

MEETING:	S.L.S.S. School Council	DATE:	May 20, 2014
ATTENDEES:	<p>Parents: Bryna Abtan, Mary Allen, Karina Gelman, Rhona Stessel, Liat Waisenberg, Deborah Woodbine –Thompson, Mohan Toor, Pragnesh Doshi, Priya Doshi, Chengrong Jin, Joy Guo Nicola McDonald</p> <p>Staff: Principal – Ken Shigeishi Vice-Principal – Debbie Ziegler Teacher Representative - Patricia Wotherspoon SHSM teacher: Neil Joshi</p>		
Regrets:	Raji Gandhi, Karin Kazakevich		
Chair Start time	Karina Gelman 7:20PM		
AGENDA ITEM			ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from Karina. Minutes from March's meeting were approved.		
SHSM Programs	Neil presented an overview of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs at Stephen Lewis. It is for students in Grades 11 and 12 who wish to focus their courses in particular sectors. At SLSS, the program is available in Health & Wellness, Business, Hospitality and Engineering. The program involves taking certain courses as well as a co-op course. Students have access to tours, visits to colleges and universities, and certifications all funded by the Ministry of Education. Students who wish to enrol should contact Mr. Joshi at the school.		
PRO Grants			
Student Council Report	The student council co-presidents sent their regrets.		
Post-Secondary costs and Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francesca Maietta and Marissa Revzen Ellis presented information and tips for students to apply for scholarships and bursaries to help fund post-secondary costs. Highlights include: • Grade 11 students encouraged to attend the post-secondary information fairs. SLSS organizes a fair in cooperation with other local high schools and this is a good way to get information. The downtown fairs are very crowded. • Start research for scholarships early; a list of websites was provided • Many scholarships use criteria other than marks, so students should apply! Some scholarships have no applications and are not awarded! • In the fall an information session is held for students. It was suggested a session for parents also be held in the evening 		
Teacher's report	Patricia Wotherspoon represented the teachers at this meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many club and team activities are in progress. • Wrestling team did well at York Region Championships and 9 students went to OFSAA finals in Brampton • The March Break trip to Italy was successful. Many sites were visited. • Various subject area field trips and learning opportunities were 		

	<p>highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some courses are using different teaching strategies to enhance application of knowledge learned. Parents may hear about “flipped classroom” teaching strategies. See appendix for details 	
Principal’s report	<p>The York Region District School Board new mission, vision and values statements were circulated. Next meeting we should review the school’s mission and vision statements to keep them current.</p> <p>Staffing update: students chose courses in February. Currently sorting out the information. The Board will allocate staff to secondary schools in April based on this data</p> <p>EQAO Literacy test is on March 27. There is a special timetable for the day with students writing the test coming in the morning and then all students coming for the afternoon classes. A letter was distributed last month.</p> <p>The York Region Science Fair is being held at SLSS on Saturday April 5. Everyone welcome to see Science in Action.</p> <p>The Regional parent Symposium is April 9. Four parents are attending at the Sheraton Hotel</p> <p>A Service Dog will be in the school starting this week. The dog is to support student learning and is not a pet. Teachers were asked to tell students the dog is not a “pet” and to not interact with the dog. We are working with parents and support workers to ensure the dog provides support to enable student learning.</p> <p>The article about the petitions for and against the GSA flag in the school was circulated. Ken outlined the background behind the article and thanked Trustee Hertz and senior staff for their support on the issue. Trustee Hertz mentioned that he and the board staff had received media calls and in his opinion the school’s reputation had been enhanced. There are GSA clubs in all YRDSB secondary schools. Ken reported there were no student issues related to the petition.</p> <p>Various information flyers were circulated for parents to view.</p>	<p>Follow-up May meeting</p> <p>Follow-up May meeting</p>
Trustee report	<p>The Chair welcomed Trustee Hertz to the meeting.</p> <p>Various local elementary schools have construction projects either underway or starting soon. This is to accommodate full-day kindergarten classes. As of September, all YRDSB elementary schools will have full day kindergarten programs. He noted that the YRDSB is paying for this construction and the Ministry of Education is paying for new school construction.</p> <p>Next year, Anne Frank Public School and Tommy Douglas Secondary School will be opening in the west area. Another French Immersion program will start near the Walmart plaza Block 18 in September 2015</p> <p>As reported at the last meeting, SLSS is closed to transfers. This is because SLSS is at capacity and space for elementary students must be available in the future. For example, Nellie McClung Public School’s first floor classrooms are all used for kindergarten classes! Other schools in the area are open to transfers.</p>	

