

## **Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting**

### **Minutes – February 15, 2018**

#### **1. Welcome**

Co-chair Anna Sit welcomed everyone to this evening's parent council meeting. School staff members who were present included Ms. Vatousis, Mr. Ganeshalingam, Mr. McAdam and Ms. DiAngelo.

#### **2. Approval of January 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

- ☐ Motion to approve minutes was carried and minutes were approved.

#### **3. Treasurer's Report – presented by Anna Sit**

- ☐ Current Parent Council budget from fundraising = Donations are up \$220 from the November 2017 report. Total is now \$2906.66.
- ☐ Pro-grant = \$1000 from York Region District School Board. Parent Council will host a presentation on March 29<sup>th</sup>, costing \$565. Balance left will be \$435. 2% of original \$1000 grant will be spent on refreshments for the presentation, Refreshments will be granola bars, and any leftovers will be donated to the breakfast program at TSS. Rest of the money will be spent on photocopies of parent handbook.
- ☐ Parent Council board acct. (petty cash) – In January of 2018, YRDSB gave TSS another \$500.00. After subtracting food bought for the last 3 parent council meetings, balance is \$766.89.

#### **4. BOSS Update – by Chris**

- ☐ Yesterday, Valentine's Day, Match-o-matics results were sent out. Students who participated were matched up with one of the top 10 people with the same interests.
- ☐ Spirit Week will take place the last week before March break, and it will be tied to the Canadian Cancer Society. Each day, they will record which students participated and donate money to the Canadian Cancer Society.
- ☐ There will be a leadership night at TSS, which will include workshops and team-building activities. Students are hoping to have an overnight leadership conference, but the idea has to go through the approval process first.
- ☐ TSS newspaper just completed its second issue and is going to print tonight. All articles can also be read online.
- ☐ The next writing meeting will take place next Friday after school. Students can submit their work for the Toronto Star Youth Journalism awards. There are different categories, such as entertainment, opinion, news and photography.

#### **5. Administration's Report – Mr. David McAdam**

- ☐ Good start to term #2!
- ☐ On Feb. 20, Term #1 report cards will be distributed with promotional flyer for presentation and fundraising letter.
- ☐ Parent council has been supportive of purchasing digital technology for TSS; 2<sup>nd</sup> window for cost sharing with YRDSB is approaching. School needs to request funds before April 13. Then staff will decide what to purchase.
- ☐ There are lots of renovations happening in our school: 1) Replacement of all wooden doors, doors to north and main doors 2) refurbishment of gym floors and 3) in the summer, our school might possibly become fully air conditioned!
- ☐ With regards to the recent school shooting in Florida, TSS has resources to support colleagues and students; TSS flag will be flown at half-mast until Friday night.
- ☐ School newsletter is posted online.
- ☐ TSS has a twitter account. It is managed by Ms. Leatham. She has tweeted out link for next month's presentation flyer.

## 6. Presentation of Grade 9 Math EQAO

Presented by Mr. Ganeshalingam, instead of Mr. Gatti

- ☐ Written by all students in grade 9 Applied or Academic math.
- ☐ Is 60 minutes long, with 2 booklets completed over 2 days.
- ☐ Has multiple choice and pen answers.
- ☐ There are accommodations for students with IEP, ELL students: more time and quiet environment
- ☐ Counts for 5% of student's summative mark; teachers mark EQAOs before they are sent off
- ☐ Results should be in by next Sept. (2018); level 3: 70-79%, which is meeting provincial standards
- ☐ Last year: 161 kids wrote it, 9 classes; 99% participation rate, 11% special ed participation
- ☐ 89% met provincial standard; ELL: 86% met provincial standard; special ed: 65% met provincial standard
- ☐ Students in Applied math: 17 students, 1 class wrote the EQAO, 65% met provincial standard
- ☐ Goal: improve performance for students in Applied math
- ☐ There has been an increase in ELL and students with IEPs, so need to make adjustments.
- ☐ Need to address resilience and self-regulation.
- ☐ Special ed dep't working hard, has ongoing communication with feeder schools.
- ☐ Provincial goal is to achieve excellence in applied courses. For now, the focus is on math. Later, support will propagate to other courses/programs. TSS will be getting intensive support; school has to set goals and report to ministry on progress. Ministry of education will support students in Applied math. On Monday, Mr. McAdam and Mr. Gatti will be going to Barrie for training.

## 7. Council Topics

- a. Presentation on March 29/18 by Kate Jones and Associates. Flyer has been sent out for the past few weeks with the weekly bulletin. It has been sent to other schools as well.
- b. School Breakfast Program: For the past 3-4 Parent Council meetings, we have used funds to purchase food. Now, instead of buying perishable food, Anna Sit, co-chair, has bought granola bars, and Parent Council has donated leftovers to the Breakfast Program. For presentation on March 29, budget of \$200 will be spent on nonperishable food, and leftovers will be donated to the Breakfast Program. TSS received money from 'Food for Learning' (York Region program) and from another grant too. Breakfast program has enough money for now, but still welcomes donations. Budget discussions can wait until the May Parent Council meeting.
- c. Parent's Night will take place on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Sign-up for upcoming Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on EDSBY. EDSBY has been used successfully by elementary schools. Letter went home to parents explaining this change. Use of EDSBY requires an email account. EDSBY will eventually be used for communication regarding students from kindergarten to grade 12.
- d. TSS twitter handle is @tsstigersyrdsb
- e. New TSS Parent Council email address: [thornhill.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornhill.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca)
- f. Anna is organizing a presentation for the Parent Council meeting on May 3 or June 7 with psychologist coordinator from YRDSB, Ms. Naomi. Michelle Cassidy, her assistant, who is the lead for the mental health initiative in the YRDSB, will be doing the presentation. Need to determine if she is available on either of those dates. Possible topic: Lessening the anxieties of students with regards to exams.

**Next Meeting is a Presentation: Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. in the school library**

Upcoming Council Dates for 2017/2018:

- May 3
- June 7