

Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting
Minutes – March 28, 2019

1. **Welcome** – Anna Sit (Chair of Parent Council) welcomed everyone to this meeting.

2. **Presentation by Andy Thibodeau:**

Andy Thibodeau Impact Presentations

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“Share Your Care! School Spirit is Caring, and Care is Contagious!”

School spirit is caring; so Share Your Care! Care is a word that freaks out some teens. They think it means they have to be a loud, crazy, hugging type school spirit fanatic. No! Care comes in so many forms: being attentive in class, going to the play, cheering on the team, dressing up for the spirit day, helping a charity, attending the dance or bringing in a can for the food drive. Teenagers have no problem caring! Well, they love to care about "stars" on their favourite teams or singing their favourite songs. Bring that care to school! For only a few years the "stars" of your school teams, events and stages share something incredible with you! They go to your school! They are in your home and community! They are your family, friends and schoolmates! **"Care about your friends, family and school the same way you care about millionaires from your favourite bands and teams" is my challenge to your students.**

Andy's Top 3 Examples of Care:

3. **Show UP!** To school, to class, to practice, to special events, to the game, to family commitments, then, you are ready for work!
2. **Participate!** Put your hand up in class, read the book, cheer, dress up, join a council, laugh, hand in the assignment, enjoy school!
1. **Listen!** To teachers, to parents, to your family, to your classmates, to each other! Everyone enjoys having a willing audience!

Best Ways to Show you are listening: *A) Don't interrupt!* Let your friend finish their story or point. Be the one to say, "that's cool." *B) Ask Questions.* Don't be satisfied with 5% of the story, get 100% by asking what happened next, why is that, how did that feel?

The Rewards of Caring: Learning, Changing the World, Fun Memories and Friends!

When you release your 2nd grade "pick me" attitude and "share your care" to get involved in class and school activities, you get four amazing rewards. **The first reward of caring is learning.** How do you care about learning? **Try your best.** This means to always get a "98%" average in showing up to class (no skipping), arrive on time, get it done (complete your assignments), with a good attitude. If you do that but get a "65%" in marks ... oh well, you did the best you can! Yes, universities & colleges "hire" by marks, but employers hire workers who show up, on time, get things done with a good attitude. Caring about your time in class teaches you **WORK** skills, not just math, science or geography.

Employers hire hard workers, not marks. What gets you a detention in high school gets you **FIRE**d after high school. So... why not start learning to work and care **NOW**, in school, where the bosses are **SO** much more forgiving! **Caring leads to learning and learning leads to your dreams after school!**

The second reward of caring is that it changes the world. Your time, your encouragement, your energy and your donations of money make a difference! Bring in a can for a food drive, attend a school group's fundraising event, offer to help at a school or community charity event, or donate a dollar! Small acts of caring equals large results for those on the receiving end of your care. It is so exciting to know that while you not be able to travel to every place that needs help in the world, you care has no limits on how far it can go! Just ask the local family helped by your school's Christmas can drive, the cancer patient getting a new treatment because fundraising paid for new research, or the child at the other end of the world who is sponsored by someone who cares.

The third gift of caring is friends. Think about it ... how do you become friends with others? Being fun, interested, listening, encouraging, inviting, honest, trustworthy ... caring! Many of my closest friends to this day, over 25 years after graduation, I met in school. When I cared enough to get involved in sports, school events and student council, I became friends with many great people. The best way to make a friend ... is to be one! (Dale Carnegie)

Finally, caring creates fun memories! Make sure that your yearbooks are a chronicle of all the great times you had at your school. Friends, events, activities, smiles, memories! Please, make sure that the yearbook is not a hard cover book of all the events you missed, the people you made fun of, the people you did not get to know, or the activities you wanted to do ... but did not. School is about learning and having fun with your friends! Cheer, listen, laugh, dance, participate ... "Fun is such a better memory than ... it sucked!" By caring enough to get involved, you will get these ultimate rewards of being in school!