

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2020

In attendance:

Carolyn Albanese, Vice Principal	Preet Shah, Student Council
Christina Bergen, Parent	Laura Taccone, Teacher Representative
Suman Danef, Secretary	Maya Trajcesko, Student Council
Jeff Foran, Vice Principal	Teri Turner, Parent
Alicia Hanson, Parent	Rose Walker, Principal
Stephanie Lanigan, Parent	Lisa Hume, Chair

Regrets:

Robert Carter, Co-Chair	

1. Lisa Hume – 2020/2021 Introductions

- General introductions of all in attendance. Parents introduced themselves and noted children and grades that attend SDSS.
- Preet Shah is the President & Maya Trajcesko is the Vice President of Student Council.
- Carolyn Albanese and Jeff Foran are both Vice Principals.
- Laura Taccone is the teacher representative and works in Student Success and is transitioning into Guidance.
- Rose Walker is the Principal of the school and has been for her 3rd year now.

2. Lisa Hume – Council Executive Position Elections for 2020/2021

- A parent named Robert Carter, had indicated interest in participating on the council. He is not in attendance so Lisa will follow up to see if there is still interest and if possible, to take on a position.
- Suman Danef indicated interest in taking on the Secretary position.
- Lisa Hume will continue in the Chair position.

3. Maya Trajcesko & Preet Shah - Student Council Report

- Talent show video
 - We plan on having it posted in the next week
 - It was from last year - this helps the student school spirit rise
 - A little video to make the student body happy
- Intro video
 - Intro to student council that was from last year
 - We plan on having it posted next week
 - This helps students especially in grade 9, get to know the people who are representing the student body
 - If students have any questions, they can find us and ask about anything they may need
- September spirit day
 - Wear orange on September 30th
 - This supports the Indigenous peoples
- October spirit week
 - This will be a hoodie day - we encourage students to wear hoodies on that day
 - This will be October 8th and 9th (for both cohorts)
 - This will help boost school spirit
- There was a question raised about anything for the Terry Fox 40th Anniversary – Maya noted that there was nothing yet.

4. Laura Taccone – Teacher's Report

- Teachers want to express their appreciation to students, administrator's, and parents as we settle into this new way of teaching and learning. We understand that it is a learning curve for most students as well. We also want to share that we understand that these are stressful, challenging, and unknown times and we are here to help support you should you have questions or concerns.
- Clubs and Teams – At this time, extracurricular activities are on hold until further notice.
- Guidance update:
 - Students are encouraged to join us in our new Google Classroom. You can find information on Pathways, University and Colleges, Dual Credits, e-learning, and more.
 - With the change in registration due to students who have moved to online learning, re-timetabling was completed in early September. Students had the opportunity to submit a timetable change if they were unhappy with their timetable. At this point, all requests have been processed and we are no longer making changes.

- Guidance will be visiting grade 9 and 12 students in the next few weeks to support transitions into high school and into post-secondary planning.
- Guidance is also available to students registered in virtual school.
- Appointments can be made through Teach Assist now. These appointments will be done virtually or via phone. Face to face appointments are limited to emergencies only.
 - Ms. Gray – A to H
 - Mrs. Luciani – I to P
 - Mrs. Camara/Ms. Taccone – Q to Z
- Follow us on Instagram @stouffville_guidance
- Special Education Update:
 - Special Education Resource Teachers are currently in the process of updating IEPs. Students should receive the updated IEP within 30 working days of the school year. All SERTs have connects with the student's teachers and are in the process of connecting with their students.
 - Online support is ongoing. If a student that is identified is struggling, please encourage them to connect early and often with their SERT via email or phone. SERTs will then work virtually or by phone through shared docs.
 - The Learning Centre is currently closed to reduce the number of physical interactions in the school.
- Student Success:
 - Welcome to our newest Student Success team member, Katrina Sale. She joins Laura Taccone as a SS teacher, and Lindsay Simick and Denise Rotondi, our CYWs.
 - Collectively, we work to support students at risk. This includes any student that is struggling with attendance, learning and achievement, and social-emotional well-being.
 - This year we will be connecting with students virtually. We are also supporting any students that are working remotely through virtual school.
 - At this point, we have communicated with teachers for any students in grades 9 and 10 that are having difficulties with on-line learning in the spring. We are in the process of connecting with those students as well.
 - At this time, we have paused our mentoring and peer tutoring programs but are hoping to resume by mid-October. More information to follow.
- Dual Credit High School/College Course Opportunity:
 - Students in grades 11 or 12 who either have a spare or a course on their timetable that they would like to drop, can still register for Dual Credit Courses. These are courses offered through various colleges throughout Ontario and are taught by college professors. Students will earn both a high school and college credit. At this

