

# WOSS School Council Meeting

## Monday, February 20, 2006

### Minutes

#### Present

Jackie Williams, Chair; John Stieva, Principal, Rob Soden and Loraine Fedurco, Vice Principals; John Monteiro, staff representative; Parents: Simon Khanna, Diane Moseley, Luis and Esperanza Flores, Elaine Moores and Vicki Ranger. [Regrets: Kathy Batycky and John Welsh]

#### January 2006 Minutes

The minutes for the January 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### Student Council Report

A member of the student council was not able to attend. However, Jenna Harkness did e-mail a summary of upcoming events:

- Last Thursday was the semi-formal, turn-out about 140 students. Turned out to be a great night, at Le Dome.
- Planning for our upcoming Talent Show in April. Auditions begin next week. Show will be a night event, costing \$5 a ticket. Working with music council for the event.

#### Staff Rep Report

- John Monteiro discussed the upcoming letters of concerns that are now being sent out 3 weeks after the start of the semester instead of 6 weeks. This is to allow for earlier intervention in the case of students experiencing serious difficulties.
- The early dismissal PD day on February 21 will be about assessment and evaluation strategies.
- John asked the council if they would help out financially with a staff appreciation luncheon that he and Ruth are planning (for exam week at the end of the semester). The OSSTF provides \$125 for this purpose but it isn't enough money to feed a staff as large as the WOSS staff (110). Council agreed to give them \$150.

#### Chair's Report

- Simon Khanna attended the Family of School meeting on January 31 in lieu of Jackie and reported that the meeting was very informative. The lack of parent involvement in some of the schools was a topic of discussion. Wayne Joudrie, the new director of education for Halton was there to meet the council reps. Simon promoted our upcoming speaker (April 6) by handing out flyers. He was also able to give a brief presentation and answer questions about the upcoming IB program and ALC (accelerated learning courses) for Grades 9 and 10 that will be offered at WOSS. The next meeting is February 28 and Jackie will attend and take along information about the IB program to distribute to those that are interested.
- Jackie described a Ministry initiative called ON Eco Schools program that schools are being encouraged to take part in. It is about reducing energy consumption and waste and involves custodial staff, teaching staff, support staff, and students in curriculum-related activities. If anyone is interested in learning more about, Jackie can forward the e-mail message she received about it.
- April 6 speaker: The group talked about ways to promote our speaker. Elaine is taking a leadership role on this. Strategies:
  - placing notices in the *Beaver* (Elaine will look after this)
  - council members will promote the event through personal and volunteer activities outside of the school (e.g., church, memberships in other organizations)

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- Dianne is redesigning the flyer (to be ready by March 3) to include a brief description of the talk and these will be printed off in a bright colour (not green) and posted around the school, in the libraries, grocery stores, etc.
- John will send out the flyer (it's e-mailable) to all the schools and post it on the HDSB site
- We will post a message on the school corner sign 2 weeks before the event (March 23) Pam Cottingham will need to be contacted about this.
- We will post in on the school web site and our own council web site (Jackie will handle that).
- Jackie will send a special e-mail notice about it to our parent contact list – early (before March break) and later (2 weeks before).
- Jackie, Dianne, Simon, and Elaine will work on wording of the signage, flyer, and Beaver submission.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer produced the most recent statements (see the report at the end of these minutes). Council decided to

- move our account to BMO for April 1 to save the \$5 monthly service charge.
- move our GIC to BMO at that time but, in the meantime, keep it at TD Canada Trust but switch to a money market GIC as the interest is slightly higher and we can still cash it out in 30 days.
- begin using Quicken to manage council funds (Dianne will have to be trained on it). The use of Quicken has been mandated by the board for security reasons.

We currently have \$1191.33 in our bank account as of January 31 and \$5000 in a GIC which matures February 22.

