

Stouffville District Secondary School

Council meeting Monday April 20th 2015

In Attendance: Reid Wilshire (Principal), Susan Maharaj (VP), Mirella Sanwalka (VP), Leianne McCallum (Chair), Nilani Shonker, Linda, Diana Bohemier, Sing-Tau Kowk, Joanne Jessup, Ramona Lawrance, Efy Mannis, S. Pathma, Sriharan, Karen Halse, Lisa Austin, Josh Ogden

1. **Leianne welcomed new parents** and apologized that the speaker from The Canadian Mental Health Association did not show up. She informed parents that council meetings are a good opportunity to hear teacher's reports and to ask questions. Meetings are six times per year.

2. Student Council Report: Josh Ogden

March

- Jersey Day participation was good considering it was after the literacy test day

April

- Mental Health Awareness month had several initiatives:
- Cards for constructing good Character, say something nice and pass it on.
- Secret Student Council Buddies – going around the school and talking to small groups as well as individuals
- The Great Golden Lion (Stouffville's additional mascot) will be introduced
- Rock Paper Scissors Tournament – Team building exercise that shows people what it is like to be part of a team. Overall feeling good about oneself

May

- Cancer Head shaving – raising money for cancer research by shaving heads of students and brave teachers
- Minimum of \$25 to have their head shaved
- Fun event in the Cafeteria right before elections for Student Council Student Elections, May 20th

3. Teacher's reports:

- A Mental Health workshop was done at a staff meeting.
- The Athletic department runs activities like yoga for stress reduction.
- The Presidents council meets each month
- Research was done on famous people with mental Health issues
- A group who uses music to reduce stress is coming in during lunch
- Inspirational quotes have been put up around the school
- Rail safety week. Police are coming in and lots of activities are planned.
- April 30th, GO transit will be presenting
- Conference May 4th?
- Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP) Mother of a daughter who committed suicide is coming in to speak to students
- Swabbing will be done to find blood matches
- Head shaving to support cancer research will be done this week

4. Susan Maharaj

- April 29th, 35 students were selected for an extra EQAO testing. Out of 900 schools, our school was chosen. Test was to compare students at an international level on other things like Finance and problem solving
- School wide student climate survey is done every three years to ask questions about bullying, how comfortable and safe they feel in the school. This will be done between May 4th to 7th and will take 30 minutes to complete.

- May 21st is prom night. Held once again at Le Parc. Letters have gone out regarding the rules to attend and must be read before buying tickets. The theme is the Great Gatsby.

5. Principal Report – Reid Wilshire

- Student concussions have been in the news a lot so there is a protocol now in place for SDSS
- Starts with doctor's report. SDSS works closely with family to make sure student returns to school at proper time and follows guidelines in place, like not looking at a screen for a long time. There has been education for staff on how to handle classroom situations
- Staffing for 2015/2016 Major student growth has been at the elementary level so no second High school will be built, only an addition. One teacher has been declared surplus but it is a shifting landscape and things change daily. It's always challenging to match teachers, with the courses that need to be taught.
- No plans yet for Principal or VP moves
- Due to student numbers this is the last year for a common lunch. There are currently 1300 students and are anticipating the same next year. School was built to accommodate 1700 students but the cafeteria only holds 400 with tables. There are classroom issues also. The day might look like: period 1: 9:10 – 10:25, period 2: 10:29 – 11:44, period 3: 11:48 -1:03, period 4: 1:07 – 2:22, period 5: 2:26 – 3:41
- Lunches will be period 2 to 4 If students clean up and are reasonable, they can eat in classrooms
- Paul Carew (Superintendent) is working hard with Reid to move school start time to 9:10
- High school buses are the second run. Elementary schools are the first run
- Grade nine students will be attempted to be kept together in period 3 but other grades may not be in the same period. It will all be driven by student's course choices. Lots of communication will be coming out.

6. New Business

- Joanne asked that everyone vote for Oscar Peterson PS to win a \$20,000 outdoor classroom. They need people to vote every day until May 4th
- Leianne said that commencement was on June 24th and that she would need help that day to set up trays
- One of our students from the volleyball team was recognized as Athlete of the week. School needs more recognition for successes. It would be a good example for other students.

7. Meeting Adjourned 8:20

Last meeting of the Year Monday June 1st