

**Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting
Minutes - October 12, 2017**

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Sept. 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes by Marina Alesker. Motion was carried and minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- As of last parent council meeting for 2016-17 academic year on May 2, 2017, parent council has \$982.63 which are non-board funds (i.e. gathered from donations and fund-raising).
- Cash Online allows people to donate online and funds are directed to the parent council. There is a Sunshine Fund, which provides economic support to students for clothing. This fund is not internet-based, but money can be allocated to this fund by the Parent Council.

4. BOSS Update – by Chris and Jack (Spirit Director)

- 'Open Mike Night' has been postponed to Thursday December 7, because not enough performers have signed up as yet.
- On Thursday October 26, there will be a Movie Night, with a Hallowe'en/spooky theme. Tickets will be on sale starting next Monday.
- Semi-formal will take place in November. Location is still being finalized. Tickets will be about \$50.
- There is a bulletin board outside the cafeteria with a 5x5 calendar containing updates for clubs.
- Spirit Week took place at the end of September. Students dressed up and there were various activities. There is a plan to gather a team of mascots (tigers) to be at all or most of the TSS sporting events.
- There was a carnival at the end of September. Students enjoyed themselves.
- The Mobile App was trialed and was successful.

5. Administration Report – Mr. David McAdam

- Planning is underway for the grade 8 Open House, which will take place in November. Grade 8 Open Houses take place in November for most high schools in York Region.
- We want to attract students to TSS, so admin has undertaken a number of initiatives. Invitations have been delivered personally to grade 8 classes. Guidance staff visited the grade 8 class at Henderson Ave. P.S. Feeder schools to TSS are: Yorkhill Elementary School, Baythorn, E.J. Sand, Thornhill P.S., Glen Shields gifted program, Henderson Ave. P.S., and gifted students from a school in Richmond Hill and another in Maple.
- High Performance Athlete Program at TSS is designed to support athletes of provincial or national standing.
- Mid-semester report cards will be going out on Nov. 20, 2017.

Ms. G. Vatoussis

- There have been 3 fire drills, 2 practice lock-downs and 1 practice Hold & Secure at TSS.
- During a Hold & Secure, it is business as usual inside the school, but the doors are locked and students do not go in and out of the building. During a Lock-Down, all activities inside the building stop, because there is an intruder in the school. At the end of the day, a letter is sent home with students, explaining what happened because it is handled by the police.

- Symposium called Dream Big – School Council Training Symposium will take place at Bill Caruthers S.S. on Saturday, October 28, 2017 – flyer was circulated.

Mr. Ganeshalingam:

- Symposium on Nov. 8, 2017 at Maple High School, for CEC West School Council Forum; There are presentations for parents, and parents meet the superintendents and trustees. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Presentations are from 6-8 p.m. Deadline to register is Nov. 2. If interested, please call Tal or Anna (Co-chairs). Admin would like there to be representation from TSS.

6. Literacy Presentation – presented by Kim Earle, Literacy Lead at TSS

- Presentation concerned Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).
- OSSLT measures whether or not students meet the minimum criteria for literacy up to the end of grade 9. It measures grammar and reading comprehension, and uses short and long reading pieces, maps and charts.
- Students need to pass it to earn a high school diploma.
- Can get info at <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT>.

7. Council Topics

a. Voting members

- Sign-up forms were circulated for those participants at the Parent Council meeting who wished to be voting members.

b. Review and Approval of the Administrator’s Profile

Administrator profile was reviewed and approved by the parent council.

c. Topics for future council meetings

Topics from talks/presentations from the past 2 years were reviewed. Ideas include York Region Police, Mr. Gatti for EQAO math results, department presentations.

TSS parent council has been approved for PRO grant, which is used for presentation to Parent Council.

d. Fundraising directions

For the past 2 years, Parent Council has sent a fundraising letter to parents with their child’s report cards. In the letter, the goal of fundraising must be stated (e.g, digital technology). Donations of \$25 or greater receive tax receipts. Over the past 2 years, about \$1500 has been raised each year. This is a significant decrease from 10 years ago, when council raised about \$10,000 in a year. TSS cannot solicit donations electronically because of the new legislation. Technology is still a need at TSS. Ms. DiAngelo could ask TSS staff about needs.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 16th, 2017 in the school library

Upcoming Council Dates for 2017/2018:

- January 18
- February 15
- March 29
- May 3
- June 7