

# Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting

## Minutes – January 18, 2018

### 1. Welcome

Co-chair Anna Sit welcomed everyone to this evening's parent council meeting.

### 2. Presentation from Specialist High Skills Major Team

Presentation on the Specialist High Skills Major program was led by Ms. Heather Patterson, Coop Head at TSS. Also presenting were Daniel and Maddie, two grade 12 students currently in the SHSM program, both in the Health and Wellness sector.

**\*\* Please see handouts which were distributed to members of the Parent Council for this presentation.**

- There are two sectors for the SHSM program at TSS: Health and Wellness, and Sports and Business

#### How SHSM works:

- done in grades 11 & 12; need to take it in grade 11 to take it in grade 12
- need to take 5 credits over 2 years
- take minimum of 2 co-op credits
- need to take certain certifications & training (First Aid, CPR, infection control, WHMIS)
- go on field trips
- there will be an information assembly for grades 9 & 10 in February 2018; information aimed at students currently in grade 10; we need more students in SHSM because funding is on a per student basis; More students = more opportunities; currently, we have about 130 students in this program (12-15% of our students); Ministry of Education's goal is 25% of students
- at TSS, Health & Wellness sector was introduced earlier and is much stronger; At other schools, there are also sectors in mining, forestry, agriculture, aerospace.

Apply online via YRDSB@gapps account → [bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp](http://bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp). Print off a copy of the completed application and bring it to guidance; Applicants will be interviewed for co-op.

#### Benefits of SHSM program:

- can focus on and explore career paths
- credits from co-op count towards Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- opportunity to prepare for post-secondary education
- find out what interests you; you may get things you don't like but you can explore other opportunities
- program is recognized by colleges and universities, which are looking for ways to distinguish among applicants
- good for supplementary applications

### 3. Approval of November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes was carried and minutes were approved.

### 4. Treasurer's Report – presented by Anna Sit

- Current Parent Council budget from fundraising = \$2701.66; on Nov. 12/17, it was \$1857.63; Difference is from online donations.
- Pro-grant = \$1000 from York Region District School Board. Parent Council will host a presentation on March 29<sup>th</sup>, costing around \$600.
- Parent Council board acct. balance is currently \$436.54 (Sept. 2017 balance was \$500)

### 5. BOSS Update – by Daniel Wong, grade 12 rep on Student Council

- This Friday, there will be spirit events, e.g. Flannel Friday.

- There will be activities in the cafeteria during lunch. This Friday, there will be a school 'cahoot'.
- Match-o-matics: students answer questions online, and the system matches students up to assist students who are less social.
- There will be a leadership conference. The students wanted an overnight one. Instead, they will be holding a more conventional leadership night at school.

## 6. Administration's Report – Mr. David McAdam

- Exams start next Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. Peer mentors have visited the grade 9 homerooms to give strategies for preparing for exams. There is tea offered during lunch hours. There are announcements with hints on how to study.
- Grade 9 math EQAO was completed today; Passing the EQAO is not a requirement for graduation, but it counts for 5% of a student's final mark.
- Semester 2 starts on Feb. 5th; There will be safe school assemblies on Feb. 7 (grades 9 & 11) & 8 (grades 10 & 12)
- TSS will have 25-30 new VISA students; # of VISA students is nearly 200
- Prom is May 10
- There will be a grad assembly for grade 12 students on April 12/18; Students will vote for valedictorian and be given information on what they need for graduation.
- Graduation ceremony is on June 22.
- Last year, YRDSB conducted a parent survey. Unfortunately, only 16 parents from TSS responded. The response rate was down across the region. We will be getting results back in the near future and they will be presented in future meetings.
- YRDSB uses student feedback to plan for improvements.
- Priorities of YRDSB are the 3 M's - mental health, math, modern learning (engaging instruction)

## 7. Council Topics

- a. **Grant for TSS breakfast program:** Last year, Ms. DiAngelo applied for a grant, and TSS was given money for a breakfast program for the second semester. Last year, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, about 100 students came in for breakfast. Students can get their volunteer hours for setup and take-down for the breakfast program. Ms. DiAngelo is requesting money from the Parent Council, because we are over budget now. We received \$1420 in Sept. and we will get another cheque for \$1400 in February. However, without additional funds, they won't be able to run the program 3 d/week.  
We can't solicit funds online, only designate the focus of giving online. Donors can't donate to Parent Council online; So, we need to garner donations in conventional ways eg. Cheque, donations in kind (juice boxes, granola bars, apples, mandarins, muffins, Rice Krispies squares). **This item will be put on the agenda for Feb 2018 Parent Council meeting, because we need quorum to vote on this issue.**
- b. Presentation by Community & Partnership Developer of YRDSB on February 15, 2018 – YRDSB cannot find anyone to do the presentation, so we won't be having it.
- c. Promotional flyer from Kate Jones and Associates for upcoming presentation on March 29, 2018. Staff and council members reviewed the flyer and made a few changes.
- d. **New TSS Parent Council email address: thornhill.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. in the school library**

Upcoming Council Dates for 2017/2018:

- March 29
- May 3
- June 7