

**Stouffville District Secondary School**  
**Minutes – Parent Council Meeting – April 16, 2018**

**In Attendance:** This meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, and it will not be rescheduled. The next and final meeting of the 2017/2018 school year will be on June 4, 2018@ 6:30pm in the school library.

These notes (included in the minutes) are pre-prepared – there was no discussion of the items, they are purely for information purposes

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**HOMEWORK POLICY – Karen Parris**

The Ministry of Education defines homework as “work that students do at home to practise skills, consolidate knowledge and skills, and /or prepare for the next class.”

The Board has a homework policy that supports student learning and recognizes the importance of personal and family well-being. The amount, frequency and nature of assigned homework will vary depending on the student’s strengths and needs, well-being, grade, subject and other factors. It is the student’s responsibility to complete assigned work. If illness or other reasonable causes prevent the completion of such assignments, the student or parents must discuss the difficulty with the teacher. Homework assigned the day before a long weekend or school holiday should not have a due date for the first day back. For more information about time guidelines and how parents can provide support, please see the Guide to the School year and Board Policy and Procedure #320.0, Homework.

**TEACHER REPORT – Laura Taccone**

**Grade 8 Transitions**

Student Mentors from SDSS will be visiting grade 8 classrooms during the month of May to share experiences, offer advice and lead students through activities to help our future students learn more about High School life, strategies for success, and what they can expect when they join our high school community.

**Student Mentors for the 2018/2019 school year**

We are currently looking for students who are interested in developing their leadership and teamwork skills by joining our team of student mentors. This group of leaders work throughout the year to help plan events and activities to help our newest members of SDSS transition successfully through their first day of school to their last day of grade nine, including leading short workshops on exam preparation and studying skills. Students in grades 9 through 11 who are interested should see Mrs. St. Gelais, Mrs. Galati, or Mrs. Taccone or can follow this link to apply now. <https://goo.gl/forms/vD9f4SB14pJqdM7u2>

**The Canada I Dream**

On March 21, a beautiful, challenging, and unique event took place during last period in our school's "cafetorium."

This assembly was a multi-media performance students put on under the leadership of guest instructor Glenn Marais. Glenn is a singer-songwriter and social activist, who was returning to SDSS after last year's Black History Month concert. This year he worked with students in Ms. Creasor's Grade 11 Art class, Mr. Hammond's Grade 12 Writer's Craft class, and Mr. Butters' Grade 10 History class under the theme of The Canada I Know/The Canada I Dream. This is a great country, but how can we make it better? Many social issues today have historical roots, and students explored Canada both past and present. They also bravely shared their hopes and dreams for the future.

Grade 10 History students produced PSA videos on a variety of issues, the art students painted murals, and the Writer's Craft students wrote original songs. All of these things were screened or performed to an incredibly respectful and encouraging student audience of about 500. As the songs were sung, more art was created - paintings were painted right in front of the audience.

None of this could have been done without the great work of the SDSS Tech Crew. This crew is perhaps one of the best the school's ever had - they are dedicated and skilled. The teachers involved would like to thank them for their work.

The audience, the classes who worked with Glenn Marais, the Tech Crew - that represents about half the students in the school, and spans all four grades. That's a testament to the good things that go on every day at SDSS. The future's in good hands.

### **Me to We**

Me to We has sent \$500 into WE charities for Haitian health relief-money was raised in 2 bake sales. We are currently collecting \$ for Humboldt Bronco's Go Fund me account. We also ran a colouring contest last Thursday in cafeteria for Mental Health month. Our next campaign will involve a free book exchange at school in May!(details to follow)

### **Prom 2018**

This year's prom is fast approaching. With the theme "A Starry Night", prom will take again take place at Le Parc Banquet Facilities on Thursday, May 3rd from 5:30 - 10:30 pm. All students attending prom will be required to attend the pre-prom assembly during period 1 on May 1st. If students are unable to attend, they must contact one of the Prom Committee advisors (Mrs. Veljanoski, Mrs. Galati, Mrs. Kiriakou) prior to the assembly. All students are reminded that although this event takes place off-site, as a school sanctioned event students are expected to adhere to Board/School policies, as outlined in the signed prom ticket contracts.

### **Inaugural B.R.E.A.K for Mental Health Day @ SDSS**

The Wellness Committee is extremely excited to announce that on Thursday, April 26th we will be hosting our very first 'Building Resiliency, Energy and Knowledge for Mental Health activity day from 10:15 - 11:25 am. Students have already signed up for one of approximately 40 different workshops ranging from colouring to open jam sessions to running and weight training, and many more. We look forward to seeing all our students taking a B.R.E.A.K. to refresh and rejuvenate for the final stretch of the year!

### **Music Department Updates**

This year's Music Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. As well, their Spring Music Concert will be held in the Cafeteria here at SDSS on Wednesday, May 9th from 7:00 - 9:30 pm. Come and join us for an evening full of musical talents and hard work.

<b>NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 4, 2018@ 6:30PM</b>
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