

King City Secondary School Council

Minutes

2015 April 16

1. Welcome and Meeting Start
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to accept the agenda Cooper/Mclaren
3. Declaration of any conflicts of interest
None declared
4. Approval of the Minutes of 2015 February 12
Motion to accept minutes Radell/Whicher
5. Student Council Report Benazzi/Antonacci

The student Coffee House is under way now. Good turnout around 70 tickets sold, lots of enthusiasm. Some parents bought tickets. School Council will break in a few minutes to allow members to see a bit of the Coffee House.

A - day: only one beaver-tail truck. There were some complications, but the students enjoyed the treat. On May 4, KCSS will participate in the One Match swabbing for bone marrow donation. Students 17 years or older and family members up to age 35 may participate. Information was provided to parents and students. Some students were asked to volunteer on that day to help with the process.

Student Council is considering a Grade 9-10 dance after school. Bright neon colours, related to ROCKing colours. A survey-monkey asking about the dance was created with questions about: what would you pay; would you come after school?

Student Council elections on May 22nd. There are multiple positions available.

End of year fair: date to be determined. Still need to meet with other student groups.

On June 4 teacher appreciation breakfast/after school event.

Torelli asked about One Match. Theresa Schmidt indicated process. All secondary schools in York Region are participating. Schmidt reminded those members who may not have been at a previous meeting that the idea was brought to School Council and Student Council and that School Council enthusiastically supported the idea.

6. Teacher Report David Bocknek

OSSLT went very smoothly. In about 45 days, students will have math test. KCSS history indicates that students will leave KCSS with a strong understanding of math. Parent teacher interviews last week seemed to go well.

Negotiations with the province are not going well. One board is set to strike next week. However,

YRDSB is not currently scheduled for any strike action. Council enquired about attendance at the parent/teacher interview evenings. Estimates were about 50% Dungey indicated that it depends on subject, with math and science having higher attendance. Physical education, not so much. First semester generally has a higher attendance, parents of grade nine and ten have higher attendance.

7. Business arising from previous meetings

One Match

Update on Radon testing

The issue was raised last meeting. Dungey spoke with the Board. Radon is an issue being monitored. No regulations currently exist in Ontario. Bill 96 (2013) is currently under review. YRDSB is carefully monitoring the situation. H&S knew all about it. We are all waiting to see what is happening. As soon as law is in place establishing limits, the Board will be ready to move.

Overview of YRDB Parent Symposium

Streb strongly suggested that parents should view the opening presentations by two YRDSB students. Both students presented a poetry slam, and both did amazing jobs. The opening is on the YRDSB web site.

Streb then presented an overview of the session on “what’s up with your kid?” The presentation was by members of the York CAS. The session dealt with ways to understand what is happening with teenagers. The moderators used real-life examples and scenarios to help parents understand and deal with the rapidly changing opinions and moods of growing children. This presentation would be excellent for parents at KCSS.

The second session was on building parent involvement. See the summary by Whicher.

Cooper reported on a session about Career Cruising. This was more in depth than I have seen before. Strongly suggest that you take a look. Scary to hear differences in the way parents view what their children want to do.

The second session Cooper attended was on promoting mental health. The session dealt with positive psychology: “mental illness vs. mental health”! Trying to eliminate any stigma associated with the words. Choosing the words we use, how we can engage. five finger brain. Cooper indicated that this was the best presentation so far.

Whicher reported on the sessions she attended: first one positive approach to mental health. resiliency, presentation. back and forth on the spectrum. move back and forth, depending on influences during the day. Resiliency is the key. it can be learned and taught. ways to do that. excellent workshop. very empowering.

The second session was on the ABCs of Self Regulation: obtaining a mind that will maximize learning. How to manage your own energy states, and achieve positive goals. It dealt with awareness, breathing, choice.

What is calm? A child that doesn’t experience calm doesn’t know how to obtain that. Everyone was asked to write down how they get to their calm place. Then they were asked to circle the ones your child uses. Participants were surprised at how similar the lists were, and how the children had “learned” how to calm themselves (or not). The moderators also mentioned twirling a pencil or fidgeting which some children might use to calm themselves. Whicher indicated that this might be a

good presentation for parents at the school.

McLaren

same as jim for the first one. social media. graduated licensing. retain control, password, as they demonstrate responsibility, give more freedom..

The second session was on empowering. Until you know where YOU stand, it's impossible to promote equity, inclusivity, or equitability. The moderators dealt with privileges, or the privilege of walking around, versus handicap. Also, the issues of gender, religion, family structure. It was stressed that children benefit from parental involvement.

8. Presentation on KCSS Budget Preparation

Tod Dungey

Dungey thanked Council for attending. The presentation is the result of a discussion with Streb and Cooper following a previous meeting. Indicated that I'd be happy to discuss the way that KCSS does the budgeting: how we cover what has to be done, and emergencies that arise. Dungey is not able to discuss how money comes from the Ministry, how it gets to the Board, and how the Board gives it to the schools. For this year, each school will receive a particular dollar amount per student. A variety of formulas go into determining that amount. A number of factors that raise the cost for secondary, e.g., cost of text books, technology, family studies, science labs. All of these factors go into into the formula. The Board has divided the region into Communities. Within that Community, some expenses are shared. To provide for those shared costs, the Board holds back some funding. KCSS is in the Central Community (three superintendents) This year, \$4.00 per student was retained e.g., painting walls, not budgeted for, but might want to make some changes. that could come from central region funds.

