

Sir William Mulock School Council
Monday, October 6, 2014
MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members:

Lori Correia (Chair), Robert Feldman (Co-Chair), Elke Corbett (Sec.)
Brigitte Kent (Fundraising), Catherine Persaud (Treasurer), Collette McAllister,
Terri-Lynn Cruickshank, Kim Lefebvre, Diane O'Ball, Ty Solomon,
Liz Spiers-Rockley, Tanya Zwaal, Carm Spiteri-Johnson (Prin.), Rosey
Mastrofrancesco (V.P.), Georgia Clifford (V.P.), Donna McKinnon (Teacher Rep.),
Tori Maxwell-Turanski (Student Rep.), Dapo Folami (Student Rep.), Janey Ly
(Student Rep.)

Guests:

Chris Atzenwiler, Jennifer White, Ron Clarke, Sharon Clarke, Lynn Beck, Sandi
Jones, Lisa Michaels, Joe Medeiros, Brooke Medeiros, Dan Borden,

Regrets:

Lori welcomed everyone to the meeting and started off the introductions. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Lori then suggested that we start with the Student Council report so the student reps would not have to sit through the presentation on digital literacy and safety.

Student Council Report:

- The welcome back dance will be held on Thursday October 16. This year's theme is "White Out". Tickets are \$3 with a student card and \$5 without.
- The Fall Fair will be held during the week leading up to Halloween. The fair will include the following events.
 - Tuesday – Name That Tune
 - Wednesday – Pumpkin pie eating contest (teachers vs students)
 - Thursday- Bake sale
 - Friday – Haunted House & costume contest

Special Presentation on Tools for Blended Learning, Digital Safety and Citizenship:

Clarke Edward (Teacher) & Michelle Vonenckevort (Teacher) were introduced as presenters of the following.

Look for a link of the below presentation on the SWMSS web site.

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MOODLE:

Moodle is a popular online tool for connecting students and teachers to facilitate collaborative learning.

Parents were advised to log in to Moodle (moodle2.yrdsb.ca) using their child's username and password. A generic username and password were given for parents without their child's information. Usernames and passwords can be obtained from Administration for students under the age of 18.

- teachers are responsible for setting up and maintaining course Moodles
- course Moodles contain course name, teacher name, course outline, assignments, and additional information posted by the teachers
- teachers may set data limits
- teachers may assist students with file submissions on Moodle
- only teachers may delete Moodles
- take screen shots for personal records of submissions as a back up
- check student profiles for the email address used by the student
- promote the use of the chat section for projects, rather than Facebook, Twitter etc, because teachers can see it, follow up and direct if necessary
- conversations via live chat are recorded and stored
- student submissions are not public unless they are transferred by the teacher to a forum
- the glossary is available for storage of additional resources and can be used to share info and resources
- Moodles provide an opportunity for students to catch up on missed work when not in class
- An interactive calendar is also available which can be linked to google calendars

TeachAssist:

Teach Assist is an online tool used to show students' marks.

- all teachers should now be using Teach Assist
- teachers are responsible for entering the marks
- shows current marks for individual assignments and tests in addition to a combined mark
- by clicking on the marks, the weighting of each mark can be seen
- most marks currently on Teach Assist will be the same as the ones on the Interim Report being sent home on Thursday, October 9th

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Google Apps:

Google Apps allows anytime, anywhere collaborative work, and real time editing.

- not public, a private YRDSB standard account
- saved to the cloud
- may be accessed by any web enabled device
- no more driving for group work, no longer necessary to work in person
- teachers can trace every word (including deleted and corrected words) to individual students allowing for better assessment of participation in group work and full accountability
- work is recorded in chronological order, allowing teachers to keep students on track and follow development
- allows for peer editing where all feedback is recorded and time stamped according to author
- software is free on Mac, PC and Linux
- students are linked to this via their student Gmail account
- can be configured to work offline (not collaboratively)
- submission via this is currently a two step procedure
- regarding hacking issues - Google has high level encryption, and MOE has signed a Security Agreement with them
- Facebook poses a greater risk to privacy than this
- each document can be assigned an individual privacy setting (ie student, teacher or class access)

Digital Citizenship:

Grade Nine classes are visited each year regarding Digital Literacy. They are visited in small groups to better address issues and concerns related to identity. Due to the exponential growth of social media sites, these visits are very important.

