

Minutes October 12th, 2017 Parent Council Meeting

Attendees: *Rob Best, Martha Testa, Marie Day, Anette Winslow, Susan Miles, Ann Harvey Hope, Meena Sahi, Andrew Bigham, Roberta Veitch, Margaret Finlay-Watzeck, Olaf Alksnis, Tracy Jarvis, Shohreh Bhatti, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Carolyn Adams Hill, Chris Reidy, Shalini Chandra, Pamela Barrett, Yasmine Khan, Lindsay McNight,*

Call to order – Rob Best

Minutes from Sept 21st, 2017 – edits noted and corrected. Minutes approved by Margaret Finlay-Watzeck and second by Marie Day.

Student Council update

- No update this month.

Council selection of elected positions 2017/2018 - Meena Sahi

- Council executive positions selected
 - Chair – Rob Best
 - Quorum approved with second by Chris Reidy
 - Secretary – Martha Testa
 - Quorum approved with second by Margaret Finlay-Watzeck
 - Roberta Veitch and Chris Reidy offered to support
 - Treasurer – Marie Day
 - Quorum approved with second by Anette Winslow

Financial updates – Meena Sahi

- New business manager Lisa Rhodes beginning next week. No financial print out tonight.
- Latest update will be sent tomorrow to Rob Best who will include them into the minutes.
- Parent donations are down 89% from last year.
- Rob Best provided a donation letter to prompt parent donations to the school council fund.
- Chris Reidy recommended adding images to donation form to highlight need for donations.
- Reasons for decline: In previous years, the opportunity to donate came up multiple times per year. This year it is less visible.
- The student engagement fee is also down from last year.
- The new system takes donations and generates an automatic tax receipt so cannot be changed.
- Olaf indicated he is surprised that the school board could make such a change to a foreseeable problem.
- Shohreh recommended a paper mail reminder. Others suggested that would not be well received.

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- Annette Winslow asked for the trend of donations since the system went cashless.
- Ann Harvey Hope added that the reason for the decline may be a series of issues: the school promoted “no paying for school” which means parents are less inclined to donate. Additionally some parents are not on email.
- Chris recommended a paper reminder be handed out at parent-teacher meetings on October 26th. Or that a table be set up in a central location at the conferences. Parents could drop cheques or have a printout given to them on how to donate when they are home.
- Andrew suggested we do an add on to the website. Insert links.
- Olaf asked what is our contingency plan if the funds don't come in?
- Yasmine suggested targeting the Grade 9 parents.
- Rob Best asked if it can be added to the monthly fee updates directly to parents. Meena believes it cannot be done because it is a voluntary donation.
- Ann Harvey Hope will look into this on behalf of the trustees.
- Rob Best will work with Meena and Lisa Rhodes to draft message to send to parents.



School Cash Online

donation tip sheet.pddonations



School council

Handout fc

Principal update – Meena Sahi

Staff and School Enrollment.

IT Infusion

- approximately \$24,000
- completing a needs assessment before we order replacement equipment
- many of our data projectors are at end of life (although still working)

Parking Lot

- Admin is outside to assess the situation
- Have consulted with facilities to discuss repainting the entry exit markings to parking lot and adding a cross walk area to parking lot and adding signs
- Will send messaging out to parents about peak periods
- Will consult with our liaison officer about traffic

Proposal for Financial Donations

- Rob has written a message and the accounting department has created detailed instructions with pictures on how to donate
- We will send this message to our parent community in the week of October 23 as our new BM starts on Oct 18 and she can help parents who are still experiencing difficulty

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School Council Input for Principal Placement

- All school councils need to complete a principal profile in conjunction with the current principal to outline the parent feedback about the needs of the school when considering administration changes.
- Each school completes this form each year although it does not indicate that new administration is being considered. I will work with the new chair to come up with a method to gather parent feedback.
- Many schools are using electronic surveys.
- Rob and Meena will follow up with a discussion on how best to glean parent input. Data may go to the chair, for analysis and forwarded to the board. This must be completed this academic year.

Vaping

- Vaping is in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. There is no vaping/smoking allowed on school premises or at school events/games/fieldtrips/excursions.
- Student found to be vaping will be subject to the progressive discipline in accordance with the progressive discipline policy of the HDSB.
- Students who are vaping off school property but during school hours, may be subject to intervention depending on the situation and circumstances.
- In order to be proactive parent council and the school worked together to educate parents about the frequency and dangers of vaping last year in one of the sessions.

Student Presentations

- The guidance counsellors are considering other ways to make information available to students if they are absent
- We have trialed a video of the last parent connections as one suggestion
- We will post more of the presentation slides to our website

Honor Roll Breakfast

- Our leadership team has discussed the appropriateness of the honor roll breakfast at OTHS and if it meets the needs of our students and our school goals. Greater than 85% of our students achieve honor roll status.
- We felt that the students did not value the breakfast as an incentive
- We felt that the students who were not invited were negatively impacted
- This particular celebration of achievement did not recognize those students who had shown great improvement over the semester but not achieved 80%. The capacity to be resilient and show improvement was seen by teachers as an important skill to reinforce.
- We felt that students should be recognized for their achievement with a certificate that will accompany the first report card of the school year.
- The leadership team felt that the money that was allocated to the breakfast could be used to bring in a motivational speaker for the entire student body. The focus of the presentation would be around the skills we value in a learner: resilience, how to handle failure, keeping a positive outlook, finding inspiration to take the extra step...

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- During commencement, it has been noted that how "Ontario Scholar" is added in announcement is something to look at closer

Staff update – Susan Miles

- September 25 PD day - Jeff Catania, IPL, shared ideas around "circles" in the classroom
- October 2 Staff meeting - Deidre Stajduhar, Social Worker - supporting students with anxiety, overview of Student Success Profiles, communicating with parents
- October 6 PD day - Meg Carrie - ELL presentation. Learning Lounges (everything GOOGLE, New Teachers 1O1, Applied Learning Strategies, Communal coffee time, assessment/evaluation for Final 30
- Take Our Kids To Work - November 1 - all 9's out of school
- IT meeting - next steps
- 5th Week reports

Community Connections Update – Anette Winslow

link: <https://sites.google.com/site/oakvilletrafalgarhighschool1/parents/parent-connections>

- \$1000 PIC grant approved
- \$1640 carried over
- Tuesday October 3rd: Guidance Information Evening - success
- Upcoming:
 - Tuesday November 7th - Dr. Clinton (guest speaker) - Understanding the Adolescent Brain
 - Tuesday December 5th - Deidre Stajduhar Social Worker and Halton Drug Unit
- Carolyn has suggested an 8:00 start for the parent connections meetings.
 - Meena Sahi suggested 7:30 might be acceptable.

Other Business

- "Have your say" survey - abysmal take up rate.
- Ann Harvey asked that the response rate will need to increase from OT next year. Further discussion will take place at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:18PM.

Motion to adjourn: Roberta Veitch and Anette Winslow