

Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting

Minutes – January 17, 2019

1. Welcome – Anna Sit (Chair of Parent Council) welcomed everyone back to a new year!

2. College and University Pathway Presentation – Ms. Lee-Moore

- ☐ Students need to ask themselves who they are, what are their opportunities and what is their plan for achieving their goals?
- ☐ Some trends:
 - ☐ 1. Legal, health care and social services – demand will increase as baby boomers age.
 - ☐ 2. There is a shortage of skilled tradespeople.
- ☐ Only 50.3% of population have standard full-time jobs. On average, a person may change careers 3 times.
- ☐ Students need to build essential skills and have a growth mind set to be adaptable. Essential skills are: reading and writing, document use, computer use, oral communication, numeracy, and thinking skills (job planning and organizing).
- ☐ Apprenticeships for trades (e.g. construction, industrial, motive power, service sectors):
 - ☐ -Can start in high school
 - ☐ -Is a hands-on training program for people who enjoy learning by doing and who want to work in a skilled trade; 'Earn while you learn' – program is 90% work, 10% school.
 - ☐ -Usually do co-op in grades 11 & 12. Students want to get high school diploma as well.
 - ☐ -It is the student's responsibility to find someone under whom to apprentice.
- ☐ College credentials: certificates (under 2 years), 2-year and advanced diplomas, bachelor degrees in applied areas of study, joint college-university programs, apprenticeships, ESL and literacy upgrading, distance education
- ☐ www.ontariocolleges.ca for information on college programs
- ☐ www.ontransfer.ca – type in the program you want in college and can see where that feeds into university and vice versa
- ☐ www.electronicinfo.ca – info re: university programs: requirements and admission averages, scholarships. Need to read program website info for specific details.
- ☐ University – has different types of degrees
- ☐ University Requirements: In Ontario, need 6 grade 12, U or M level courses. All universities require English and may require Math. Some programs have minimum averages. Repeated courses and out of day school courses may be treated differently (verify with university) than in-school courses; e.g. UW may ask about repeated courses.
- ☐ Grades 9 and 10 – have applied, open, academic, locally developed courses. Pathways are quite fluid.
- ☐ Grades 11 and 12 – Course designations: c=college, m=university/college; u=university; e=workplace; o=open course; After grade 11, students need to make decisions to narrow their course selection.
- ☐ Conditional offers from universities will state averages you must maintain to gain entry.
- ☐ Students must meet the English language requirement if have resided in Canada for less than 3-4 years.
- ☐ Diploma Requirements OSSD for 4-year program – see flyer
- ☐ Learning Opportunities within TSS:
- ☐ AP Program = advanced placement; is internationally recognized; TSS has had it for 13-15 years; It's an accelerated program (vs. IB which is an enriched program); is based on 1st year university curriculum; students apply for it in grade 11
- ☐ Pre-AP courses: in grade 11: computer science, math, economics, English, biology, chemistry, physics; Students get a reference form to get reference from the grade 10 teacher. Students CANNOT always

change back to regular course. Transfer is based on scheduling and availability; Also the order and pace of the material between AP and regular course are different.

- ☐ Coop program
- ☐ Grade 10 sign up –SHSS: 2 areas: sports and business, health and wellness; Students get a stamp on their diploma.
- ☐ In grade 11 and 12, students can try out a college course
- ☐ To graduate, students need 40 hrs of community involvement/volunteering.
- ☐ Scholarships are awarded based on marks, community involvement, leadership
- ☐ Course Selection this year:
- ☐ Choose courses on 'My Blueprint'
- ☐ Go to 'My pathway planner', use GAPPS account
- ☐ Students can begin to select courses on Feb. 11; **Deadline is Feb 22nd**
- ☐ Students select a minimum of 8 courses and minimum 2 alternates
- ☐ Counsellors at TSS are assigned by alphabetical last name of student
- ☐ Summer school-registration opens in April; Not many electives are offered, usually compulsory courses.

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

4. Treasurer's Report (Caryn)

- ☐ \$500 Parent Council acct – We now have \$366.80. Money was spent on granola bars for the breakfast club.
- ☐ We have \$1896.66 from fundraising in another acct, because more small donations came in.
- ☐ \$1000 Pro-grant has been approved. News of this was released this past week but we don't know if will continue next year (subject to government whims).

