

**Stouffville District Secondary School  
Minutes – Parent Council Meeting – June 4, 2018**

**In Attendance:**

Reid Wilshire, Karen Paris, Laura Taccone, Vipneet Johar, Lisa Hume, David Palmer, Diana Bohemier, Stephanie Lanigan, Ramona Lawrence, Jo-Anne Jessup, Kim Ward, Carol Bishop, Ivy Ho, Dalene Serebro

**TEACHER REPORT – Laura Taccone**

- **Gay Straight Alliance** Members have requested the Pride flag be on display in the atrium for Pride Month and it's up now. They created a LGBTQ+ inclusive/representative book list for students and for the library, which the library will be looking into ordering. They created and staffed a booth at the SDSS Carnival today and gave away cookies and cupcakes for free. They have also written letters to their local councillors to fly the Pride flag at Town hall this month. A few members met with their local councillors to discuss the issue. They are sending a delegation to the town council on Tuesday, June 5th to make an official request and argue their case. They got themselves on the agenda & created a PowerPoint to show the council as well. We are very proud of the work they are doing! UPDATE: Stouffville Town Council unanimously voted to raise the Pride Flag for the month of June!
- **"Me to We"** has had a very successful year-we just completed our We Read Together campaign which involved students bringing in gently used books and then offering them up for summer reading in the library. We sold Rafiki friendship bracelets during carnival last Friday. Next year Mrs. Estabrooks is heading up the club and she has already had some almost grade 10s step up to head the club next year."
- **Student Mentors** attended Camp Robin Hood last week to begin our preparations for the incoming Grade 9s day at Camp Robin Hood in September 2018. The student leaders participated in team building icebreakers, developed inclusivity and leadership, and explored the different activities for the grade 9s. We have a strong group of over 60 student leaders this year that are eager to help the grade 9s transition smoothly into the first day, first month, first exam, etc.
- **Prom**, held on May 3rd at Le Parc Banquet hall was a huge success. The students had a blast, dancing up a storm all night long, even having a few 'dance-offs' with the teachers.
- On April 26th the **Health and Wellness committee** successfully executed the first annual BREAK for mental health activity day here at SDSS. all 1200 students were registered in one of the over 40 workshops offered. It was a huge success and we look forward to next year!

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – Vipneet Johar**

- **MHAM:** In April, we had our Mental Health Awareness Month, which was a school-wide, month long initiative where different clubs and departments set aside time to run events dedicated to spreading mental health awareness. Student Council focused on stress relief by running fun activities throughout the month, such as video games in the cafe, guess that fruit, as well as a kahoot.
- **Carnival:** The most notable event we've had recently is our carnival. With the support of our amazing administration, we managed to throw a successful carnival, which consisted of games, inflatables, bubble soccer, food, and more. All the proceeds from the event will be donated to Sick Kids Foundation.
- **Elections:** This week we will be having our student council assembly and vote, which will decide next year's executive team. One of the major changes that is taking place between this year and next year's council is that, as of September 2018, we will be reducing council to specific positions. Rather than having general members and volunteers, we will have specific roles and positions that students

can apply for in September. This way we can increase efficiency, as well as ensure that the members that are putting in their time and effort receive the credit they deserve. As a council, we have consistently struggled with maintaining members throughout the year, that's why we are implementing this new structure. The members of council will be chosen by the elected executive team.

- **Thanks:** The 2017-2018 school year has been nothing short of amazing. As a council, we have run various fun, memorable events such as Hungry Games, the Halloween costume contest, the talent show, Spirit Week, and much more! It is important to note that we would not have been able to accomplish everything without the support of the incredible staff here at SDSS, especially our teacher advisors Mrs. Baumgartner and Mr. Przemieniecki, as well as our amazing Vice Principals Mrs. Parris and Mr. Gill and our fantastic Principal Mr. Wilshire. We would also like to extend our thanks to the other teachers of SDSS that we can always count on to participate in our events, and make events such as talent shows that much more interesting and entertaining.
- **Conclusion:** SDSS is a fantastic school, and all the seniors of the executive team are sad to leave it. But we assure you that next year's council will be absolutely amazing, if not better than this year. As a council, we will continue to run exciting, memorable events. It's been a pleasure to provide you all with these updates, and thank you for taking time out of your Monday evening to be here with us.

#### **VICE PRINCIPAL REPORT – Karen Parris**

Current/Upcoming Events:

- Math EQAO is June 13 and 14
- Preliminary OSSLT results have come in – the official, individual results will be sent out soon

School Council group in attendance watched an YRDSB video about “Looking at substance use and how to talk with your kids”.

#### **PRINCIPAL – Reid Wilshire & School Council Annual Report**

Pro-grant application is in for the 2018-2019 school year for SDSS. Lisa Hume is looking into getting a new speaker, possibly for November. More details to follow.

The School Council Annual Report was handed out and the group discussed and gave responses to the report. As part of this process, the group discussed proposing a different report be used for secondary schools, and most of the report is not relevant as it applies to elementary school councils, as secondary school councils participate at a different degree and are not participants in fundraising initiatives.

The School is currently at about 1,200 students, but has the capacity for about 1,500

Principal Wilshire is retiring at the end of this school year – the new principal will be announced at the board meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> and the community will be informed after the SDSS staff meeting next week.

Last item – proposed 2018/2019 School Council meeting dates:

- September 17, 2018
- November 19, 2018
- April 15, 2019
- June 3, 2019

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ivy, a parent who attended council discussed support for international students – we have about 10 at SDSS. She spoke of the cultural challenges, shock and adjustments they need to make. She offered to be a part of it and help with a student led, teacher supervised group.

The school Council group and administrators were in favour of this taking place

**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:12pm**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR – SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 @ 6:30PM**