STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING Minutes Tuesday February 16th 2016

In Attendance: Reid Wilshire, Susan Maharaj, Efy Marinis,

Josh Ogden, Lisa Hume, Karen & Reid Russell, Beverly Love, Solly Vohl, Ramona Lawrence, Stephanie Lanigan, Diana Bohemier

1. Request volunteer for taking Minutes: = Diana Bohemier

2. York Regional Police presentation on Drug awareness: P.C. Burkes

Addiction Services in Guidance Department also supports students with parents on alcohol and drugs. The problem with chemicals is that you just do not know what is in them. CAMH has a good website. Students should know that they can also get charged if their friends are caught with drugs.

3. **Student Report:** by Josh Ogden, President of school council:

Past Events - PJ day on January 21st went very well as always. Students were dressed up to show school spirit. Candy Grams were \$1 for chocolates and \$5.00 with roses. Notes came with roses and chocolates with nice messages from their friends or someone special. Money went to help school council budget with future expenses concerning Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM) and for the next year budget. Future Objectives – MHAM in April – This is a month long initiative from the Presidents Council that helps to bring awareness to issues concerning mental health and wellbeing as well as break down stigma on mental health issues. A new initiative called "See Different Think Different" has entered the school to aid in producing events for MHAM. They are a group of students leading themselves to help educate other students. They are not on Student Council but are in leadership roles or have potential for leadership. Elections are in May. The torch is being passed to the next generation of students ready and eager to take on the challenges that we face as well as to bring entertainment to the student body in exciting ways.

4. **Teacher Report**: Efy Marinis

Ignite – is a Christian group that is open to all students or staff at SDSS. We meet Monday mornings from 8:15 to 9:00 am in room 1022. Drinks and breakfast treats are provided. Their purpose is to encourage and support one another and to create a sense of community within the school. Another goal is to respond to the community needs. They recently did some baking and caroling for some seniors in Stouffville. All are welcome!

Course Selection for 2016-2017 – February 19, 2016 is the selection submission deadline. April 2016 - course verification sheets. Resources: Career Cruising passwords are available in the Guidance Office, the Library and Special Education. Tip sheets are available on board website www.yrdsb.ca and in the Guidance office. Guidance counselors available by appointment between 8:30 – 4:00 pm. A master list of courses is available in the Guidance Office.

ESP – is an inclusive leadership program whose main goal is to equip students across Canada with motivation, knowledge and skills to effect positive social change in their environment by promoting the value of diversity and inclusion. At the end of training, the students create an initiative based on the needs of their school. Our team this year has decided to base their initiative on grade 9 students. On April 5th & 6th, a team of students will be going into homeroom classrooms to conduct a workshop with students

Healthy Schools Team – Ready, Set, Create is a full day conference where students will develop the leadership and communication skills needed to design effective health messaging. Healthy Schools Network Meeting is being held on Monday.

Vimy Ridge Trip – We have 23 students signed up for this trip next year. It's not too late to enroll. For information, contact Rob Butters.

Improve Team – a team of 16 students will be performing at the regional level of the Canadian Improv Games on March 1-4 at the Al Green Theatre in Toronto. To qualify performances had to be ranked in the top 16 out of 35 schools. Those performances took place on the evenings of February 8 and 10 at Bear Creek S.S. in Barrie.

Music – We are in the middle of the festival season and won Gold with the Wind Symphony. We were invited to compete at the Nationals. We are expecting good results from the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band in March!

Family Studies Department – We are looking the importance of developing good character as young adults and how to use Empathy and understanding to understand what it feels like to be in another person's shoes. This semester students worked diligently to learn how to sew in order to create pillowcases that will be donated to the Cancer ward at Sick Kids Hospital. Each time a child goes in for treatment they will receive a new colorful pillowcase to brighten up their room. For more information on Ryan's case for smiles, please contact Mrs. Perrella.

Vinyl Café – We have opened for your patronage and will bring lunch items back on the menu as of Feb. 17th. The long-range plan is to have the shop open at 10:45 until 2:00 pm every day for lunch. We are also looking for any vinyl records anyone would like to donate or sell.

5. Principal's Items: Reid Wilshire

The staffing process for next year has started. Vice-principals and Principle do not know yet if they are returning. There is talk of an additional school opening that will be French immersion.

6. Questions / New business:

Comment by Diana Bohemier that the Art Display done by SDSS students at the Gallery in Town was wonderful. There are many very talented art students.

Question by Diana Bohemier about why the school only sells pop & juice and not water. Reid Wilshire explained that it is to encourage students to bring re-usable water bottles.

7. Motion to adjourn 8:12

Future Meeting Dates: Monday, April 18th, Monday, June 6th