Student numbers are based on Oct. enrolment (not full- or part-time, but number of bodies). This allows for first two months to settle in and coincides with Ministry report, attrition (accepted into post-secondary) and new students coming in. At one point this fall, KCSS actually had 999 students....waiting for the 1000th. In 14 years, I have never had a deficit budget. At another school, one principal left with a \$70k deficit. Previously, the Board required that a certain amount had to be used on textbooks. However, that decision was repealed. There is no longer any expectation on amount spent on textbooks. Some years money instead used on technology. That has become a school based decision. Board looks at the bottom line. Dungey indicated that he has been audited a number of times.

Two main divisions of budget: instruction; and school management.

Instruction

1. textbooks reviewed yearly to see if there is a good match to curriculum. decision based on discussion with department head.
- 2.learning materials wood, fabric, etc. subject head submits requests to budget committee
- 3.software
4. photocopying review
5. rental/lease of photocopies
- 6.all repairs if it's a piece of equipment not permanently affixed to building, school has to repair it. Roof repair is covered by Board. Library repair was covered by Board. Some items up to \$200 paid by school, rest by board. New car lift paid by school. School had to pay for x-ray of concrete in shop to see if lift could be installed. Kay asked about donations. Honda twenty engines! for \$22!!!
7. athletics new basketballs, new birdies, new mats all from school

8. furniture and equipment spent some money on new chairs in library.
9. computers responsible for all machines. Windows 7 brought in. 135 computers since the summer. Board matches expenses, so can purchase twice as much. Cooper asked about Explorer. Dungey responded that that is being done by IT. 30 iPads, some netbooks, "clone-books",
10. student awards fall awards assembly and graduation. (\$45 for venue and cap and gown).

School management

- 1 repairs computers
2. repairs furniture
3. telephones
4. office supplies
5. School council
6. new purchases computers
7. new purchases furniture and equipment.

Process

1. Department submits dollar amounts and purpose e.g., science wants LCD projector in each science classroom. Based on number of sections/ students, item costs, historical data, etc.
2. Budget Committee meets in November. The Committee consists of the Principal, one V.P., the Budget Secretary, and teachers (currently 5). In the first year of Dungey's tenure, there were 10 teachers on the Committee! The Committee meets after school twice a week for 3-4 weeks. The Committee must allocate the funds to all areas of needs. The members try to predict, need list of capital projects. Members look at department requests, and put everything on a big matrix. The Committee looks at least the previous three years. Some submitted items are really a wish list. Often revisit these items as year goes on. The final budget is needed by end of November, when it goes out to the Subject Heads. Board does not question individual budget expenses, rather focusing only on the total spent.

surplus and carryover: The Board allows for a carryover of a surplus if it can be justified. In this budget cycle, there was \$20,000 "left over" from last year. However, Dungey was worried about computers related costs in the replacement of computers, so the amount was carried over to this budget.

Radell about malicious damage...any recourse? We have insurance, covered by Board, and goes to Ministry for approval. Board pays for first \$800, ministry pays rest.

Cooper asked about IEP computers: from where does the money to purchase them come? Schmidt answered that once approved, to access curriculum, the Ministry provides for the purchase of machines. Kurzweil application is \$2k. Our IT people don't touch the special computers, that's someone from the Board. Important for parents to know that those expenditures do not impact the school budget. Schmidt reminded us that the computers are needed to access the curriculum just like glasses, crutches, etc. Radell mentioned Windows 7. Dungey reminded us that the Board is not as fast as the rest of the world. The difficulty is in the scale. 200 computers here, times the cost for each, for each of the schools, creates quite an expense. Then there is the equity of funds. Equal amount for each student. but some elementary councils can fundraise huge amounts. That's where the inequities occur. Schmidt reminded us that the Board paid for server update last year. Contrast the situation with computers to the library carpet. The carpet replacement was deemed a health and safety concern. Therefore the cost of replacement was covered by the Board.

Cooper indicated that the presentation was very helpful. It is important to note how very little money a Principal actually has to deal with. In Alberta, the Principal has a huge amount, but teacher salary

included.

9. Co-chair report Cooper and Streb

The co-chairs distributed copies of the Min. of Education School Board funding announcement and the details for YRDSB. It was indicated that our Trustee had been invited to the next meeting and that questions and/or concerns might be addressed to him at that meeting.

10. Administration Report Dungey and Schmidt

Schmidt indicated that administration is talking about a student survey using survey monkey. It has been 5 years since the last one. The administration really values student input. There is arranged time for each student over next two weeks to complete the survey. There is also lunch time opportunity. The data will be uploaded to the Board. The school will get feed back in October. Teachers have been asked to encourage student participation.

Dungey brought up a question that was asked a few meeting ago about athletics that haven't been offered. Unfortunately, circumstances like maternity leave or medical leave can affect possible faculty sponsors for various sport activities. Coffee House is an example of volunteers from teachers. The reality is that the school is not able to run every team every year. This spring the school is happy to announce that two teachers have stepped forward to coach varsity girls soccer. KCSS will also have co-ed ultimate frisbee, one of the most popular sports at this school. Mountain biking and badminton will also be offered. KCSS also offers lunch time activities, e.g., drop in ping pong . This started last week and already have 15 kids. While it is not competitive it offers fun activities.

The Montreal trip for band group just finished. Our band members scored much higher than expected

Germany trip, eight days, 27 kids going. expecting outstanding trip. 5-6 different cities. experiential trip, not playing. Seeing all sorts of performances. Going into Austria for a bit. a Senior music trip.

Celebrating student success: each school asked to nominate at least one student. Only 24 elementary and secondary. Four years out of the last 5 we have two students! Recognized on May 6 by Board.

Poetry slam team: At YRDSB semi-final scored 119-120! Won first place. On to finals on April 30.

Torelli asked about staffing changes. Dungey said there were two retirements from teaching staff, and Theresa Meikle. He is expecting changes over the month of May.

11. Meeting adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting
Motion carried.

Kay/Torelli