

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 18th, 2016 - 6:30pm School Library

Start time 6:34pm

1. **Student report:**

Mental Health Awareness Month!

The presidents council presented mental health awareness month has entered full swing. We have already seen a lot of successful events take place to help make the school not such a stressful environment as well as educate in helping break down the stigma that surrounds mental illness.

Specifically for student council we have taken part in stress relief and done the stupidly silly hungry games to give the student body a good laugh at what fools we can be! Furthermore we have taken part in providing music throughout the decades in the cafeteria a few Fridays this month. On a more serious note it has come to the attention of myself and others on council that the month itself has taken a perhaps too light approach and we are currently working on solutions for this year as will be used for next year to help give the month the seriousness it deserves.

Personally as a voice for students I feel responsible for being a liaison for students on every level that I can impact. I do mention how incredibly ironic mental health month is April because most of my peer group can agree that this month may be the most stressful out of the school year. Part of my student report today is to convey the stress that our student body feels on a daily basis is a growing concern for not only administrators as I assume it is a big part of the administrative teams responsibility to help with this, but falls responsible to us as student event leaders to help make sure that the student body has the same optimal mental health as we have most other times of the year.

A new initiative in the works specifically for student council is a potential poster contest to encourage students to help make the community a better place. Having the students submit a poster that helps break down mental stigma or can help encourage embracing mental health and wellness instead of shunning mental illness would do this. This is to be determined but we have considered additionally providing a monetary reward for the first second and third place winners of the contest. We are very excited to have this initiative take place as it allows for a benchmark to succeed past for next year's council.

As for the other clubs and school initiatives Ms. Marinis has enclosed in her notes a copy of the constantly changing calendar for the Presidents council mental health awareness month

ELECTIONS:

On the topic of next year's council we enter the pre-election time of year as the month of April speeds past our very eyes. Student council enters a new chapter for format of elections taking more personable rolls and allowing them to have more spotlight and having more behind the scenes worker rolls to be able to take a backseat and not have to give a speech on stage.

Entering this time of year provides time for us to focus on making sure we are ready for next year. The format change of school lunches has affected us as it has everyone but I do say with most pride we have survived thus far and continue to strive to new heights as a club and have many dedicated, valuable members to honorably pass the torch on to in mid may.

We as Spartans take the challenges we face and face them with pride, be it mental health awareness month, elections, stress or even something as simple as coming to school, I have to say I have never been more proud of a group of young adults in our student body taking on the topics of mental health, being able to address them with maturity as well as deal with the overall load of work that school has to offer.

2. Teachers Report:

MUSIC:

Bands participated in festivals and received a Gold standing. (Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony and Dixieland Band) and that the choir received a Silver award at their festival.

DRAMA DEPARTMENT:

Offered annual Children's Theatre shows to the feeder schools for grades 1-4.

Glad Park Gr. 4 French Immersion will be coming Wednesday, April 20th and Oscar Peterson's grades 1-2 will be coming on Monday, April 25th.

Also, they will be having all the feeder schools Gr. 8 students coming over from May 9-13 to see the Gr. 11 play 'Competition Piece' and to have a visit.

Drama Department:

The History department received a federal grant for outdoor education and used it to take 60 students to The Trench Experience at the Simcoe County Museum. This is a full day WWI simulation. The trip was free to students.

FREE THE CHILDREN:

Free colouring activity Free the Children ran last Monday for MHAM in the cafeteria was well received with over 80 entries received. We gave out 4 \$5 Menshies gift certificates as prizes.

Free the Children is planning a *community fundraiser for May 13-15*. We will give out cards in home rooms and anyone going to Menshies for delicious frozen yogurt that weekend will help our club raise funds for Kenyan water relief...20% of proceeds go straight to Africa. They will have cards available in the front office so please support our fundraiser.

THINK DIFFERENT, SEE DIFFERENT:

-22 students trained by Canadian Centre for Diversity

-program launched in schools to empower students to value diversity and inclusion in their community. This organization provides students the opportunity to break down the walls of stereotypes

-our students selected to have their focus be on mental health awareness and reducing negative stigma

-created a workshop and will be going into grade 9 homeroom classrooms April 19 + 20th to present.

-Group was nominated for 2016 York Region Character Award- ceremony taking place on April 27th

ESP:

For Mental Health Awareness Month:

- *Community Fair on Mental Health* took place on April 13th: Organizations in attendance included:

- York Health- Mental Health Stigma Information Table – ESP students participated in a workshop that would help train them to help with this
- York Health: Tobacco- ESP students participated in a workshop that would help train them to assist at this information booth
- YRP: Substance Misuse
- Canadian Mental Health Association- services available, facts etc.

-Inspirational Quotes on every locker in the school: April 18th

- Smoothie Bar & Rethink Your Drink Display: April 27th

-students have been working with a nutritionist from York Health to run this event. She has come in twice to train students.

-ESP Year End Celebration: May 25, 2016

Distracted Driving Assemblies by YRP:

- May 10- grade 11 students
- May 12- grade 12 students

Accident Awareness will be coming on May 25th along with YRP who will set up activities that revolve around bringing awareness to distracted driving, drink and driving and drugs.

April 28th - GO, YRP, Stouffville firefighters will be setting up an information booth, with interactive activities in the front foyer re: Railway Safety.

Poetry Club:

There is a new Poetry Club at the school that meets weekly. They are participating in the school's mental health awareness month. The highlight will be the Open Mic Poetry Recital on April 26 in the library after school.

Prom:

For Grade 12 students interested in attending this year's prom scheduled for **May 26**, ticket sales will begin online on Friday, April 22 until Friday, April 29. Tickets can also be purchased in person at school April 27, 28, and 29 during lunch periods. All students (including outside guests) **MUST** submit a signed consent form along with payment in order to purchase a ticket. No exceptions.

Guidance:

‘A Day in the Life’ - May 17th, students were invited to take part in a field trip to Seneca College- transition to college piece.

Feeder School, grade 8 visits: May 9-13 in the a.m.

Online Summer School: Sign-up starts May 9th. In-person, has already started.

Healthy Schools Team

-As a continuation of Girlz Night In, Girlz Club will run. First post session will run on May 9th- cosmetologist coming from Shoppers Drug Mart.

3. Principal’s Items:

It is timetable time where staff assignments and class allocations are being created.

April 25 – Mid term reports

May 5- Spring music concert

May 25 – Music banquet

May 26- Prom at Le Parc – the prom was previously problematic with drugs/alcohol but the issues have improved

June 14-15 – EQAO for Grade 9 math – is worth ~5 % of overall grade

June 16- Athletic banquet

June 21 – exams – grade 12 exams are a couple of days earlier (June 17)

July 7 – report cards available for pick up

A two period lunch is expected for next year at this point.

Sports – there is a limited amount available to grade 9/10 students only -teachers need to be coaches and it seems that they aren’t available or not willing to do so

Council members performed a timetable exercise so that we could understand the time/effort put into the creation of it.

3. New Business:

The milk bag mat making program has had about 30 students involved. About 6 mats have been made.

The visitor’s parking may be getting misused. We discussed options to ensure those who parked there were only for limited times.

These council meetings follow the department heads meetings which is why they are usually on Mondays.

4. Adjournment: 8:13pm

Next meeting: Monday, June 6th