- Facebook is NOT private but is permanent
- employers, college and university admissions boards, and scholarship trustees check Facebook accounts of applicants
- there is behind the scenes tracking occurring on Facebook
- privacy settings are very important on Facebook
- Secure your Facebook in six easy steps, there are several websites that explain how to do this
- be aware of Kid Tracking and Teen Luring on Facebook

Adoption of Minutes:

After asking if anyone had any questions or concerns related to the Minutes from September and none were raised, the Minutes were adopted.

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Chair's Report:

- The teachers from last year's PRO Grant presentation of safeTALK (Tell, Ask, Listen, KeepSafe - livingworks.net) have offered to hold it again. There are still materials left from last year, so the cost should be minimal. This event will be held on Nov 20 from 6:00-9:30. Volunteers will be needed to help organize and facilitate the event.
- PRO Grant was approved over the summer for a joint event between SWMSS, Newmarket High, Dennison, and Huron Heights SS. The topic for the event is Mental Health Matters for Our Teens. This event will be held in February of 2015.
- Lori also commented on the success of the Soaring to Excellence event and thanked all of the volunteers for their assistance in this event.

Administrative Report:

- In the last council meeting the question was raised regarding whether water bottles had to be clear in the classrooms. Carmen has confirmed that this is not the case and stainless steel and plastic water bottles are welcome.
- Regarding the period 1/5 lunch issue that was raised at the last council meeting. Carmen did some research to confirm that period 1 & 5 lunches have been the norm in the past few years but conversations were not had with students or parents regarding the effects on the students. Concerns and problems were dealt with as they were brought to the attention of staff. Although period 1 & 5 lunches cannot be eliminated the new plan will be to ensure that a conversation is had with both the student and parent to inform them of their lunch schedule and provide an opportunity to make alternate arrangements if necessary.
- In response to the traffic concerns that were raised in the last council meeting, Carmen had a number of representatives come in from the YRDSB to assess the traffic situation. It was agreed that there is a definite traffic issue in the morning before the start of the school day. The YRDSB representatives have come up with the following plan to alleviate this problem;
 - The first plan of attack is to work with the town of Newmarket and see if they have any suggestions on how to resolve the problem. The YRDSB has had good success working with the town of Aurora on similar situations and is optimistic that they will experience the same success with Newmarket.
 - The second option would be to amend the property and limit access to the parking lot from Sawmill Valley. This plan would include creating a one way traffic flow throughout the parking lot.

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- The third option would be to utilize fencing along the property line to force students to follow the side walk keeping them away from the traffic
- The idea of a stop sign at the Columbus Way entry was also discussed. This option however applies to town land and thus would be the responsibility of the Town of Newmarket.
- The current enrollment is 1,220 students which is marginally above the projected enrollment. As a result an additional teacher Eric MacLauchlan has been hired to help out in phys-ed.
- Mid-term reports will be going out this week on Thursday October 9th.
- Carmen reviewed the anti-spam law that YRDSB is bound by. In compliance with the law SWMSS cannot solicit donations from parents that are not on the email list. As a result any email communications coming from teachers may also not include any reference to money. This may result in some oddly worded emails asking for signed consent forms but not mentioning anything about money required for trips etc.
- The career talk event will be held on November 27th for grade 11 students. Georgia asked if there are any parents who would like to volunteer to present at this event, if so please send her an email to confirm your interest.

Teacher's Report:

- Donna also mentioned that in-term reports were coming out later this week. She also mentioned that parents should look out for the "request a meeting" box on the report. This box is filled out by the teacher if they would like to discuss the student's progress with the parents. Donna also noted that this feedback from the teacher could be both positive as well as constructive.
- Carmen also added that parents should feel free to contact teachers any time they have a concern regarding their child's progress.
- Donna mentioned that there are numerous school teams and clubs on the go. This is nice to see as all of them are run by teachers volunteering their time and efforts outside of school hours.
- Donna also commented on the success of the Soaring to Excellence event where parent turnout and support were very impressive.

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Treasurer's Report:

- Catherine Persaud reported that the balance in the account is unchanged at \$13.63.

Fundraising:

- Brigitte Kent said that forms and information for our yearly Poinsettia sale will come out shortly.
- There is a flat donation option for those who would just like to donate without having to commit to a product or service. This form will go out with the Poinsettia information.
- Charitable receipts may be requested for donations of \$25 or more.
- Traditionally funds raised are put towards Graduation (\$1200), Teachers' requests, and requests from teams and clubs (to a maximum of \$200 each).
- A suggestion was made to get feedback from parents on what the money raised is put towards.

Questions and Comments:

There were no questions or comments raised?

In Closing:

- The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3rd, at 7:00pm in the Library.
- Mrs. Avery from the guidance department will do a short presentation on course selection tools and resources available at the school.

Meeting Adjourned