

WOSS School Council Minutes

February 25, 2008

Attendance

John Stieva, Kelly Amos, Bonnie Hussain, Brittany Sadkowski, Simon Khanna, Jackie Williams, Dianne Moseley, Elaine Moores

1. January 21 Minutes:

Subject to correction to the spelling of Dianne Moseley's name, minutes were approved by Jackie; seconded by Dianne

2. Student Rep Report:

- Brittany reported that the Valentine dance went well.
- Fundraising events for Cancer Awareness month include: ball hockey tournament; proceeds from April 10 spring dance April 10; ride for cancer
- Student council is drawing up its constitution, with Mr. Stieva's assistance, so that so future council members will know what to do.
- the play will be performed in the last two weeks of April
- elections in May; may combine some of the roles – e.g. finance and secretary

3. Treasurer's report:

- Dianne's last report
- cashed out GIC to optimize interest
- transferred 3207.80 to WOSS account; paid bills; balance of \$2837.80
- met with Saadia to discuss board guidelines; Pam Cottingham will do the Council's accounting in Quicken; every month treasurer (Saadia, with Pam's help) has to provide reports to council; Kelly has signing authority; Pam will issue receipts for donations to WOSS council, as well as track inflows/outflows; treasurer will bring report to council; still need January 2008 bank statement
- received \$951.25 from Parent Involvement monies, of which approx. \$800 left; some money was given to Mr. Andrews; will need to spend the balance by July;
- Kelly will see if spending can be extended until Sept. 2008, due to lateness in receiving monies
- to purchase new letters for existing sign costs \$3800; \$7000 to buy electronic sign board; School Council will defer the decision about helping to pay for new letters until April meeting

4. Chair's report:

a) Calendar sales

- calendars were distributed to teachers' boxes, with the following challenge:
- sell 5 - spirit award; sell 10 – put name into draw for \$300 in Oakville Place gift certificate - receive House points for selling
- feedback from North campus: students excited about selling calendars
- John: will encourage to staff to help promote calendars; include in morning announcements
- need to sell 250 more calendars in order to break even
- sold some at Sears' Drama festival
- Dryden high school was successful in its selling – Kelly will talk to them about how they sold them
- sell at Oakville Arts Festival, June 14; anticipate 8000-10,000 attendees
- consider selling at Rec centres, Walmart, asking students to blitz these places?

b) Parent Involvement Committee

- Sports Centre in Milton; Chris Vollum will talk about Facebook

c) Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC)

- recommends ideal school template – 3 English language schools combined into 1 – French immersion combined into 2 schools covering grades 1-8;
- no site preferences specified
- 4th site – consider for educational use;
- target Sept 2008 decision and implementation
- has to go to director to bring it to the board, then trustees must decide
- want everything renovated to modern standards
- WOSS – right now we have ESL and Gary Allan using our facilities; space is getting tight

d) Iroquois Ridge High School

- tried new way of doing exams: 1st period means exam on day 1; 2nd period means exam on day 2; etc., resulting in 5 days of exams;
 - IR principal will do a statistical analysis to see if there are differences in the results over the traditional exam schedule whereby all students write the same exam at the same date and time
 - advantage of new exam schedule: kids more comfortable writing in their normal class in which their teacher runs the exam; spreads exams over more days; no more than 1 exam per day
 - disadvantage of new exam schedule: leaking exam questions; does not prepare kids for university; harder for teachers, especially in June
- WOSS grade 10 English – all wrote at the same time in the classroom rather than in gym

e) HDSB School Calendar Committee

- provide any feedback by emailing Kelly
- next meeting is Mar. 24
- need 196 teaching days; 5 exam days/semester; 6 PD days/year
- people want Friday before March break as PD day

6. Principal's report:

a) Bussing

- both Oakville and Burlington have new heads of transit system; considering connecting buses throughout Oakville, instead of just meeting at GO station
- transportation for 4 school boards; huge problems getting bus drivers; want town to use money to buy bus passes for sec school kids, rather than paying for school buses; pass good from 6 am to evening; will still have some school buses for special needs; discussions underway regarding changing secondary school start time to 9 a.m.

b) School Schedule

- look at implementing 5 day schedule so kids in sports teams won't always miss period 5; day 1 – period 1 is first period; day 2 – period 2 is first period; etc.

c) Bill 212 , Safe Schools Act

- March 4 WOSS committee of teachers, 1 student rep, Kelly Amos (representing parents) ;
- discuss anti-bullying; Facebook; yahoo; MSN messaging
- will write a school policy document
- WOSS has lockdown plan, but with 38 doors, how do you prevent someone from entering? How do you warn people not to come into the school? How do you warn sports team returning to school? There is no signal/light mechanism to warn parents and students as to any lockdowns.

c) Field Trips

- 3 students going to Ottawa National music festival May 21-25; Regional music festival - senior won double gold at Redeemer College; juniors won double gold; jazz and winds did well
- drama club going New York city, May 21-25
- rugby team going to Barbados
- Sears Drama Festival – Feb. 8
- robotics team leaving for Chicago Feb. 26 – Mar. 2; 37 teams from around US; competition at Hershey Centre, Msga

d) School Effectiveness Plan

- under review; revising assessment policy
- Fraser Institute takes raw scores only; doesn't know the school's profile (WOSS includes students with special needs)

7. Principal Profile

Kelly will send it to school council for comments.