

King City Secondary School Council

Minutes

2015 May 14

1. Welcome and Meeting Start
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to accept agenda McLaren/Whicher
Motion Carried
3. Declaration of any conflicts of interest
None declared
4. Approval of the Minutes of 2015 April 16
Motion to accept minutes Meikle/Whicher
Motion carried
5. Student Council Report

Ripley Antonacci reported on events of Student Council. The Council has four events before end of year: Thursday, May 21, Grade 9-10 Dance. The DJ that performed at the Semiformal will be appearing at the dance. Ticket sales have started, but have been slow. This is normal, with more sales expected as the date approaches. Attendance will be restricted to grade 9 and 10. Friday will be Student Council elections. Candidates will make a speech in front of their peers. First presentations will be grade 9 and grade 10 representatives. Next will be grade 11 and grade 12 representatives, and finally council positions. Then the elections will occur. The following week will have no events. Senior prom is approaching. Teacher appreciation will be on Tuesday. This event includes an all day breakfast/lunch. Friday end of year fair at lunch. The Student Council has tried to encourage participation by all the other councils. Unfortunately, there seemed to be some apathy and some councils had commitments to other things. The Student Council has divided into three teams, obstacle course, ice cream truck, games/sports to plan and run the event. Weather permitting, the event will take place outside. Following this final event, the 2015-2016 Student Council (newly elected) takes over.

Student Council coordinated the One Match event. There were 78 participants. Council considered that very good participation. There were a couple of teachers who also participated. The process started with the collection of relevant information, then filling in the forms and then taking the swab. At the same time, participants had an opportunity to fill out forms for blood donation. Dungey indicated that all secondary schools in York participated. In each secondary school, the school council took on the responsibility of coordinating the event. This is an excellent example of student initiative. A lot of students in lower grades also volunteered to help with the event.

6. Teacher Report David Bocknek

Bocknek pointed out that math EQAO testing is in a month. Math teachers do preparation with the students in math classes. Senior Prom will be in two weeks. There is an assembly Tuesday. MADD will do presentation for Grade 11 and 12 only. Many of the teachers will also be stressing the dangers of impaired driving in class. Exams just around the corner. The fourth period exam has been moved from June 21 to the 16th. This applies to grade 12 only. The exam will be at noon.

Regarding the current contract negotiations: YRDSB Secondary Schools have not received any information about any proposed action.

There are teacher retirements: Ms Meikle. Ms Taraby and Ms Gotter.

7. Business arising from previous meetings

None

8. Presentation on YRDSB Budget preparation

Peter Adams-Luchowski

Adams-Luchowski discussed the process of approving a budget at the Board. The Trustees look at need for renewal, property matters, training, and equipment purchases. Generally, the Trustees look farther in advance than administrators. Currently, the YRDSB budget is approximately \$1.3 B!

Of the more than \$1B, 80% is salaries. The details of Collective Bargaining, are not a part of what the Trustees consider. After removing salary and benefits for Board employees, the Trustees are left with consideration for \$250 M. Busses and transportation are \$36 M. What remains is used for heat, hydro, infrastructure, and discretionary spending.

The process starts with presentations to the Board. Staff and Principals make presentations regarding priorities for the various schools. With available money, the Board tries our best to maintain programs for students. YRDSB has a good history of economic stability. The Board usually has a resource pool available. However if emergencies do arise, money can often come from funds proposed for professional development.

Currently, the Board is working on the budget for up to 2019. KCSS projected to have stable enrollment for the next 5 years. In part that's due to high end nature of surrounding development. With the higher prices of homes, not as many new students per household are added to the district. Data is provided by regional planning departments, finance, HR, and are part of presentations on emerging needs.

Currently, the Board has 160 non-unionized, SO and senior managers. Community Education Centres (there are four in York, KCSS is in the Central CEC) all retain a small amount of money (\$4 per student) for area specific projects. Adams-Luchowski also mentioned the renovations at G.W. Williams. The cost for renovations would have paid for a new elementary school, but the repairs on Williams were required. Dungey indicated that YRDSB does an excellent job of building maintenance.

