

MEETING:	S.L.S.S. Parent Council	DATE:	November 18, 2013
ATTENDEES:	<p>Parents: Byrna Abtan, Mary Allen, Linda Behr, Raji Gandhi, Yael Gross, Karina Klenoer-Gelman, Karin Kazakevich, Melissa Kotton, Nicola McDonald, Debbie Morris, Anneta Ralph, Rhona Stessel, Liat Waisenberg, Deborah Woodbine –Thompson,</p> <p>Staff: Principal – Ken Shigeishi VP- Debbie Ziegler VP- Mirza Baig Teacher Representative – Isa Santorelli</p>		
Regrets:	Lori Goldhar, Davoud Hemayat, Jordanna Silver, Mohan Toor, Maya Wenger, Patricia Wotherspoon, Mehrdad Ziabakhsh		
Chair Minutes Start time	Nicola McDonald Anneta Ralph 7:20PM		
AGENDA ITEM			ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from Nicola followed by a round table introduction from everyone.		
Student Council Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Halloween haunted House was very successful. Approximately Four Hundred students passed by to observe the display during lunch. They plan to have this event next year again. The Student Voice online survey results are now being reviewed. The Retro Neon Dance will take place on December 5 in the cafeteria. The semi-formal dance will take place on February 20, 2014. The dance will be held at a banquet hall. The event starts at 7:00PM and ends at 10:00PM. Some Guest tickets will be available. 		
Teacher's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms.Santorelli represented the teachers at this meeting. Remembrance Day celebration was very successful. Ontario Secondary School Literacy after school program at SLSS is progressing very well. Seventy grades 9 and 10 students are attending this 10 sessions program from 3:00PM to 4:30PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. This after school program started on November 5 and will end on December 5. 		

Administration Report

- It will be repeated next year, before the literacy test on March 24, 2014.
- The following **School Events** held recently were all successful.
 1. Holocaust presentation for grade 10 students
 2. "Live Different" presentation for grade 11 students
 3. Equity Fair Open House for all students
- **Report cards** were distributed. The results are currently in the analysis stage.
- **Parent-teacher interviews** are scheduled for Thursday, November 21. Russian, Hebrew and Korean interpreters will be available.
- **Course selection process** begins. Heads of departments are currently reviewing course offerings for the next school year. In February 2014, students will use Career Cruising to select courses. Students are asked to think carefully and choose courses based on their post secondary education. By the end of grade 11, students must have at least 24 credits.
- **Individual Pathway Planner** is a new tool that is being developed to help parents and students plan the student's career path. All grades 9 to 12 students will complete the Planner electronically in the Careers class. Parents are asked to join in a couple of meetings to help develop this initiative.
- **Staffing Update:** One French teacher and two Special Education teachers left early on maternity leave. One mathematics teacher and one Geography teacher are off work due to illnesses.
- **Transfer process** dates will be determined by the board in mid December.
- **Eco-schools** initiatives will be put in place in preparation for Bronze level certification in May 2014. Some of the initiatives are.
 1. Lights will be turned off when no one is in the classroom
 2. "Good on one side" – paper will be recycled
 3. Windows will be re-sealed to prevent leakage
 4. Waste reduction – a green compost program just started as a pilot project
- **Defibrillators are being installed** in SLSS. Training for up to ten people will take place from 4:30PM to 7:30PM. Two parents, Mary Allen and Nicola McDonald have volunteered to join in. Dates to be determined.

<p>EQAO results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy results this year, came in at 92% successful for the first time eligible students. SLSS results were above the board average by 2% and above the provincial average by 10%. Females came in at 95% and males came in at 91%. There is still room for improvement. SLSS goal is to continue to strive towards 100% . We need to continue to support students who are taking the OSSLT for a second time. As well, a Grade 12 Literacy Course is offered to students who are not successful on the OSSLT. • Math results were very good for students in Gr. 9 academic math. Both male and female students did very well. 20% of students achieved Level 4 and 70% achieved Level 3. The 90% pass rate is very close to the board's pass rate. • The applied math results are not very good across Ontario, the board and school. Strategies for improvements will be put in place to find out what the difficulties are and to help students do better. 	
<p>West School Council forum report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQAO Regional Parent Forum was held on October 19. The message was, "Involved parents are a huge factor in Child's success" The two main topics of discussion were, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EQAO - what is EQAO and the importance of EQAO 2. Words matter – Vocabulary Development. It was stated that wider vocabulary sets apart high achieving students from low achieving students. • There was also a discussion on what can be done to make the transition easier from Grade 8 to Grade 9. • At our meeting, parents stated that kids are spending too many hours doing homework compared to elementary school. • SLSS staff informed parents that 3 to 4 hours homework could mean that the student is having a time management problem or does not understand the tasks. • SLSS ensures that there is a balance between electives vs. academic subjects in each semester. • Student Engagement workshop also helps in this regard. 	
<p>Parents Reaching Out Grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant of \$1000 was approved by the Ministry of Education and will be used to fund the project entitled, "Bridging the Generation Gap: Youth speaking to Parents. • There will be a presentation from "Youth Speaks" to engage parents by reaching out and speaking to the issues many youths face every day. • One of the goals of this project is to eliminate barriers that may prevent parents from fully participating in their children's learning. • The session for students will be paid for by the grant. 	

Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be one session for parents, in April 2014.• This meeting adjourned at 9:03PM• The next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2014, at 7:15PM in the Library.	
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