### Principal's Report

- The Graduation committee will be meeting February 24. Any decision about changing the grad will have to wait until 2007.
- The ID consultant has visited WOSS and met with teachers and administration. He returns in early May and will want to speak with parents at that time and then he will do a site visit in the fall. Final approval, if granted, will be in April 2007. The program will cost \$1200 per student per year.
- At least 25 students are needed for the ALC courses to run next year (for pre-IB Grade 9 and 10). We currently have 36 WOSS students plus 20 others interested in Grade 9 but only 15 in Grade 10. Students will be accepted from outside the Halton region.
- HDSB is starting a new attendance system. If your child is away, you will still get a message but you can now go to the HDSB web site and access your child's attendance record to find out if your child was late or absent. Eventually, you will be able to also access your child's credit status and marks. Parents need their child's student access number which is on their schedule and student card.

### Vice Principal's Presentation

Loraine presented an overview of numeracy strategies that are being implemented at WOSS to improve numeracy. Even though WOSS is above the board average in provincial testing, there is always room for improvement:

- Scheduling related academic and applied courses at the same time so, at the 3 week and 6 week mark, students can make the transition from applied to academic or from academic to applied, depending on their progress

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- offering an Essential Work Place math course as the 3rd math course (Grade 11) for a high school diploma – this course is getting a steady increase in interest.
- Desemestering Grade 9 math and completing research on its effectiveness (John Monteiro commented that desemestering has helped even out the math skills of students taking Science in Grade 9 as all students are at the same point in the curriculum; with the semestered course, there would be some students that had completed their Grade 9 math course and some that were just beginning it, when they started Grade 9 Science)
- Working on strategies for teaching math in a 37-min period instead of a 75-min period
- Teachers attended PD activities about assessment which promote more constructive feedback to students and less evaluation (marking)
- Teachers have attended workshops on the revised math curriculum
- Math clinics are offered in periods 3 and 4. These are optional but some students are strongly encouraged if deemed necessary.
- Working on increasing and improving on-line conferencing so students can chat with their teachers and other students for ongoing support with homework and assignments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2006 (instead of April 17, which is a holiday)

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Minutes

**Treasurer's Report – Information Feb 2006**

**1. Monthly reconciliations:** December 2005, January 2006 & YTD summary

**2. Follow-up from Other Banking Agencies:**

<b>Banking Agency</b>	<b>Monthly Fee</b>
Canada Trust	\$5.00 (Current Bank) Monthly statements
BMO	\$0 if <than 20 transactions(tx)/mon (\$1 per tx > 20) Quarterly statements; free cheques
Scotia Bank	\$9.00
CIBC	1. \$5.00 + \$0.80/ non-electronic tx 2. Flat Fee option: \$10/9tx; \$20/18 tx; \$35/28 tx
P.C.	Community accounts not available

**3. \$5000 GIC: Matures Feb. 22,2006 @ value of \$5,066.46**

**Options: At Canada Trust**

a) Wait and See: presently in this account

- 1 yr term
- guaranteed rate for full term (2.15%)
- Redeem after 30 days without penalty for cash or to purchase alternate investment option
- Minimum investment within RSP is \$500 & \$1000 outside an RSP

b) Money Market GIC

- 1 yr term
- variable rate for full term (2.8% in Feb) linked to TD's 30-day Banker's Acceptance (BA).
- ❖ Rate is set on last business day of each month
- Redeem after 30 days without penalty for cash or to purchase alternate investment option
- Minimum investment within RSP is \$500 & \$1000 outside an RSP

**Options: at BMO**

a) **Cashable Rate Riser GIC**

- Cashable in full on 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month
- 3 yrs term ; % 1<sup>st</sup> yr:3%, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr: 3.25%, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr:3.5%
- Minimum investment \$1000

b) **Variable Rate GIC –**

- Minimum investment \$5000

**Council to determine:**

- ➔ amount to be reinvested .
- ➔ ? Reinvest @ Canada Trust as deadline Feb 22 and switch to BMO after 30 days – & investment options to be discussed
- ➔ which investment option @ CT a) Wait and See b) Money Market

**4. Quicken accounting package – revisited – mandate from board to adopt this format**