

## **Stouffville District Secondary School Minutes – Parent Council Meeting – September 18, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Reid Wilshire, Karen Parris, Laura Taccone, Diana Bohemier, Steve and Bev Love, Lynn Cruickshank, Lisa Hume, Dalene Serebro, Stephanie Lanigan, Dolly Bhatia-Frolick, Judy Gardner, Jieping Zhang, Nikki Devereux, Paul Shih, Chin Tin Su, Lisa Williams-Rozario, Jo-Anne Jessup, Dave Somesundaran, Amy Ho, Frankie Chan, Vipneet Johar

**Apologies:** David Parmer

### **Elections**

Diana Bohemier will be staying on as School Council Chair – this is her last year at SDSS  
Dalene Serebro has agreed to stay on as Secretary – Judy Gardner has offered to help if needed

### **School Council Report – Karen Parris & Reid Wilshire**

We will be having only 4 Council meetings this year (all on a Monday evening at 6:30pm)

- September 18, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- April 16, 2018
- June 4, 2018

SC Annual Report – email with minutes (copy attached)

- Sense of what School Council is doing
- How the board can help

### **MOBYSS – Karen Parris**

MOBYSS is a mobile health bus that comes to the SDSS parking lot every second Thursday starting this Thursday.

Any student can go to the MOBYSS bus to receive health advice and treatment. It is:

- Free and confidential
- Health cards are not required
- a nurse and counsellor are available for medical treatment or advice

The bus will be at SDSS between 11:30 – 1:00 Thursday October 5 and every other Thursday. This is a great opportunity for students to receive health supports at school.

SDSS currently has 2 community college students doing placement from now until January and they want to do education programs – doing these each month – technology messaging, sexting, vaping, nutrition – they have been asked by Karen to get kids to MOBYSS

### **Topics for Discussion 2017-2018 year – parent input**

- Diana asked to discuss the recorded info about legalizing marijuana – there is a need to educate the dangers of it, and how it can harm.  
Karen and Reid said they are already doing drug awareness in the board – there seems to be a sense amount the youth that it's "not as bad" as other drugs. They asked what the council would like to see  
Parents responses – what does SDSS do? How do they deal with it? Let parents know what their opinions are... Do we have stats? SDSS does, but not specific to drugs only

- Nikki asked if we could discuss Mental Wellness – what is being done at the school – how many people attended the MOBYSS mental health trailer last year, was it well received?  
Karen and Reid will touch on this again – perhaps they will do it class by class this year, let all student go to the bus to see what it's all about
- Dolly asked about overall wellness and their routines – does SDSS have a healthy food program  
Karen says that food is available in the office at any time – items are mainly donated and anyone can come in and get food. It runs well at SDSS – teachers, Karen and Public Health Nurse
- Judy – prevention is better than cure for grade 9 students – parent need to know what to do
- Another Parent – chat about apprenticeships and co-op programs and how that work, what the children are able to do/participate in.

Perhaps we can address the Safe Use of Technology – Reid said he is surprised that we did not ask about that – kids often make poor choices around use of social media.

### **Student Council Report – Vipneet Johar**

We have had two meetings so far, both with excellent turnouts of 40+ students. We are pleased to say that quite a few grade 9s have joined student council

Our first spirit day of the year is tomorrow (Tuesday September 19th, 2017), and it is called "Farewell to Summer". On this day, we ask students to wear black to essentially 'mourn' the fact that summer is over. If they wear black, they will receive a lollipop upon entering the building in the morning.

The idea behind this spirit day is for everyone to get a treat, as everyone has something black to wear. This spirit day was designed to encourage participation for future spirit days

We are also selling SPC cards, as well as distributing those that were sold during registration. At the start of registration, we had sold 385. Since then, we have sold an additional 40. We still have roughly 25 cards that need to be sold or picked up.

For this year, we have planned at least one spirit day per month.

October:	Dress up for Halloween
November:	Spartan Day
December:	Ugly Sweater Day
January:	Pajama Day
February:	Wear Red Day
March:	Twin Day
April:	International Day of Pink

We are hoping to run Relay for Life or another Carnival, similar to the one that we ran at the end of last year. We are still awaiting approval on Relay for Life, but it is something that we are hoping to run.

We are also looking to run a semi-formal with Ms. Taccone working alongside us. We will need to start progressing on it rather quickly due to all the different components needed and various timelines. We will keep you posted.

To encourage participation not only in Student council, but for all clubs, councils, and teams in SDSS, we are exploring the idea of having a Club Fair sometime in the next month. For this, we will contact every club, council, and team in SDSS and ask them if they would like to participate.

We understand that certain clubs work on a much more internal network than others (for example, music council is for music students only), so participation is entirely voluntary; however, we do hope to get as much participation as possible, as it will make the entire event much more effective.

That is all for now, as we will keep you all updated at future meetings. Thank you for inviting us here today!

## **Teacher Report – Laura Taconne**

### **1. Camp Robin Hood & Grade 9 Day**

- We had another very successful start to the school year with our grade nines. Camp staff commended students and mentors for their team spirit and excellent behavior and participation. Way to go Spartans!

### **2. Peer Tutors**

- Peer tutors are currently being trained. Students can request help by picking up a tutor request form from the Student Success office. Tutoring is likely to be available beginning the last week of September.

### **3. Improv Team Auditions**

- Auditions for the 2017/18 Improv team will take place Tuesday, September 19 and Tuesday, September 26 after school in the Drama room.

### **4. Me to We**

- Formerly 'Free the Children'
- The first meeting of the year saw a great number of students. They are already busy planning for their first event: the annual Halloween Food Drive in support of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.
- On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 15 students will be going to the Air Canada Centre to participate in the annual We Day festivities

### **5. ESP - Empowered Student Partnerships**

- 'Empowered Student Partnerships' once again meets on Thursdays @ 4 pm.
- This group develops leadership skills in students who are interested in helping to address issues and concerns within their own community. Partnered with the York Regional Police, students identify needs in their own community, such as Mental Health Awareness, Railroad safety, and many other initiatives, and develop action plans for addressing and promoting awareness of these needs. All students are welcome!

### **6. College / University Fair**

- Representatives from many colleges and universities will be at the school on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to save the date!

### **7. Student Involvement**

- Students are encouraged to get involved in their school. Students are reminded that the listing of clubs, committees, and sports are available on the bulletin board across from the office.
- Check back often as the list is updated frequently.

### **8. Terry Fox Run**

- SDSS will once again be participating in the annual Terry Fox run on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please help support cancer research by donating to your period five class. Prizes go out to the class that raises the most money.

### **9. Prom Date Change**

- Just a head's up that the date for this year's prom has been moved to May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It will once again be held at Le Parc Banquet Hall in Richmond Hill, on Leslie Street.

**NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 20, 2017 @ 6:30PM**