

WOSS School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday Sept. 15th, 2008

In attendance: Kelly Amos,(chair), John Stieva (principal), Nick Vericchio (vp, North campus), Bonnie Husain (teacher rep.), Jackie Williams, Kathy Batycky, Simon Khanna, Susan McIntyre, Sherry Kirkam, Craig Macdonald, Mary Raike
Regrets: Claire Ailey, Gary Tam (student rep), Daniel Neibert

Welcome (1 min) K. Amos

The people who attended the meeting introduced themselves

Minutes from May (5 min) K. Amos

Motion to approve the Minutes (moved by Jackie, seconded by Simon) passed on consensus.

Student Rep Report (5 min) Gary Tam

- Gary is in Japan, so no student council rep tonight.
- Mr. Stieva said the student council Terry Fox activity is September 26th in the morning and then in the evening there is a football game at Nelson High School, under the lights; the student council has the dates set for the dances and activities but he did not have them available. Gary will present that information in October.
- Mr. Stieva said that the grad committee has two reps (male and female) and their idea for the prom is to rent a cruise, but there are several students who are prone to motion sickness, who have started a protest movement against the cruise concept for the prom. The students had voted in their classes. The majority of students did vote for having the cruise. Mr. Stieva will meet with the students who are protesting to see if he can help resolve the issue.

Treasurer's Report (5 min) S. Khan

- Saadia could not come to the meeting tonight, but a report has been submitted. However, it does not reflect the actual amount as of today.
- Currently, there is just under \$400 left in the account.

Chair's Report (60 min) K. Amos

- Calendar sales - council had purchased 150 calendars and had won some monies, but we have not yet broken even on the cost of the calendars
- PIC committee - The committee is planning a conference on Saturday October 25th, to be held at WOSS. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided and there will be a guest speaker in the morning. The event will have no cost. Barry Findlay will talk about how boys learn. There will be a session for the treasurers of school councils and groups will have information for parents. The WOSS band will be playing during the lunch.
- 2008/2009 planning - It was suggested that we should develop a school profile but we should have it in place by January because that is when the grade 8 feeder program starts. We should try to include parents from all programs available at the school, if at all possible. We will discuss this in detail in our October meeting. The reaching out grant might be available for this.
- Fundraising - M&M is having another fundraising day on October 22nd. Council discussed possible ways to fundraise through auctions, such as silent auction items each month; having a couple of items each month. We will discuss this idea further in October. Council will also pursue sharing a couple of Bingo nights with the Rugby team, who are in charge of the Bingos for WOSS.

Principal nomination award committee – S. Khanna;

We are trying to put together a nomination for John Stieva through “the Learning Partnership”, which runs a program each year to choose 30 outstanding principals from across Canada. The application process is a lot of work for the candidate to do. John hopes to have his case study, based on the curriculum related programs and how they have expanded over the 5 years, ready for Simon by October 3rd.

- Reaching out grant - This grant might be available for developing the school profile under the "other" category. Mary and Kelly will work on the application for the grant. The deadline for the grant application is October 24.

Elections - next month we will have elections for the school council. Position of treasurer is open.

Other - Last year we nominated Dave Margetts for the award, and the award was not approved based on their criteria, stating that the board does not recognize the type of volunteering he did for staff, on the basis it was part of his work - that he was not eligible. Council believes that the work he does on his own time should be acknowledged because there is no other way for his volunteering with the students to be recognized. We are to ask why he was not eligible, under what criteria and request that he again be considered. Kathy B. is to prepare the letter.

Principal’s Report (40 min)J. Stieva

Staffing - John just received authorization to hire two more teachers, to divide a few classes. The grade 9 music classes are 35/36, which is too large for music. He hopes to have the new teacher hired by Monday. In addition. Mr. Gassi has discussed the possibility of starting a string orchestra, due to the number of talented string players in the school.

Summer Improvements - The school received a new roof. The north kitchen was renovated. The back parking lot was paved.

Accomplishments

- The number of dropouts has reduced; the school did well on the grade 9 math tests; much better than last year. In addition, the image of the school is changing in that there are less optional attendance requests.

- Every staff member has now received a laptop through a computer plan instituted by John. This allows all the staff to do their own report cards on their laptops and they can transfer the marks to Trillium through the new wireless system in the school, which will save the staff a lot of time.

- Welcome week for the grade 9 families was successful.

- The website needs to be updated.

- Commencement this year will not begin until 8 p.m. this year due to Yom Kippur which does not end until 7:30.

- John has finally received building permits from the Town for the sign, so the sign should be here by mid-October.

- John will be participating in a fundraiser for Crimestoppers on September 26th where he will be arrested, and then people have to donate to have him released from the “jail” set up at Hopedale Mall.

- Strategic Plan- This will be discussed at the October meeting.

Other

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, Oct. 20, 2008