The annual Board commitment is \$11,000 per student. The average cost of bussing is \$3,600 per student per year. Emerging technologies are always important. The Board is looking at hiring more medical support, such as psychologists. For example, autism is more prevalent now, requiring more Board support. The Ministry also sets priorities. However, the Ministry does not always provide more money.

Dungey was past Chair of the Principal Group. This group was invited to give perspectives on what is needed. School social workers was an identified area.

Meikle added that there are evolving models of education. Now realize that social and mental support is essential to academic success. The Principal group has identified this area as needing additional funding in presentations to the Board.

Where does the Board find the money to provide for changing demands from parents and administrators? The Board can have no deficit, but also must not have any surplus. One of the ways the Board provides for unexpected or evolving needs is with surplus property disposal. Some transportation costs can be saved through the use of public transportation. The Trustee's role is to ask questions to ensure maximum value for our money.

Cooper asked about technological changes, eg, iPads, newer versions of software, versions of textbooks, etc. Peter answered that the Board is still tied to the grants that we receive from the Ministry. Unless the upgrade is identified and funded by the Ministry, we'd have to find efficiencies from somewhere else. Universities, as an example, can change the charge for tuition. School Boards are unable to do that. Adams-Luchowski also mentioned the changing role of technology, e.g., the use of cell phones in school/class. Dungey mentioned our very accomplished IT dept. The IT department must check apps and software being used or being considered and compare those to requirements detailed in Board policies. GoogleDocs is an example. The IT group must consider privacy issues, copyright, plagiarism, etc. These topics are not just a problem for the teacher, but also for the Board, since the teacher is acting as a representative of the Board. These considerations also have long term budget issues. Technology can sometimes be an area that would be cut back to allow for other purchases. Meikle also spoke about teacher training, especially in using the newest technology. This is important to consider. It isn't enough to consider just the use of the technology, but how can it best serve the interests of the students.

Radell asked about school utilization. Adams-Luchowski responded that within YRDSB, the secondary school have over 100% At KCSS, the student capacity is 1218 students and current enrollment is under 1000. Adams-Luchowski also talked about the lifespan of a school. In general, a new school starts only partial usage with enrollment much lower than capacity. As the neighbourhood matures, enrollment builds to close to full, or slightly over, full capacity. Finally, as the neighbourhood matures, the enrollment drops down to around 80%, which is about perfect. Dungey talked about "open" versus "closed" school. KCSS is an open school, accepting enrollment from outside the catchment area. Radell asked about transfers from another board. Dungey explained the paperwork required, and the process. A principal might make a phone call to previous school. Radell asked if anyone is ever rejected. Dungey indicated that it would be VERY unusual. However, expulsions, etc, are an exception. Attendance problems would also raise concerns with administration. Special needs were also discussed. Meikle mentioned two special-need transfer students. Both doing VERY well. Cooper asked about the Nobleton Jr. School. Police did a lease arrangement with the Board. At the end of the lease arrangement, it is possible that the school property might be declared surplus. At that point, there is a process that has to be followed: there is a list of priorities when considering disposal of surplus property. Adams-Luchowski will try to send the list. Nobleton Jr. is currently being used for hostage/breach training. It provides a realistic setting for this type of scenarios. McLaren asked about mental health programmes: who determines what type of programmes are available? Programme offerings are more flexible than five year forecast. The Board gets different research information, and this often includes differing information from competing experts. There are currently two more psychologists on staff this year. The Board felt that we needed the additional flexibility.

In conclusion, Adams-Luchowski reminded the Council that the Board budgeting process is year round. Decisions must be made considering the five, or more, years. The decisions must be made in foresight, much like a planning department. The Board receives grants based on number of students

enrolled. Trustees must look ahead a minimum of 5 years. Adams-Luchowski also reminded the Council that Board meetings are public and invited all interested residents to get involved in the process.