time, all courses are being taught virtually, usually a couple of days a week for up to 2.5 hours. Courses begin the week of September 28th and run through mid-December.

- Students can take up to 4 dual credit courses throughout high school. These are college credits, at no cost to the student. This is an amazing opportunity to experience college and to work ahead. Please speak with a Guidance Counsellor for further information or visit the yrdsb website to view the Course Listing brochure.

5. Rose Walker – Principal's Items

- Enrollment this year was 1178 students with 188 students electing to enroll fully on-line. This is slightly lower than average for York Region.
- This required a reduction in the number of courses being taught in school and as a result 3 teachers that needed to work from home and 4 additional teachers that volunteered were all accommodated in the virtual teaching model.
- A few classes had to be collapsed and a few students did not get into virtual school.
- On any typical school day, there are about 600 people on the school premises (this includes custodians, office staff, teachers, and students).
- Rose noted that the students are following the new rules and that they are immensely proud of the students.
- Collaboration is looking quite different and teachers are being creative.
- Outside walks and mask breaks are being incorporated.

6. Carolyn Albanese – Caring & Safe Schools Presentation

- All students generally are provided with this presentation during an in-person assembly. This year, the slide presentation will be provided to all students with audio prepared to go along with the slides. The presentation covers bias prejudice, social media etiquette, on-line an in-person presence, protocols for health & safety. The presentation will be provided to cohorts A & B this week.
- Literacy Leadership – Grade 10 test, all students must achieve 300 or better. This year, the test will be on-line and will occur in April. Mock tests will happen to help students prepare.
- Cohorting was completed for only the first rotation for all students. Coming this Wednesday, the cohorting will be completed and communicated for rotation 2. Since classes must be no more than 15 students and the classes must be split manually.
- Study Hall – students can book though Teach Assist. Study hall will occur in the cafeteria and booking can begin today.
- Safety protocols – fire drills, lockdown, & hold and secure drills are currently on hold awaiting health and safety protocols from the Board.

The school will ensure that all cohorts participate in these drills once direction is provided.

- Photo day – currently on hold.
- Other safety protocols – students are following masking, social distancing protocols well. Disinfection is occurring daily. A sick room has been set up with its own washroom, for isolation as per the Board requirements and is available if someone falls ill during the school day.
- Any visitors to the school must sign in at the office as per public health for contact tracing purposes.
- Equity & Inclusivity – learning about our indigenous partners and communities. The morning announcements will start to include acknowledgement of our indigenous lands.

7. Rose Walker – Graduation, Diplomas & Yearbooks

- The options for graduation which is supposed to occur in Oct/Nov were to be fully in person, hybrid – in person/virtual, or fully virtual. At this point, doubtful that a full in person ceremony will occur. Diplomas and yearbooks would be distributed at that time.
- School spirit events will include an activity of identifying the number of times the word ‘Spartan’ is noted in the Caring & Safe Schools presentation – some SDSS swag will be available.
- Question raised about Take your Kid to Work Day for grade 9 students – students will be offered on-line opportunities this year. Information is available on learningpartnerships.ca.

8. Future Meeting Dates:

- November 16, 2020
- April 19, 2021
- June 7, 2021
- Note – Teri Turner will post the dates for these meetings on Facebook and note that parents can obtain the link for the meeting by contacting the office. This will also be included in Spartan Speaks.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:15 PM