

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 7, 2021

In attendance:

Lisa Hume, Chair	Rose Walker, Principal
Suman Danef, Secretary	Preet Shah, Student Council
Jeff Foran, Vice Principal	Maya Trajecsk, Student Council
Alexandra Wright, Vice Principal	Laura Taccone, Teacher Representative
Stephanie Lanigan, Parent	Teri Turner, Parent

Regrets:

Robert Carter, Co-Chair	
-------------------------	--

- **Lisa Hume – Welcome**
 - Lisa welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and noted that this was the last meeting for Preet and Maya.
 - This will also be L. Hume’s last meeting also.

- **Maya Trajecsk - Student Council Report**
 - Year end events included a charity gift basket give-away to raise some funds. Spartan games including Jeopardy which had lots of participation. The student council also produced a year end video saying good-bye from the old council and hello from the new.
 - The election process for the new student council went well and the new student council members will begin in the fall (see Teacher’s Report for full listing).
 - R. Walker gave a big thank you to the current student council who did a phenomenal job considering the circumstances and noted that Preet and Maya were strong leaders.

- **Laura Taccone – Teacher’s Report**
 - Music department is having a concert week this week. Each ensemble will host a virtual concert to share the music that they have created.
 - On June 17th, the Music department will have its annual music banquet virtually to celebrate all the accomplishments of our musicians throughout the year.
 - **SDSS Student Council Executive for 2021/2022**
 The SDSS Student Council is excited to announce the winners of this year’s student council elections. Congratulations and thank you to all candidates for a very competitive race. We hope to see everyone apply to join the Spartan Senate in September. The new Student Council is well experienced and is noted below:
 - President** – Arathi Subashkaran
 - Vice-President** – Nabiha Shah
 - Social Representative** – Vanessa Simoes
 - Junior Representative** – Prisha Bhavsar
 - Senior Representative** – Arya Balkaransingh
 - Treasurer** – Sahari Katheeswaran
 - Secretary** – Riya Uthayanan
 - Junior Secretary** – Sloan Tompkins

Tech Specialist – Hassan Khan

- Wellness Committee – Recently hosted the St. John’s Ambulance Therapy Dogs which was a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to meet some of the dogs in the program that have come to our school in the past. Hopefully, this can be arranged again. On Friday, June 11th from 4 – 5:30pm, we will be hosting a HIT class along with ESP, brought to us by *Unchained Toronto*.
- Science – Members of the SDSS Science Club and newly formed Women in STEM club participated in the Guelph University Science Olympics with two teams finishing third in their event.
- SDSS is hosting its first Virtual Relay for Life for the Cancer Society this week. The team has raised \$2,800 so far. Students can follow along on the google classroom and the SDSS community can follow along on the google classroom and the SDSS community can follow us on the SDSS google page or the Instagram page ‘relayforliftdss’.
- Special Education Update:
 - a) Graduating students will be contacted shortly to arrange a time to return any SEA equipment.
 - b) Graduating students should connect with your SERT to determine post-secondary supports and processes.
- Guidance Updates:
 - a) Summer School registration is now open. There are two learning models, online and remote learning. Online Learning (formerly eLearning) is filling up fast so those interested should register quickly to secure a spot.
- York Hills is offering summer webinars for parents. Topics include a look forward beyond Covid.

• **Principal’s Report**

• **Rose Walker - Instructional**

- Staff has been engaged in work around De-colonization, Anti-Indigenous racism, dismantling Anti-Black Racism with an intentional focus on our most vulnerable students. We must address racism in our programming and the delivery model. This shift in our focus emphasizes that the problem is not with the student but rather with our programming and delivery.
- There has been minimal Ministry funding impact on SDSS, however, overall, there has been a funding reduction to secondary schools.
- One area that has been affected is that the library lost 2 periods where there will be no librarian. This reduction could impact the lunch period. We will have to see how the fall looks like and our program delivery model.
- There was a parent complaint recently about the scheduling of a test on Eid or the day after. Teachers should not be doing tests on ‘Diamond’ days according to the school year calendar. It is an expectation that teachers observe these types of religious holidays. It was noted that the school is not perfect but that this example clearly indicates the need to do better and to make an intentional effort to accommodate such needs. It was noted that a presentation about the impact of fasting and what this three-day celebration is about will be provided to teachers. It was important to emphasize that the right to observe faith should be without reprisal.
- De-streaming of grade 9 Math will take place in September 2021. There will be a program for schoolwide learning with a focus on grade 9 teachers. There will be 11 sections of de-streamed math for next year; an increase from 9. It was noted that the following year this will apply to English.
- Report Cards were distributed on April 27th.

- **Alexandra Wright – Events**

- Wellness events include the virtual dog show on June 3rd and the HIIT class on June 11th.
- A reminder that there will be a student/parent survey that will be happening for students in their period 3 classes until June 18th.
- Graduation this year will include a safe distribution of grad gowns and caps, grad photos, and a grad video. We are still missing some grad photos so a reminder will be going out via student GAPPs accounts. The cap toss video will include as many student voices as possible. There will also be a cost of \$21 for the composite photo that is being created.
- The AEB's Student Award Recipients are Chloe Henry, Isaiah Gardner (graduate), Jazz Tillock, and Aaries Clark-Cordick (graduate).
- A. Wright also wanted to say how impressed she is of the student body dedication and wanted to say a big thank you to the staff who continued to run activities in this Covid world.

- **Jeff Foran - Operational**

- The school is still closed due to Covid with all protocols still in affect. We are still awaiting Board instruction for the return to school in the fall.
- Vaccine clinics were held at the school.
- The Pride flag will be up later this week for the month of June.
- A new hoist for the auto shop will be installed. The old one needed to be replaced.
- The school will be making an application to the Town of Stouffville for some outdoor picnic tables through the town's Legacy Fund. The application will be submitted by the end of June.
- June 18th is the last day of school with the 18th & 28th are credit rescue days – these allow students/teachers to improve marks if possible.
- Report cards will be issued July 8th to 14th.

- **R. Walker - Other**

- There will be some administration changes. A. Wright will be moving to Denison H.S. and C. Albanese will be returning in the fall. This will be A. Wright's last meeting.
- There was discussion about encouraging other parents to join the SDSS Council and some ways in which this could be achieved. Thoughts included a Facebook page invitation to grade 8 parents, an Instagram page posting, an invite letter to the first meeting to develop interest. S. Danef would pull a letter together in draft for review. Perhaps there could be refreshments provided, daycare (opportunity for volunteering for students perhaps), and a celebration/meal for the last meeting.
- There was some discussion about what is being done about racism in the school and what this looks like. R. Walker shared staff continued learning and elevation of strong student voices advocating for inclusion. There needs to be more sharing with Council around the ongoing work in the school.
- Yearbooks are in. An email will be going out shortly for those who ordered one to pick them up. This book is more of a memento in soft cover and is only available to those that ordered one.

- **Next Meeting Dates:**

- This was the last meeting for the 20/21 calendar year.
- Dates for next year: September 20/21, November 15/21, April 11/21, and June 6/22

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.