



Minutes - Thursday, November 15, 2012

1. Welcome

2. Review of October Minutes

Request for approval of minutes. Lisa proposed acceptance, Sandy seconded. Minutes accepted.

Followup items from last meeting:

- PRO Grant – is now 75% finished, just waiting for one final translation. Then the main points from the guidelines & policy document will be available in Farsi, Chinese, Korean and Russian.
- JACS – Melissa contacted them and is waiting for them to follow up.
UPDATE: Melissa has received a follow up call and they are willing to talk to our school council about addiction on Jan 10. The addictions counselor who will be talking to our group is Jay Pasternack. He is their Director of Programs.

3. Administration Report – David McAdam

Pawprints newsletter will be distributed with the report cards, not monthly.

The school website is switching over to a standardized template, common to all schools in YRDSB. The template will be common, but the content will be specific to each school. It should be available in the spring of 2013, and will include a page for school council.

The fundraising wish list is still being prioritized.

Final exams take place on a day-to-period schedule, e.g. period one exams on day 1. Note they will now start at 9:00 instead of 10:00.

Labour situation – teachers are officially in strike position on Nov 22. They may choose to hold a full-out strike or possibly a work-to-rule, e.g. no after school help.

Teachers have kept commitments, but some optional events, such as the semi-formal and DECA club, have been cancelled.

QUEST conference began yesterday, runs until tomorrow. International attendance, maybe council chairs could participate next year.

Mr. Lim – debate team went to Montreal and did very well at the McGill Debate Tournament. Another tournament is coming up next week.

4. BOSS Report – Sammy & Valentin

- Copies of the newspaper is now available throughout the school



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- Student council has merged with student senators. This will provide an opportunity to prepare the senators to participate in student council
- Subcommittees have been set up to handle various responsibilities, e.g. financial, events
- Elections to be held earlier next year

Open Mike night – good opportunity for students to showcase their talents, gain confidence. Talents can include almost anything, e.g. poetry, music, magic. November 22, if teachers are not on strike.

Suggestion Box – to be unveiled next week

Halloween Events – took place on October 31, during lunch. Prizes were given out for costumes.

Website: BOSS has created its own website, www.thornhillss.ca, still under construction.

5. Community Report - Adam Saperia

- Reminder that TSS 60th Anniversary coming up in 2014. Opportunities for students to get involved, if they're interested. May be eligible for community service hours.
- www.thornhillcommunity.com
- Fundraising will be dealt with in the new year

6. Treasurers Report - Darrell

Balance = \$3276.07 (includes donations of \$1955 & \$650)

Darrell has drafted a fundraiser reminder. It includes the main points from the printed letter, but it can be longer because it doesn't need to fit on one page.

Electronic Donations for Fundraising

Update from last meeting...

Interac can be set up instantly. School needs to provide an email address for this, then parents can go to their bank website and transfer money. No service cost to the school.

PayPal slightly more complicated, but also very quick and secure and accepts credit cards. There is a cost but a discounted rate is available for nonprofit organizations: 1.9% + \$0.30 per transaction.

Visa and Mastercard will take more to set up. School needs to set up accounts and there will likely be a higher fee than for PayPal.

Once the links are set up, a reminder should be included in the weekly newsletter. Also, Adam will add the same links to the alumni website.

Andy proposed that we go ahead with Interac and Paypal.
Motion passed.

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7. Council Meeting Focus

Shirley suggested that each meeting have a specific focus, in addition to the regular updates from various departments. For example, today's meeting focus is the Guidance Presentation on university applications.

Some Ideas:

- Writing scholarship applications (finding applicable scholarship)
- Volunteer hours and procedure
- Facebook/Social media & privacy issues
- York Regional Police, safety concerns, substance abuse

Please email any additional ideas to Melissa or Shirley.

8. Guidance Presentation – Mrs. Lee-Moore

“What every parent needs to know about postsecondary applications”

www.thornhill.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Grade 12 students are requested to follow Thornhill SS Guidance on twitter to stay up to date on deadlines for applications, scholarships, volunteer opportunities, etc. Other students can stay in touch on Facebook. Links are on the website.

The presentation is available on the website – link

All college programs, articulation agreements and prerequisites are at www.ontariocolleges.ca. Applications are also done directly on this website. You can apply for a maximum of 5 programs.

For help in choosing a school, visit www.electronicinfo.ca. Includes scholarship info and you can compare a specific program across various schools.

For university applications, go to www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-101

Thornhill SS transfers student records directly to the colleges and universities.

Future Meeting Dates:-

- **Thursday, January 10th, 2013 (Guest speaker: addiction counselor from JACs)**
- February 7th, 2013
- March 21st, 2013 **(Guest speaker: YRD police discussion on drugs)**
- May 9th, 2013
- June 6th, 2013

Note: Meetings start at 7:15 pm

Thornhill Secondary School Council