

Sir William Mulock School Council
Monday, October 7, 2013
MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members:

Kim Dandridge (Chair)	Lori Correia (Co-Chair)	Collette McAllister (Secretary)
Brigitte Kent (Fundraising Chair)		Catherine Persaud (Treasurer)
Julie Brocca	Celesse Dove	Robert Feldman
Kim Lefebvre	Carole Ann MacDonald	Diane O'Ball
Liz Rockley	Donna McKinnon (Teacher Rep.)	
Sandra Haliburton (V.P)	Sheila Hetherington (Principal)	
Rosey Mastrofrancesco (V.P.)		

Guests:

Ross Graham	Adrienne Levy	Janet Thoms	Alda Canimkorbighi
Tina Niro	Terri Cruickshank	Keri Christensen	Mirella Vendramin
Melinda Vali	Krista Walford	Agata Ticlewska	Mary Anne John
Tanya Zwaal	Pamela Tidbury	Andrew Tidbury	Jennifer Brien
Glen Tuson	Paula Alcock-Deak	Gabe Deak	Randy Guppy
Joanne Ewing			

- Kim D. welcomed all in attendance and everyone introduced themselves

Special Presentation on Digital Safety and Citizenship

Clarke Edward, Math Teacher, SWMSS was introduced and stated that he hoped that his presentation would cure the parent/student disconnect surrounding digital safety on social sites, and the use of tools like Moodle, Teach Assist and Google Apps.

Moodle

- Moodle is a popular online tool for connecting students and teachers.
- 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
- receipts may be emailed from Turnitin (an integrated submission option)
- take screen shots for personal records of submissions as a back up
- check student profiles for the email address used by the student

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- 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

Teach Assist

- Teach Assist is an online tool used to show students' marks.
- all teachers should now be using Teach Assist
- all other options for reporting marks have been removed
- teachers are responsible for entering the marks
- shows latest, most up to date marks
- 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 10th

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 to individual students allowing for better assessment of participation in group work
- work is recorded in chronological order, allowing teachers to keep students on track and follow development
- 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.

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- Facebook is NOT private
- 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
- the question was raised, in light of such issues, why bother with Social Media?
- the fact is, we are living in a global community, and we need to teach teens to be responsible for their identity
- they need to be taught the proper use of digital technology to share world knowledge and intelligence
- they need to be aware of digital etiquette
- we need to acknowledge that teenagers are going to make mistakes as they learn and grow
- the Safe Schools Assembly deals with cyber bullying which can occur on popular teen forums like Ask FM
- the school also goes class-to-class in Grade 9 to educate students about protecting themselves online and cyber etiquette. The question was raised about why this was not continued throughout their school careers. A lot changes in three years. The school will visit this possibility and perhaps try to include a modified version at the Safe School Assembly
- anonymity can promote cruelty, and the mob mentality
- the police have come to the school to talk about sexting and distribution of pornography with target groups of students
- Clarke provided two websites which show stalking of both male and female victims; an eye-opener for many boys who feel this is a girl problem:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0n1FaKZBNLU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2q0IXpRL20>

Election of Treasurer

- there are two candidates for Treasurer, Julie Brocca and Catherine Persaud.
- Julie Brocca has six years of elementary council experience as a council member, and has a financial background of 24 years
- Catherine Persaud has an HBA in Commerce, is a CGA, and has been in accounting for 24 years
- Council Members voted
- Catherine Persaud was elected as Treasurer, Julie Brocca is a Member-at-Large

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Approval of Minutes

With a quorum present, the minutes from April, May and September were adopted.

Chair's Report

- there was the largest turn out yet at the Soaring to Excellence breakfast, held to recognize honour roll students
- verbal and written thank yous were given to the volunteers who made the event enjoyable and successful
- Sheila Hetherington and Kim Dandridge visited the feeder schools in the spring to initiate contact and develop good relations
- feedback on the fridge magnets sent out by Council has been good, the \$300 spent on them was worthwhile, and should be repeated each year
- School Council forum will be held on October 21st at 6:00pm at Newmarket High School
- anyone wishing to attend the forum with Kim D. and Lori should let Kim D. know
- York Regional Police circulated a handout with information sessions for parents and caregivers of youths between the ages of 10-18
- topics include 'Mental Health', 'Drugs, Alcohol and Other Addictions', 'Social Media and Internet Safety', and 'Bullying'
- there is no cost to participate, registration is required online at yrp.ca/citizensacademy.aspx or in person at any police district
- more information is available at 1-866-876-5423 ext 6709, or email youthprogramsevents@yrp.ca

