



## **THORNHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

167 Dudley Avenue, Thornhill ON L3T 2E5

Tel: 905-889-5453 Fax: 905-889-0360



### **MINUTES**

**Thursday September 12, 2013**

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Review of June 2013 Minutes
  - Motion to approve by Sandy Klein; seconded by Sarah Libfeld
3. Nominations for Council
  - To be a voting member, you should be able to attend the majority of council meetings. Otherwise parents are welcome to attend as casual members.
  - Council was established.
4. Election of New Executive
  - Co-Chairs: Shirley Porjes, Hayley Morris
  - Co-Secretaries: Andy Weinkove, Lisa Ungar Polster
  - Treasurer: Darrell Wronko
5. BOSS Report – Eric Choi (president), Hannah Schneider (vice president)
  - BOSS = Board of Student Senators
  - Survey – half of students surveyed feel they are not connected with student council and council does not meet their needs. Goal this year is to promote two-way communication between students and council. Note that survey was region-wide.
  - Upcoming events
    - Sept 18 - Clubs Fair
    - Sept 21 – Thornhill Festival; Thornhill will be marching in parade
    - Sept 26 – Terry Fox run / Carnival
    - Oct 3 – First dance of the year (retro theme)
6. Administration Report – David McAdam
  - Shirley Smullen
    - i. In addition to parent volunteers, Thornhill SS has community partnerships – e.g. York Region Police. They help students to learn about issues such as gangs, drugs, violence, etc. Police will be doing presentations for grade 9 students.
    - ii. Assembly was held this week for grades 10, 11, 12 to review expectations for the year.



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- Louis Lim
    - i. 1034 students are enrolled this year, which is over the projection. Approximately 30 classes were overcrowded (i.e. at least 2 students over) as of last week and these are being addressed.
  - David McAdam
    - i. Successful Grade 9 Day took place – especially the BOSS video(!) Speaker this week to assist grade 9 students in integration into high school
    - ii. Awareness re school improvement plan. Focus on students and their well-being. Developing students' learning skills and work habits
    - iii. Sept 24 – individual EQAO reports mailed home
    - iv. October 24 – the Junior awards will be held.
7. Community Report – Adam Saperia
- Introduced the Thornhill Alumni Association and their events and awards.
  - In May 2014, they will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
8. Fundraising
- Shirley introduced the issue of fundraising. Need to decide (as a group) what type of fundraising to be done for this school year. That is, would we rather either solicit funds via a one-time request for money or do we prefer to do multiple fundraising activities.
  - For the last few years, fundraising has been targeted toward technology in the school.
  - Note that all money raised by fundraising can be matched by the board, up to a maximum of \$6250. Note that the money provided by the school board has limitations on what it may be used for and where items are purchased.
  - In addition, it is possible to get support from local businesses. This requires volunteers to manage.

A vote was taken to use the fundraising letter – it was passed unanimously. A letter will be sent, but the contents are still to be decided.

Suggestion: If letter is sent/mailed home, also send out an email to notify parents to look for it.

Some suggestions were made to offer incentives for parents to donate, for example if the fundraising goal is met, the students (all students) receive some benefit. Could be left up to students to suggest what the benefit will be. Or, the more money raised, the better the reward.



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*To be continued...*

### 9. PRO Grant (Speaker Series topic brainstorm)

- PRO Grant money is available to parent councils to pursue various activities. A decision was made last year to use the money to invite speakers to the council meetings. Note that the money has some restrictions on what it can be used for.
- Suggestions for topics: anti bullying, social media safety, drugs (various topics), teenage mental health, teenage relationships, resilient (teenage) parenting, guns & gangs, fake IDs.

### 10. Open Forum

- Social Media – discussed the concern that students not be required to use social media for school assignments.
- Radiation Detector – a request was made to measure and reduce/eliminate radiation in schools.  
Note: all schools in the YRDSB have wireless internet connectivity, so this is something that would be better addressed with the communications department at the board.
- A question was raised about course selection and how courses are chosen and timetables created. It is done almost entirely by software, once you have a student number and are registered.

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Next Council Meeting: **Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Preview of topics to be discussed:

EQAO Results

University/College Application Process

Future Meeting Dates:

- November 14
- January 9
- February 6
- March 20
- May 8
- June 5

*Note: all meetings start at 7:15.*

**Thornhill Secondary School Council**