

Stephen Lewis Secondary School
School Council Minutes
November 17, 2014

Welcome

- Introductions around the table
- Joel Hertz (outgoing trustee) in attendance
- Thank you to Rebecca Haberman who volunteered to take the minutes for this meeting

Student Report (Ken Shigeishi)

- (student council studying and not in attendance)
- SAC events for Halloween were successful
 - October 28 – Dance
 - October 30 – Haunted House
- Upcoming events
 - PJ & Pancake Breakfast – 1st week of December
 - Making arrangements for formal and semi-formal

Teacher's Report (Marissa Ellis)

- University and College Applications
 - University and College Fair at Alexander McKenzie well attended by Gr 11 and 12 students and families
 - University and College Application information sessions have been held for students; session for parents will be held at 7pm on November 24
 - Deadline for university applications is January 14th, 2015; College is February 1, 2015
 - Each university is different as to which marks they look at (Grade 11, 12, highest mark, or first attempt mark)
- Course selection for next year
 - will be done in the library in small groups to provide additional individualized support
 - Course requests process begins in early February for all grades
- 34 credit threshold
 - New Ministry of Education policy
 - (exempt for ESL and students with an IEP)
 - Students can earn up to 34 credits at day school; beyond 34 credits can be taken in other forms (e.g. night school, adult day school, e-learning, correspondence)
 - Credits earned outside of school count towards the 34 credits; e.g. Music certification or private schools
- SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) programs at SLSS:
 - Business
 - Health Sciences
 - Hospitality
 - Engineering

Individual Pathways Plan (Marissa Ellis)

- Ministry of Education program in place for all students to support career planning.
- Each grade has a focused, all courses look at career options in the subject
- School Council members in attendance were given a hands-on tutorial demo of the Individual Pathway Plan (IPP) on Career Cruising
- Students Can save to IPP planner, search up careers and can explore schools and programs available
 - Grade 9 – learning styles and interests
 - Grade 10 – career focus and pathways
 - Grade 11 – exploring Post secondary school options
 - Grade 12 – choosing post-secondary destination and application
- Another good resource for students is the YRDSB website www.yrdsb.ca
 - Under the student tab – lots of info!

EQAO Results (Debbie Ziegler)

- Literacy – last 2 years have trended upwards and continue to provide support to all students who are writing.
- Math – across the province all students have difficulty at applied level – SLSS scores are up 4% over last year and in Academic math we continue to trend upwards

Trustee Report (Joel Hertz)

- Trustee until November 30, 2014. Newly elected trustee Linda Aversa term begins December 1, 2014
- August 1st – new director Jay Parappally and revised board structure: 3 associate directors, 3 coordinating superintendents, 4 areas
- New elementary school in area: Anne Frank (1st school to be named after her in Canada)
- New French Elementary school coming near Weston/Major Mackenzie
- New High School Tommy Douglas opening in February at Weston/Major Mackenzie
- Nelly McClung PS has 15 kindergarten classes this year
- Plans for additions to SLSS are dependent upon enrolment. Another high school near Southbrook Farms could be built, but it is far down the pipe. Petition circling around Facebook to prove a new high school is needed. The Ministry of Education funds schools based on enrolment, need enough students and a business plan for funding to come forward.
- Westmount, Vaughan, Thornhill SS open to transfers. Vaughan S.S. is the French Immersion high school for the area. Looking to put gifted high school program in the west in Maple
- Library at North Thornhill Community Centre, opening scheduled for mid-December might be delayed .
- Subway thru York U delayed 2 years now. Dedicated bus lanes will take 3 years of construction and impact Hwy 7, Bathurst St, and Centre Street.
- Jaffari Centre didn't submit new plan. Therefore, going back to York Regional council. Might go to OMB.

Administration Report (Ken Shigeishi, Debbie Ziegler)

- Mid-Semester Report cards went home last week. Email and voice mail announcements were made.
- Once a week try to update twitter feed
- Lots of teams, events and clubs for students to participate in, e.g. chess club at lunch
 - Question about number of teachers to supervise ski and snowboard club. We have more than enough teachers, but not enough students to fill a second bus this year. A waiting list has been set up and will be re-advertised; if there is student interest, the second bus will be booked.
- Jr. Boys Soccer Team – are Tier 2 CHAMPIONS!!
- Held 4 separate Remembrance Day assemblies (1 per grade)
- Holocaust education week Assembly for grade 10 students
- Ambassador club – grade 11's mentoring grade 9's. Next topic will be How to Study and prep for exams
- Possible enrolment increase over the next few years – 6 “portable pack” could be on site next year. Will know more after the January enrollment projections by the YRDSB planning department
- UofT Global Ideas Project –
 - 1st year invited public secondary schools invited; Only 25 schools across the province participate and SLSS is one of them!
 - Grade 11's interested in social justice
 - Run thru OISE and there will be a summary segment on CBC in the spring
- Quest conference this week. SLSS is sending 3 students to attend the conference on Thursday. Different teachers are attending the different days.

Parents reaching out grant (Karina Gelman)

- Date set for parents night: Thursday April 30, 2015
 - Will invite guest speaker to speak on topic: DE stressing Family Life
 - Michelle Cassidy (speaker) – need to confirm availability
 - Subcommittee to help
 - Liat Waisenberg
 - Rebecca Haberman
 - Melissa Glogauer
 - Maya Wenger
 - Karina Gelman

- Translation of important information for parents (getting parents better connected to the school)
 - Languages suggested that are needed: Hebrew and Russian
 - Subcommittee to help
 - Maya Wenger
 - Elanit Krikzer

Fundraising (Karina Gelman)

- SLSS has never run a fundraiser initiative.
- Looking into options to raise funds for technology updates. Whatever the school council raises, it will be matched by board up to \$7500
 - Motion to move forward approved at meeting

Teacher appreciation lunch (Karina Gelman)

- at end of year for 115 SLSS staff
 - subcommittee to look into raising funds for this
 - Debi Kislik,
 - Rebecca Haberman
 - Karina Gelman
 - Idea approved by council to move forward

Adjourned