9. Co-chair report

David Cooper and Jim Streb

Nobleton DUNK challenge

Streb thanked Dungey for participating in the first Nobleton United Church DUNK Challenge. The event took place at the Victoria Day event in Nobleton, and Mr. Dungey's participation was well received. This sort of community event helps to establish KCSS as a vital part of the entire King Township community!

Cooper asked that everyone think about what members want to see from Council next year. Would members like to see stand alone events, such as evening speakers, or more presentations to Council by staff and others as a part of regular meetings? Is there something you're not getting, or are you happy with the way Council has functioned? There will be some people leaving Council as their children graduate, and there will be some new members. Cooper stressed that a secondary school council is different than public school council, with the focus on decisions affecting school operation, and not on fund-raising.

Dungey asked about a BBQ as a part of the last meeting. Everyone was in favour.

10. Administration Report

Tod Dungey

One Match and June meeting were the big issues. Music trip to Germany was a big success. The students were excellent! Very responsible students, very trustworthy. The group visited Berlin, Leipzig, Munich, then back to Berlin, then off to Neuschwanstein Castle, Koblenz, Cologne and Frankfurt. The group saw a German opera, five hours long, at a concert hall in Cologne. We visited Beethoven's birthplace, a café frequented by Mozart, and a lot of other amazing places. The kids were really great. And it was a very busy trip!

The music night and the play were both excellent. Monday, six KCSS Visa students were recognized at the International Students night. One of the Chinese Visa students travelled to Germany with KCSS.

KCSS enrollment is slightly higher for next year. As mentioned by Bocknek, Gotter and Taraby are retiring. And Meikle is also retiring. We anticipate three to five vacancies. Three have been filled with transfers from within YRDSB. Currently enrollment is estimated to be 980-1000 students next year. As in past years, we may have a higher enrollment in semester 1 than in 2.

Schmidt is currently working with the timetable team. Mr. Petersen and Ms. Boyd are assisting. The team is actually ahead of schedule. If everything continues as it has been, they may be done next week! They still have to deal with adjustments. When that is done, Guidance can start working with students on balancing schedules to resolve conflicts. The team will be looking at new enrolments in August. The administration will try to solve problems within KCSS, but can also ask for assistance from the Board. As mentioned by Adams-Luchowski, the increase in housing within King Township has not resulted in a similar increase in student population.

There has been a big increase in interest in Student Council this year. As well, over 120 students applied to be mentors. That is too many to allow everyone to go after ROCKing. Usually, mentor engagement wains after ROCKing. In October, we're going to ask for students to apply to be mentors,

again. For the next cycle, the engagement begins right AFTER ROCKing, and end at NEXT years ROCKing. We're hoping this results in more consistent engagement.

Regarding the current contract issues: everything is happening as per normal. Secondary school EQAO testing will proceed in June. Elementary EQAO has been cancelled for this year. Everything else continues as normal.

Table tennis is really gaining in popularity. We're going to invest in new tables. Girls soccer (varsity) is running. We're going to allow more members on the team. The school is trying to develop players for the future. The team has won all three games so far. Frisbee, baseball, mountain biking are all doing great. Participants won awards at the Poetry Slam. Two of our business teachers won awards. Ms Gaspar was nominated for teacher of the year. Ms Boyd and Ms O'Quinn received character awards, as did two students. Faculty is preparing for upcoming exams. We are still waiting for OSSLT results. The administration needs to know OSSLT results to allow for graduation. If a student is on the borderline, we can also ask for review of test score. We hope to have the returns on may 25.

Cooper asked about upcoming maternity leaves. Dungey indicated that a Special Ed. teacher will be on a leave. Ms Silver, Head of English, may start the year and then go on leave.

11. Meeting adjournment
Motion to adjourn
Motion carried

Wizniak/Cunneyworth