	<p>The senior staff of the YRDSB was reorganized and there are 3 associate directors, Dr. Belchese, Ms. Johnstone and Ms. Roberts. The director, Ken Thurston will be retiring at the end of this school year. A search committee has been formed and the position posted in the Globe and Mail.</p> <p>For next year, the ward boundaries have been adjusted. The Markham Thornhill Ward 1 and Thornhill/Vaughan Ward 5 will be served by one trustee. There would be one trustee for Vaughan Ward 3 and 4 (currently Trustee Hertz) and one trustee for Vaughan Wards 1 and 2 (currently Trustee DeBartolo).</p> <p>Trustee Hertz indicated that he serves on several committees of the board and was also elected vice-chair of the board for this school year.</p> <p>New developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrville Centre at the north-west corner of Dufferin/Rutherford • Vaughan City Centre – Highway 7 and 400 • Jaffari Centre proposal – Bathurst south of Rutherford <p>All are multi-use developments including business and residential</p> <p>Highway 7 construction at the railway tracks is starting and will affect E/W traffic patterns.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm	

Appendix – Subject, Club and Team information.

English

- Field Trips - to the Zoo for Childrens' Literature Course; to *Romeo and Juliet* at the North York Performing Arts Centre

Music trip to Italy – Kids were awesome and had an enriching experience... including jet lag.

Technology

- From Grade 12 Tech. Design – students are engaged in creating full-scale one-story models of a house design that they have created using AutoCad. i.e. homes that contain a music/art studio or a home for a family of four etc.

Mathematics –

- Competitions – last semester was the Canadian Math Open. Coming up is the Euclid Math Contest for grade 12s and the Fryer/Galois/Hypatia Contest for grade 9,10,11 – due date for entries is this Friday.

Science –

- Before the March Break, SLSS sent 20 students to the YRDSB Science Olympics – Jr. And Sr. teams. We achieved three different awards which are displayed in the main hallway display case. In combined totals for each of the three general categories - Physics, Chemistry, and Biology - our students' totals placed us second out of 19 schools. Placements were awarded only for individual categories; however, what is significant to SLSS is that our students' results represent a balanced understanding of the Science curriculum.
- Sr. Level Biology and Chemistry Contests are upcoming this semester.

Computer Studies –

- The Waterloo Programming Contest is in process now, and three of SLSS students have qualified for the second round with one student receiving a perfect score in round one.

- The Computer Studies department is piloting “Flipped” lessons – where students preview materials through video modules, powerpoints, moodle documents, and practice quizzes. The next day teachers follow up with explanations and applications of the material with practice questions and tasks to complete in the classroom. The latest educational data shows that this is a powerful teaching method.

Co-op Education –

- At this time, sixty students have been placed in businesses, schools, hospitals, and trades. Apprenticeships have been secured in the areas of Auto, Hairstyling, and E.C.E. And, finally, the Dual Credit Program at Seneca is populated by SLSS students on the pathway towards obtaining an E.C.E. diploma.

Special Education –

- “Yes I Can Award” nominations have been submitted for the YRDSB ceremony supported by the Council for Exceptional Children happening on May 11, 2014.
- Special Olympics Hockey happens this Wednesday March 19 at Vaughan Secondary School.
- Integration opportunities continue this semester through invitations from lunch-time peer helpers; teachers who have guest speakers; various field trips to SuperStore Cooking; Hannaford Street Silver Band; and much more.

Clubs

- Community Sharks – have been raising money all year to help build an orphanage in Africa. Previously, students have sold popcorn after school; the next event is a Teacher-Student Basketball game Buy-In.
- “Let’s Talk” – last meeting on the topic of “Stress and Stress-Busters” was well attended. A long, in-depth, and thoughtful discussion ensued. The next topic is “Resiliency” – a characteristic that fosters a lifetime of positive forward-thinking individuals.
- SLSS entry to the Sears Drama Festival, *Thoughts* by SLSS student Raji Gandhi. The club was awarded ‘Best Ensemble’ and ‘best original screenplay’ awards.
- DECA is going on to regional competition and has a large and growing following here.

Athletics

SLSS Athletics offers as much or more than schools that have three gyms. The Phys. Ed. Dept. would like to bring future plans to the attention of the Parent Council to include the building of another gym. We’re using the Community Centre in period 1 all year as well as for after-school practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Semester II. All teams are competitive and we’re now starting up the spring season.