Administrative Report

- it has been noticed that there are more students in financial need, and having to choose between food and busing
- in an effort to help these students the school has reached out to the community and has commitments from several groups
- Salvation Army will be delivering a set number of lunches for identified students
- a Healthy School Grant has been received for \$600, and will be used to provide healthy snacks such as granola bars, that will be readily available in the Guidance Office
- the school will be conducting a Thanksgiving Food Drive for the local food bank
- a YRT student pass is \$90/month, there are no charitable discounts available
- the school only receives \$200/student/year from the Ministry to cover all educational costs
- we will try to apply to Pathways for a grant to buy single-ride bus tickets

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- Safe Talk training is being provided to teachers to assist in determining suicidal intentions of students
- Assist training more directly determines the risk level of the intentions
- 1 in 20 teens are having suicidal thoughts
- currently just teachers are being trained, though they are looking at training students in the future
- it has been suggested that this year's PRO Grant may be used to train parents
- it has been noted that there are Synervoice email issues with attachments; the school is working to resolve these issues
- the 2013 OSSLT results are in, and the school dropped from 91% to 82% of students meeting or exceeding provincial standards
- there were several reasons that contributed to this result including the total number of students writing the test, ratio of boys to girls, ratio of Academic to Applied, and total number of Identified students writing the test
- in an effort to improve on basic literacy and numeracy skills, timetables will be changing next year
- all grade 10s will have English in second term, and all grade 9s will have Math in second term
- the school will be upgrading to Windows 7
- 140 computers cannot handle the upgrade, so there will be fewer computers as the Board budget for technology has been slashed
- there is a Board incentive that will match dollar for dollar funds raised
- the school spends \$30K in bus transportation/year for teams and trips
- the \$10K from the Board towards team transportation will not be given this year
- the costs related to entrance fees and officials fees will be passed on to teams

Treasurer's Report

- former Treasurer Lori Correia reported that there is a current balance of \$980.71
- \$200 has been allocated to assist with bus tickets for students in need

Teacher's Report

- the New York City trip is sold out, all 30 spaces have been filled, and a package with details will be sent home
- the England/Scotland still has spaces available
- the unconfirmed third trip to California (Music Dept.) is still awaiting approval
- EF Tours confirmed that Visas and travel documents for non-Canadians will need to be investigated on an individual basis
- a Student Council Representative has not been chosen yet, but when they are, they will be reporting on activities, dances, sports, and spirit days
- Prom will be held at the Manor at Carrying Place

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- the Grad Trip to Mexico being planned by some students has NO school affiliation, and is not Board-sanctioned

Budget and Fundraising

- the delivery date for the Poinsettias has been booked
- order forms will be available at Meet the Teacher Night on October 24th
- it has been put forward that consideration should be given to raising the price by \$2 per plant. Discussion followed pointing out that if there are more parents in need, perhaps this was not the time to raise prices.
- current prices are as follows:
 - 6" - \$10
 - 8" - \$20
 - 10" - \$25
- Tropical Planter \$25
- Rogers Public School will also be selling Poinsettias this year
- Celesse Dove has volunteered to find out about their timing and pricing and report back
- money from this fundraiser goes into Student Council to be distributed to school groups, teams, and possibly towards busing
- it was suggested that we resend the fundraising letter. Last year's letter raised about \$500, with Kim D. only distributing it at the Meet the Teacher night. It was not sent out as a general email/letter as there were fewer extra-curriculars last year and the board contributed \$10,000 towards busing, etc. It was felt to be awkward to request money when there were fewer events taking place. Kim D. suggested sending it again this year and it was agreed, with the goal of sending it out on October 24th with the Poinsettia order form.

Questions and Comments

- it was brought to Council's attention that the quality of last year's Yearbook was very disappointing. There were many errors and omissions.
- the 2013-2014 issue will be rectified this year

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meetings, 7 p.m. in the Library:

Monday, November 4

Monday, February 10

Monday, April 7

Monday, May 5