



**Minutes - Thursday, October 11th, 2012**

**Agenda & Minutes**

**1. Welcome**

**2. Review of September Minutes**

Request for approval of minutes. Andy Proposed acceptance, Sandy seconded. Minutes accepted.

**3. Teachers' Report:**

**Mr. Gatti (*Head of Math*)** - 2011-12 EQAO results for G9 math testing  
EQAO count 5 % towards G9 math mark

**Academic Math Result** = 93% met provincial standard overall (218 students)

Level 4 = 33% (up from 24%)

Level 3 = 60%

Level 2 = 4%

Level 1 = 2%

Result trend over past 5 years is holding steady

2011/12 = 93%, 2010/11 = 91%, 2009/10 = 95%, 2008/09 = 88%, 2007/08 = 89%

**Applied Math Result** = 47% met provincial standard (28 students)

Discussion on ongoing efforts to improve test results to maintain positive outcomes including:

**Q:**What is the pass rate for G9 applied math

**A:** 90% G9 applied math students pass the course. EQAO level 2 does not equate to failure

**Q:** Any difference in results between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> semester testing?

**A:** Term 2 results appear to be slightly stronger – perhaps due to having settled in

**Marina Retsos (*Head of History/Literacy*)** - Fundraising Wish List

Literacy in schools program & Technology Integration Committee

Demonstration of current application of technology in class

**1. Moodle**

- Contains discussion forum, links, assignments, course goals/expectations and readings.
- Parents need students' password to access
- Viewed example of ongoing online discussion on curriculum

**2. Blogs/Tumblr**

- Tool = reflections on learning
- Allows for expression

**3. Twitter**

- Posting of learnings

**4. Youtube**

- Post "how to" segments on items used

**Q:** What % of teachers are using Moodle?

**A:** Exact penetration not known – but appears to be a lot

**Q:** What about students who can't afford the technology?

**A:** Tablets are available in class, library open until 4pm so students can access the system.

**Q:** Do we have any actual stats on students who do not have access to computers and/or access to the internet on mobile phones

**A:** No



**Discussion** that if parental attitudes and openness to internet access may be an area of positive influence to benefit students

Survey of staff being considered to establish current levels of staff acceptance of technology in the classroom.

**Q:** Is there accommodation for moodle based topic selection for students with hardware issues or limited access

**A:** Not frequent enough – and if/when students alert us to any issues we do accommodate

**Q:** Technology Committee Wish List

**A:** Getting technology into the hands of students in a classroom. Department I-Pads, E monitor screens, supporting student learning in and out of class

**Don't need...** smart boards or clickers

**YRDSB match** program has been revised - new total = \$12,500. \$6,250 of funds raised will be matched

**Comment:** We can't afford to be too hesitant about adopting technology. The fact that technology becomes obsolete should not detract from our commitment to invest.

#### **Administration Report - David McAdam**

- Pending boundary change effective September 2013
- Realignment of streets to re-direct to Westmount (North of Centre and West of Yonge)  
Anticipate impact of 0 students for 2013 and potentially 3 in 2013.
- TSS = certified as a GOLD level Eco School – Congratulations!

#### **BOSS Report – Sammy & Valentin**

- Senator meeting took place today
- This year's executive = Grade 12's only. Poses an issue for next year that is being addressed with a "shadow program" to ensure continuity and transition next year
- G9 dance – good attendance and positive response
  - Expectations to be added on the will be on the ticket (e.g. Door close time. dress code and chaperone policies).
- Next event = semi-formal. Waiting on Board guidelines and dates.
- Plan to improve Senator participation through questions at meetings
- Student Issues – e.g. availability of microwaves being actively addressed.
  - Shout Out Event – to gather student feedback

**Q:** Does council have a suggestion box?

**A:** No – but it is something we'd consider. But we have an office students can visit.

**Action Item:** BOSS to advise Council of similar student needs going forward – Parents willing to assist in supporting efforts to get students issues addressed (i.e. microwaves)

**Q:** Do we have packages to support requests for sponsorship (to local businesses)

**A:** We've done it in the past. Parents interested in pursuing sponsorship to contact the Council Chairs who will provide a letter for that purpose.

#### **Community Report - Adam Saperia**

- New photo's on website – worth a look. Thornhillalumni.com
- Planning started for TSS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up in 2014
  - Will need student volunteers
- Connecting through weekly parent newsletter
- Junior Award & 2 Scholarships in service of current student body. Welcome student involvement (that qualifies as community hours)



**Treasurers Report:**

Balance = unchanged. Will be different next time - stationary purchases

**Fundraising Letter:**

Being folded, stuffed & mailed to 980 families

Plans to follow up through email with different languages versions attached

**Other Business**

**PRO Grant**

Leverage PRO Grant money to take guidelines & policy document – reduce it to a double sided page and have it translated into the identified key language

**Action Item:** Draft summary has been prepared. Next step = to have translation done.

JACS – Jewish addiction community services – offering opportunity to hear from them and present on support services available in the community.

Shirley has had experience with JACs –they do great work. Has had them in to speak at assemblies at previous schools. JACs offers ‘drop in peer groups’. Recommends them as a resources.

Parent feedback that this is a good topic to have as a presentation in future meeting

**Action Item:** Melissa to contact JACs to investigate logistics of setting up talk. Will report back next meeting

**Electronic Donations for Fundraising:**

Update deferred to next meeting. PayPal & interact can be set up instantly.

Visa and Mastercard will take more to set up.

**Action Item:** All options will be presented at next meeting (including draft of body copy for email) with the intention to push “send” on November 16<sup>th</sup>. (Darrell)

**Upcoming Dates:-**

Next Council Meeting: **Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Council Dates for 2012 - 2013:-**

- January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013
- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013