

SDSS Council Meeting

September 19, 2016

In attendance:

Reid Wilshire, Karen Parris, Laura Taccone, Dave Samasundavam, Lisa Hume, Vipneet Johar, Jennifer Ward, Ramona Lawrance, Dalene Serebro, David Parmer, Kim Ward, Allison Belme, Beverly Chung Brown, Stephanie Lanigan, Diana Bohemier

Items on the Agenda:

1. Elections of Chairperson ,Secretary:

Diana Bohemier to remain in position of Chairperson for 2016-2017 school year. All in attendance were in favor.

Daléne Serebro volunteered to be secretary for the 2016-2017 school year

2. Student Council President Report:

Jennifer Ward and Vipneet Johar presented the Student Council Report.

September:

SPC Cards – Student council was part of orientation, where we focused on the sales of SPC cards. We still have some cards left to be sold or picked up. Student Council sold 252 cards at orientation.

Spirit Day – We are in the midst of advertising for our first Spirit Day this Friday, September 23, 2016. We are calling it the “Goodbye to Summer Day” to mourn the loss of summer. We request everyone to wear black and will be handing our prizes to everyone who does.

October:

Hungry Games – We are moving our annual Hungry Games Spirit Week to the week of October 24-27. The Hungry Games are challenge based events where students sign up in teams of two to go on stage and partake in “Minute to Win It” style games.

Halloween Spirit Day and Costume Contest – We are running our annual Halloween Spirit Day/Costume Contest on Monday, October 31, 2016. Students have the opportunity to go up on stage to showcase their costumes. Contestants compete within predetermined costume categories (scary, funny etc..) Categories to be determined. Winners are determined via applause.

November:

Inside Ride – The Inside Ride has been invited to SDSS on November 24, 2016. Mrs. Schissler and Free the Children will be taking lead on this event with Student Council providing support. It is a big, school-wide event in support of fundraising for children with cancer. 100% of donations go to charity.

December:

Spirit Day – Ugly sweater day will be on December 22, 2016.

Talent Show – The annual talent show will be on December 23, 2016. We hope to have another large number of amazing Stouffville talent this year.

3. Teacher Report:

Laura Taccone presented the Teacher Report.

Student Success:

- study hall has been revived during period 4 in the guidance classroom. We will be running workshops/lunch and learns: Study Skills, preparing for exams. It is open to all students but we'll be targeting the grade 9's.
- Camp Robin Hood was giant success with move to the start of the year. Last year 60 stayed behind. This year the number was around 40. Very positive feedback from students and the RH staff (very well behaved and highly enthusiastic). The transitions team is looking at alternatives for next year to determine if there is a way to engage all the students.

The science club is planning on participating in the Cardboard Boat Competition for Skills Canada and the McMaster Science Olympics in the next few months.

After much debate and consideration, this year's **Awards Ceremony** will be taking place on October 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 in the evening. Award winning students and their parents are invited.

Senior artists are participating in the **Markham Stouffville fall fair** art installation competition -- we need parents/ students /families to attend the fair and vote SDSS!! A donation is made to the Markham Stouffville hospital in the amount of \$1000 on behalf of the winning school!

Improv Team is starting up again - all grades can try out for this. The first two sessions are after school in the Drama Room on Tuesday (Sep 20 and Sep 27).

From the **Music Department**:

Grade 9 music students had a great Welcome Lunch.

All ensembles have begun.

Wind symphony is playing at Markham Fair Thursday 29th this year!!

There is a **Christian Club** called 'Ignite' that is continuing to run in the school this year. Any students in the school are welcome to attend. It is organized by staff and students and starts next Monday, from 8:15-9 am. Food, games, special speakers and an opportunity for questions and conversations. They will focus on doing acts of kindness in the school and community.

Information on this and other clubs will be available to students and parents at this Thursday's Club Fair.

4. Principal Report (Reid Wilshire)

Election Results and the student/staff update:

1203 students and 90 Teaching Staff (7 years ago this number was 750-800 students, so there is significant growth). Lunches are currently grouped 9s & 10s together and 11s & 12s together. School priority is a safe and healthy environment – SDSS takes a hard stand on any bullying and harassment.

OSSLT (Karen Parris)

The Literacy Test (graduation requirement for an OSSD) is written by grade 10s – this year there will be two opportunities as EQAO implements an online version. All first time writers will write

on October 20 online – half the group in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. Those who do not pass will have a chance to write it again on March 30.

Dates for meetings for the 2016/2017 school year are as follows:

- September 19, 2016
- October 17, 2016
- December 19, 2016
- February 21, 2017
- April 18, 2017
- June 5, 2017

Grade 9 Curriculum night – Thursday, September 22, 2016 – there will also be a “Club Fair” for students to see the different opportunities for participation in clubs/groups at SDSS

PRO Grant was presented to council for discussion and ideas for the application.

Summary: of PRO-Grant: The PRO-Grant (Parent Reaching Out Grant) provides up to \$1,000.00 for the 2016-2017 calendar year to provide opportunities through the school council to parents in support of student achievement. Schools can apply for their own PRO-Grant or combine their efforts and funding. For more information on the PRO-grant, please see:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/guidelines.html>

5. PRO Grant Application

Council to look into topics/initiatives that could qualify for application for this year and bring ideas to next council meeting in October.

Suggestion made that money not go to any engagement of parent’s programs - that it should go to the students, perhaps in the mental health area, but we need to see what will qualify for the grant before we can move ahead.

6. Topics of Interest for future meetings:

Speakers/visitors – areas of interest: Police talk about drugs, Internet security, Guidance department, Mental Health

7. Milk Bag Beds program:

Will be starting up again soon by Diana Bohemier and Laura Taccone volunteered to be the teacher lead. Over 50 students participated last year. It gives students an opportunity to think of other children less fortunate than themselves, an opportunity to help them, help the environment, meet and talk with other students and all while getting community hours! Last year the program made 24 beds that were sent to “Feed the Children”. This program usually takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays during period 4.

8. Other:

Should we try to have **meetings** on nights that Elementary Schools are having theirs? SDSS meetings are the third Monday of the month which coincides with the Heads’ meeting.

Upon group discussion it appears that the elementary school council meetings actually do not coincide with SDSS meetings. SDSS meetings will remain as scheduled.

ESP Group – Empowering Student Partnership group meets Thursdays after school to brainstorm ideas to bring to students.

Next Meeting Monday October 16th 2016