

Minutes - November 22, 2018

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Anna Sit (Chair of Parent Council) and Ms. Ziegler (principal) welcomed parents and TSS staff to meeting.

2. Engaging parents in communication with teachers – Mr. D. Newbury spoke on this topic.

3. Approval of October 2018 Minutes – Anna Sit – Minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report (Caryn)

- School Council fundraising has yielded \$1896.66.
- \$40.78 → \$459.22

5. BOSS (Student Council) Update

6. Administration's Report – Presented by Debbie Ziegler, Mr. Ganeshalingam and Ms. Vatousis.

- Take Your Kids to High School grade 8 night was successful!
- There was a Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Grade 10 students heard Debbie's mother speak about the Holocaust.
- DECA regionals took place recently. There were 1000 students from all around York Region at this competition. Almost 70 students were taken from TSS to the competition. 53/70 students qualified for the provincials in Feb 2019 in downtown Toronto.
- There is a leadership night tonight at TSS.
- December 6th is Open Mile night at TSS.
- Quest conference was attended by some TSS teachers. TSS provided 17 student ambassadors, and they were outstanding. 8 students gave Ted Talk-style talks and they spoke eloquently. There were kids there asking how they could be involved next year.
- Semi-formal will take place next Thursday at Paramount Banquet Hall. Over 130 tickets had been sold as of this morning.
- The TSS Europe trip is short 2 students for the trip to go. On another note, a company called S trip runs a grad trip for teenagers with almost no supervision. There are reportedly lots of drugs and alcohol used. Last year a student died on that trip. TSS is not associated with this trip but that company uses the TSS name anyway. The company gets students from the school to get their friends to sign up, and they post it on social media. Their trip costs less than a regular YRDSB trip.
- Tomorrow, TSS staff have PA day. They will be learning about indigenous heritage and colonialism. There is a guest speaker coming. Now this topic is included in the curriculum for most subjects.
- Principal's profile was circulated by Ms. Ziegler and reviewed by the school council.
- There was some discussion about the recent events and revelations at St. Michael's school.
- Parents can find information about YRDSB mission and values and school events by following links on the TSS school website.

7. Grade 9 Math EQAO Presentation – Results from 2017-18 – prepared by Mr. Mark Gatti (Math Head at TSS) and presented by Mr. Ganeshalingam

- Every grade 9 student in Applied or Academic math writes the EQAO math test in the semester in which they take math (Jan or June). The test is written over 2 days, for 60 minutes each day. Questions are 14 multiple choice and 4 open response questions on the first day, and 13 multiple choice and 3 open response questions on the second day.
- All students can take up to double the time (up to 120 minutes) if they need it. They don't need to apply for extra time in advance. This was tried for the first time for last year's literacy test, and a big portion of the students ended up using the extra time.
- Mark on the Math EQAO counts towards 5% of the summative mark.
- In the following September, the school gets a report of the students' performance. The provincial standard is Level 3: 70-79%.
- 93% of TSS students (both males and females) met the provincial standard.
- In 2017-18, there were 151 students in 9 classes (including gifted) and there was 100% participation. 11% of students were in special ed.
- 40% of the Applied students (20 students) met the standard. Consensus is that staff need to do more work with Applied level students across the school, boards and province.
- The difference between Applied (hands-on practical learner) vs Academic is the type of learner you are.
- Graduation rate at TSS is 85-90%.
- Can get sample questions on EQAO website.
- University admission committees look at grade 12 math marks. A student could take grade 9 & 10 Applied math, then grade 11 university/college math and then grade 12 university math.
- Action plan: Continue to deliver Academic program. Continue to improve Applied results. Needs are: 1. Address the issue of resilience and development of self-regulation in students. 2. Address the lower results for students in special education, by working with the special education department.
- More actions: Maintain ongoing communication with feeder schools, and with parents and students.
- EQAO is not a requirement for graduation.

8. Council Topics

- Breakfast program: Got budget from secretary today, and they are \$300 in debt. Ms. D'Angelo asked whether parent council would donate some money so they can continue to operate until they receive the next cheque in the first 2 weeks of Feb. 2019. Council approved an \$800 donation to the breakfast club until February 2019.
- Wish list for staff was a fridge for the breakfast program. Staff have started tallying the kids that come to the breakfast program and counted 150-200 kids over the 3 days during the week it runs.
- Students in the ELL intensive program were provided with winter clothing.
- We are still gathering clothing and non-perishable food. Anything we don't use goes to 360 kids, an organization that helps homeless youth.
- Pro-grant presentation: \$1000 budget from YRDSB. To be used in spring 2019. Possible topic: 'Enhancing parenting skills and supporting the 3 M's'. This presentation would be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and cost \$895. Unfortunately, Pro-grant program is currently on pause because of Doug Ford and the current provincial government. Jennifer Kolari also does presentations. Also, social workers from YRDSB can do a talk for free.

Contact: Thornhill.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 17th, 2019 in the school library.

Upcoming Council Dates for 2018/2019:

- February 14 (cancelled – NO meeting)
- March 28
- April – no meeting
- May 2 (cancelled because of prom night)
- June 6