5. BOSS (Student Council) Update – Bob Pang (president)

- ☐ It has been a very busy month!
- ☐ Grade classrooms – student can ask questions, get info on upcoming events
- ☐ Matchmatics – helps students find friends; School will get results of matchmatics back on February 14.

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

- ☐ We had a successful semi-formal. About 225 students attended and a great time was had!
- ☐ We had a successful Open Mike night, involving performances with singing, dancing and poetry.
- ☐ We put on a music night, where students from Glen Shields P.S. performed together with TSS students.
- ☐ Students are gearing up for exams now. There are de-stressing activities happening at lunch, e.g. students are giving out tea out to everybody. Yesterday, there was a dodgeball match between students and teachers, and the teachers won.
- ☐ Student mentors have been visiting the younger kids to talk about preparation for exams.
- ☐ There are activities in library re: preparing for exams.
- ☐ Exam period: Jan 24-30.
- ☐ Jan 31 is exam and mark review in a.m.; Students can see their exam if they want to; It is also VISA student orientation day.
- ☐ Upcoming dates and events:
- ☐ -Feb. 1: PA day; training and prep for teachers for Feb 4, 1st day of second semester
- ☐ Feb. 5: lunar new year; Hand in Hand club will put on a celebration.
- ☐ Feb. 7-10: DECA provincials. 53 students qualified and 49 have confirmed participation.

- ☐ Feb. 12: Grad photo retakes
- ☐ Feb 12: first session of after-school literacy course to prep for OSSLT for grade 9 & 10 students; Can pick up form in main office. There is no cost. Teachers recommend students for this course and call families to discuss.
- ☐ Feb. 14: Valentine's Day activities
- ☐ Feb. 18: Family day – no school.
- ☐ Feb. 19: Report cards.
- ☐ Feb. 20: Canadian Computing competition.
- ☐ Feb. 26: PCF math competition.
- ☐ Full Disclosure day for grade 12 students – marks sent from previous semester to universities.
- ☐ Feb. 22: Course selections due.
- ☐ On an inclement weather day, if buses are cancelled, exams are cancelled.
- ☐ March 27: OSSLT. Need to complete grade 9 English, applied or academic. If a student misses the test, they have to wait a whole year to re-write it. If they fail the test, they can take a course to help. Students would earn a credit and hopefully pass the OSSLT. Student needs a level 3 to pass: 300/400. Every mark on the test is worth 5 points.

7. School Council Topics

- ☐ a. Pro-grant presentation – Ministry of Education gives \$1000 grant for parent engagement. We need to use money before June 19, 2019. See handout on presentations by Dr. Shyamala Kiru. 6 topics to choose from. Dr. Kiru is available to come on March 28. Cost: \$895 for 6:30 p.m. start time. \$1000 for 7:30 p.m. start time. Parents voted and most popular topic was: Fostering Confidence – Solutions for Overcoming Anxiety.
- ☐ Subsequent discussion: suggestion made that we look for another speaker to come, as fee is quite high. Maybe a doctor in the area could come and speak. Ms. Ziegler will look into having other speakers. If parents have suggestions for speakers with fees in the \$400-\$500 range, please send them to Debbie. As well, we could possibly get a better turnout for this presentation by putting flyers on the YRDSB website and sending them to nearby elementary schools. ACTION: Anna will call Dr. Kiru to see if she will consider \$895 for a 1 hr presentation starting at 7:15 p.m.
- ☐ b. Staff Appreciation Breakfast-for teachers, caretakers and secretaries of TSS.
- ☐ Date of breakfast is Thurs. June 27 at 8:30 a.m.; Cost: \$200, excluding coffee. We can't use money from the fundraising budget on staff at TSS. So, how to raise money for the breakfast? Options:
- ☐ 1. Fundraising letter-Could send letter with report cards on Feb. 19. Ms. Ziegler was not in agreement with this option.
- ☐ 2. Involve BOSS in fundraising for this event.
- ☐ 3. On Parents' Night, can have a table selling granola bars to raise money for staff appreciation breakfast.
- ☐ Other options: In lieu of breakfast, have students write notes of appreciation to the teachers. Parent Council members can meet with students and brainstorm ways to show appreciation to teachers. Can have a pot luck dessert event instead.
- ☐ C. Next meetings: Feb 14 meeting - cancelled; March 28, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.; No meeting in April; May 2 meeting → tentatively changed to May 16, because of prom; June 6 meeting-cancelled because of athletic banquet.

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