

## **Minutes September 21st, 2017 Parent Council Meeting**

**Attendees:** *Mohamid Bakr, Chin ErYang, Sandra Hurl-Smith, Evelyn Uvakov, Ning Zhang, Shalini Chandra, Susan Miles, Kimberly Swinoga, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Chris Reidy, Gayle McGinnis, Karen Hayes, Lan Blandford, Tracy Jarvis, Margaret Finlay-Watzeck, Pamela Barrett, Ann Harvey Hope, Anna-Maria Konnerth, Uzma Turan, Yasmine Khan, Menghong Ye, Jin Jin, Richard Chen, Karena de Souza, Mansoor Ahmad, Lei Xu, Marie Day, Catalinn Mejia Rozo, Samina Majeed, Heng Li, Carolyn Adams Hill, Olaf Alksnis, Shohreh Bhatti, Andrew Bigham, Rob Best, Meena Sahi, Tina MacCormac, Tara O'Connell*

### **Call to order – Rob Best**

Welcome to first OTHS council meeting for the school year

**Minutes from June 8, 2017** motion to approve by Susan Miles and Tara O'Connell

Two items added to agenda: Parking lot at 3pm and Guidance support

### **Student Council update – Anisha Basra, Andrew de Souza**

- October Fest – week of Halloween
- SPC cards all sold out (150)
- Club Fair – 24 clubs presenting
- Next week – Spirit day to support Football game Sept 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - Red and Black day
  - Face painting and sign making
- November – coffee house
- Spring fest this year being planned

### **Nomination forms for election – Meena Sahi**

- Self-nomination forms mailed out on September 11<sup>th</sup>. To be considered for elected positions of Chair/Co-Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, you will need to fill out form and drop off form to Main office by 4pm Thursday Oct 2, 2017.
- Should more than one person be interested in any of the 3 positions, election will be held in the Staff lounge at the next council meeting on Thursday Oct 12, 2017 @ 7pm.
- If only 1 nomination is received, the parent will be acclaimed to the position on school council.
- If there are no nomination for elected positions, nominations will be taken from the floor during the meeting on Oct 12, 2017.

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### Review of 2016/2017 School Council contributions – Rob Best

- Discussed fundraising issue with new School Cash Online system. Meena will add button to donate on OTHS website and send out syner-mail explaining how to donate.
- Last year this time we had approximately \$11,500 in donations, and this year just \$940 (July 1 – Sept 18) with new system. Process isn't clear and has definitely impacted donations to school council out of the gate.
- Suggestion was made to hold off until School Council had list of items to consider for contributions this year. Consensus to do both; one now and one later. We need to consider having far less to work with however for this year.
- Reviewed website and contributions from last year.
  - Bike racks
  - 20 Chrome Books and carry case (in Library for kids to sign out)
  - Spot lights in cafeteria
  - Banners

### Finance Update – Meena Sahi

- Went over finances carried over from last year and new coming in this year.
- Ending balance last year May 31<sup>st</sup> was \$5,989.33 with \$2,270 committed for scholarships and banners. Remaining balance \$3,719.33.
- New inflows of \$322.39 to end of June + \$940 with new system to Sept 18<sup>th</sup> leaving balance to date of approximately \$4,981.72.
- PIC grant of \$1,000 still pending and existing balance of \$1,614.49 still remaining. Have committed for key speaker already this year.
- PRO grant still pending \$500. This goes to refreshments, etc. for various Parent Connection events as does the remaining PIC grant funds available.

### Principal update – Meena Sahi

#### Staff and School Enrollment.

We now have around 1320 students registered at OTHS. This is an increase from last year, which has required us to hire new staff as well as use every room that is available in the school.

We welcome the following new staff who are joining OTHS due to leaves of absence, growth to the school population, or retirements.

