
- Ontario Student Leadership Conference in Niagara Falls
- We Day Participation
- Music Retreat to Orillia
- Robotics Competition in Rochester
- Canadian Math Challenge Participation
- Garage Sale for Relay for Life

November Events

- Successful Parent Interview Night
- Student Led Remembrance Day Assembly
- Up-Coming Midterm Report Card, week of November 14th

Reminder about Performance Task Time and Exam Schedule Dates – both can be found on the website; students need to be in class during this time-exception for Ski/Snowboard team

New Liaison Officer – Cont. Vanessa Reynolds

Staff Learning

- Innovation and Technology Session at Garth Webb – several teachers participated
- Desmos Training for Math Teachers
- Assistive Technology Training for SERTS
- BMS Training for Staff on the Nov. PD Day
- Equity Training at October Staff Meeting

Teacher Update –Susan Miles

- Parents' Night – chance to meet teachers – student's rotation
- OSSLT "attempt" – see update under Principal Update

Excellence Night

Take Our Kids To Work

- Midterm reports – next week

Finance/Treasurer Update-Rose Brooks and Marie Day

- \$380 more brought in since September 30th.
- Garage sale \$4,000 was collected for Relay for Life. Money is used to help promote the event.

Council Updates

Community Connections/PIC Update- Karena DeSouza

- Update Dr. Mark Rotherman presented Nov. 1st.-100 attended PIC meeting.
- **Parent Information Committee Rep meeting happening next Thursday, Nov 17th** Trustees have been particularly asked to attend as there will be opportunities to interact with the Family of Schools PIC reps as a group. We're also learning more about Google Groups and the opportunity to share resources.
- Dr. Karen Gordon- Will be speaking on Tuesday December 6th at 8pm. More people expected to come but will keep the same venue. May extend to other schools. Dream Careers is the topic.
- **Action:** need clarification of the content-is it targeted to students or parents or both? Rob /Meredith to follow up.
- Event Bright monitoring-helps manage space allocation for speakers- should we use for the above event?
- Consideration decision in using this tool for OT to help manage attendance and possibly opening up sessions to other surrounding schools. In order for this to work, it would need to be managed and emails maintained. Continue discussion at future council meetings.

Super Council Meeting Update- Rob Best

- Rob and Ann Harvey-Hope attended-Meeting other council chairs. Intended to be for sharing of information and what is working or not working with the respective councils. A Google group site has been set up to share information between council chairs and HDSB.
- Any parent who wishes to be included in the Super Council Google Group should email rob.best@cogeco.ca and Rob will add them to the group site.
- Discussed multiyear plan
- Long-term accommodation plan-Burlington under review
- New website review
- French immersion enrolment changing in 2017. Recommending starting for Grade 2 instead of Grade 1. Difficulty finding qualified teachers.
- Special Education funding being cut. Work underway by Board on how to address this.
- Bussing delays continued for some schools however now much better.
- Inspire awards-recognition program for supporting students in HDSB-will share nominations on OT bulletin board-nominate someone!
- Next Super Council meeting in February.

Fundraising- Where should we allocate the funds?

- Meena and Rose will present at next meeting.
- Example- Painting in the atrium.

Voting Members

- All parents on the council are voting members. Suggest sending out minutes to only members that have attended that month's meeting. Those

that did not attend, could go view the minutes on the website that are posted once approved at following council meeting.

- **Action:** Need a clarification on constitution and bylaws for parent council-review next meeting-Rob

Other Business:

- Skunk found in Burlington tested positive for rabies. Communication went out to all students/parents.
- Uptake in rabies in the area.

CAPP-Understanding Mental Health-Nov 15th

- Nov 15th-Garth Webb-Road to success, dealing with Anxiety-**put on student bulletin board.**

Board of Trustees Update– Ann Harvey Hope sent in her updates via email.

- HDSB Committee of the Whole discussed School to Community information (SC to parents/community as well as Principal to parents/community) and various sources etc - website, Facebook, Twitter, blogs. We also are looking for more ways to be transparent about the business of the Board.
- Reminder - Parent Information Committee Rep meeting happening next Thursday, Nov 17th - Trustees have been particularly asked to attend as there will be opportunities to interact with the Family of Schools PIC reps as a group. At this meeting, there will be more information about Google Groups and the opportunity to share resources.
- Ann Harvey Hope wants to remind School Council to let her know if there's anything that School Council would like to bring to the Board through her.

Motion to adjourn meeting Sarita Kaunds and seconded by Tina MacCormac

Meeting adjourned @ 8:08pm.

Next Parent Council meeting is December 8th, 2016 at 7:00PM. This meeting is being held off-site, please contact rob.best@cogeco.ca for more details.

Any agenda items for the next meeting should be emailed to rob.best@cogeco.ca by the Monday prior to each council meeting.