

TSS Parents Council Meeting - Minutes - Thursday, October 11, 2014.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Hayley & Shirley

- Organize volunteers to stuff fundraising letters for mailing
- Copies of Guidebook for “Building Healthy Relationships” distributed

2. Council Business (10 minutes)

- **Review of September minutes**
 - Motion to approve = Sand; 2nd = Michelle
- **Election of new co-secretary**
 - One candidate- Darrell Wronko = acclaimed
- **Treasurer Report**
 - Last Year Opening balance = \$ 622.66
 - Expenses = \$ 473.95
 - Closing Balance = \$ 148.71
 - Donations = \$ 425 in donations received but not yet deposited
- **Upcoming Council Meeting Topics**
 - November = Grade 10 Pathways Presentation –
 - January = Teenage Anxiety

3. Boss Report

- Grade 9 elections done
- Club Fair = successful (10 new clubs)
- Sept 24 – Carnival = went well
- Oct 2 – Dance 200 students attended
- School Photoblog Presentation (Shivam & Eric)
 - Showcase lives and stories of students and staff at Thornhill
 - Images & quote – on public media
 - Objective = positive message and community
 - Based on Humans of New York
 - Sustainability plan being put in place so that the initiative survives the founders (in Grade 12)
 - Content is going to be screened for propriety and positivity
 - Storage – private drop box
 - Privacy – Images on school property will be administrated as per Board policy
 - Promoted through newsletter
 - Council offered to support initiative through our distribution list
 - Website for the antispam Q&A:
 - <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/littlerouge.ps/NewsEvents/Documents/Anti%20Spam%20letter%20q%20and%20a.pdf>

4. Administration Report

- Safety Week last week – included fire , lock down and hold & secure drills
- Surprise drill thereafter was extremely successful
- Assembly honouring student achievement today
- Interim reports out tomorrow (Oct 10)
- Invitation to Parent Night on October 16 – with time slots for teacher interviews (10min)

5. Fundraising Update

- Fundraising letter going out this week
- Donations received prior to year end will get tax receipt
- Business Fundraising:
 - Fundraising letter for businesses has been drafted
 - Levels of Business Partnership attracts recognition within our school media channels, bulletins and newsletters. Includes Partnership certificate for donors.
 - Platinum = \$1,500
 - Gold =
 - Silver =
 - Bronze = \$250
 - Information on program for businesses identified as potential donors can be customized on school letterhead.

6. Teachers' Report – Mark Gatti

- EQAO MATH RESULTS:
 - Presented overview of EQAO format, duration and accommodated testing groups
 - 5% of EQAO results count towards student results
 - Presented analysis of 2014 results
 - Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4
 - Academic Results
 - 87% met Provincial standards
 1. 2%
 2. 8%
 3. 56%
 4. 31%

Grade 9 Results have seen a decline over the past 5 years

- 2013: 87%, 2012: 92%; 2011:93%; 2010 91%; 2009: 95%

Mr Gatti reviewed the variables being analyzed to understand trend including gender, group placement

Q: Is there any change in the ratio of gifted students as a % of the total?

A: Not significantly

Special Education Results

School: 58% compared to 87%
Board: 79% compared to 91%
Province: 74% compared to 85%

Applied Math Results: (n=33)

Was the focus of last years' Action Plan
Results show positive improvement

EQAO MATH ACTION PLAN FOR 2014/2015:

1. Maintain Academic Program focus
2. Maintain positive trend in Applied Program
3. Focus on choosing proper pathways
4. Adapt methods of instruction to changing demographic in the school
5. Re-introduce after school EQAO prep class
 - Encourage ELL & identified learners to take part in these sessions
6. Meet with feeder school Grade 8 parents and students to help with transition into Grade 9
 - Appropriate pathways
 - Aligned instruction and assessment methods

EQAO LITERACY RESULTS (n 256)

- ESL learners doubled since last year
- Test is a pass/fail test
- Overall results = good
- Outperformed the province
- Some of the errors = avoidable & technique based (skimming & scanning)

ACTION PLANS:

1. Focused on elements of tests where training on techniques (e.g. skimming & scanning strategies) can impact outcomes
2. After school classes

7. POST SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

- Presentation = available on school website
- Reviewed academic and non-academic options available
- Encouraged to make strength based choices
- Career cruising site = generates individual pathway plan = helpful in supporting these decisions
- School post-secondary fairs showcase options:
 - **Trade Apprenticeships**
 - www.Apprenticetrades.ca
 - **College**
 - Field specific for hands on learner, Shorter, ,Lower tuition
 - Higher scores at college level courses preferred over lower university level courses
 - www.Ontariocolleges.ca
 - \$95 to apply for 5 courses

- Joint College/University Programs (Applied Degree Program)
 - York/Seneca
- University
 - Ontario University Fair
 - Oct 22 – University Fair
 - Oct 30 – TSS University Fair
 - 6 grade 12 U or M level courses
 - www.Electronicinfo.ca
 - Ontario university application centre = centralized application portal for all Ontario universities.
 - Application PIN = available from school in November
 - Account generates a reference number for site activity
 - Application costs = \$140 for 3 program choices
 - Deadline for applications = January 14th
 - Deadline for early admission for Queens University = December 1st
 - Conditional offers = issued in April
 - Out of province schools use Ontario reference numbers (9 partner schools)
 - Students planning to study in U.S. to write SAT's (Ms Shuur)
 - Subsequent follow-up – does the order of the universities submitted matter? Answer: *Universities do see the ranking, however it doesn't make a difference in the decision making process. The only time it does make a difference is when a student has applied to two programs at the same University. Students will be accepted to the program they ranked higher.*

ACTION ITEM	WHO	DUE	Status
Table support for Sunshine Fund at money allocation at funding meeting	Lisa	January meeting	Pending
Minutes emailed with request for confirmation of students for envelope stuffing through reply email	Hayley	October meeting	Done
Topic proposals to be emailed to attendees to allow for feedback on plan	Shirley	November meeting	Pending
Suggestion made that course selection application to include reasons (want vs need) – Susan Geller to include the above suggestion as part of feedback taken to the board. Executive Committee to follow up and update council	Shirley	November meeting	Pending - should ensure done prior to Trustee elections

Council Meeting Dates for 2014/15

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 13

- January 8
- February 5

- March 26
- May 7
- June 4