Andrew Bigham – Vice Principal

Jordan Black – Math

Stephen Johnson – French

Anne Gaspar – Math

David Landry – French

Olena Olejarczyk – French and Math

Liam Comerford – Vocal Music

Mathew Hendry – Special Education

Haley Langois – French and Science

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Michelle Liou – Science	Mauri McAuley – Business
Kristen McCrea – English	Lauren Mendoza – Science
Lameck Zingano – ESL/English	Sarah Powell – Art
Larissa Puchach – Family Studies	Geoff St. Denis – Healthy Active Living
Gagan Thiara – Math	Shahid Ullah – Math
Caitlin Blain – Art	Devan Singh – Math and Science
Tonya Fitzpatrick - Office Staff	Kristen Dalley - EA
Deidre Stajduhar- Social Worker	TBA – Business Manager

### Facility

- Our building has had some upgrades during the summer:
- Bathrooms and Change-rooms have been painted and new partitions have been installed.
- The railings and bases of in the stairwells have been painted.
- The atrium plants have been refreshed.
- The heating and air conditioning system is being upgraded with new controls.
- 5 new bicycle racks have been installed in the front of the school (still not enough)
- The last of the lockers were installed on the second floor.

### Smooth Transitions for our grade 9 and 12 students

- Link Crew activities for grade 9
- Smart Start police presentation on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> for all grade 9 classes
- Grade 12 assembly for post-secondary planning
- Grade 11 and 12 scholarship and international application assembly

### Focus of the Board and School in our Improvement Plans

- Student wellbeing
- Student engagement and achievement
- 21 Century Learning in technology enabled classrooms

### Two new items raised as additional Agenda items

- Parking lot @3pm – issues with parents arriving early to pick up kids and parking in fire lane. Makes it difficult for cars to pass. Also, people parking on Devon Rd. which also makes it difficult to maneuver past. Meena will look into having a staff person monitor lot after school and move cars along.
- Guidance support – during the first few weeks of the year, there has been a lot of movement with schedules due to staff being hired, etc. This has put a great deal of stress on guidance and perhaps not enough attention has been made to

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concerns by students. Meena will have a discussion on this topic and look into it further. Meena always encourages parents to email her with concerns as well.

- Meena to provide follow up on both these topics at next council meeting.

### Staff Learning to Support these Goals – Susan Miles

- Meditation in the Classroom learning session during the Sept Staff Meeting
- The use of Circles to create community in the classroom – PD Day Sept 25
- Supporting our ELL and IEP learners – PD Day Oct 6
- How to recognize and support students with anxiety – Social Worker presentation at Oct Staff Meeting
- Upcoming later this year
  - Restorative Practices Training for 10 staff members
  - Liaison Officer to present on social media and technology – keeping students safe
  - Use of google guardian and google classroom
  - Creating and updating teacher websites

### Community Connections Update – Sandra Hurl-Smith

Our first Parent Community Connections night will take place on Tuesday, October 3rd, and will be hosted by Guidance. Please see details below.

The outcome of our PRO grant application (\$1,000) hasn't been communicated yet (much later than previous years) but I am expecting we should know more within the next couple of weeks. We will also be receiving the PIC grant (\$500) as usual.

Dr. Jean Clinton is booked for November 7th (about \$1550) - you will find details about her keynote below.

Update: Website now reflects speakers for the year. Andrew Bigham has graciously said he would support the website updates.

Other notables:

- 6 parent nights/workshops per year (free)
- We did a survey in the spring to gauge the interest in topics/speakers etc. for this school year
- We use evite to track attendance
- HDSB PIC 10<sup>th</sup> annual Parent Engagement Conference on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Craig Kielburger S.S. in Milton. Candy Palmater (Canadian activist, comedian and award winning TV and CBC radio personality) as our keynote, and she will be speaking on "The Road Less Travelled". Registration is free. A light

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lunch is provided.

Register here for this year's PIC conference: <http://bit.ly/2xS7kmR>

For the Agenda and Workshop Selections and Session Details click here:  
<http://bit.ly/2cKIE8u>

Upcoming events and details are on website:

### October 3rd, 2017

Topic: Pathways to College and University as well as Scholarships and admissions.

November 7th, 2017

Topic: Dr. Clinton (guest speaker)

Understanding the Adolescent Brain

Other items:

- Ann Harvey Hope discussed HDSB information on "Technology & You" you can go to [www.HDSB.ca](http://www.HDSB.ca) and see information.
- OTHS twitter feed also a good source of information on what's going on at school.
- \$2.5MM approved for IT from board.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15PM.

Motion to adjourn: Margaret Finlay-Watzeck