

# Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting

## Minutes – February 4, 2016

### 1. Allocation of funds raised

- Confirmed quorum
- Reviewed available funding:
  - Approximately \$2,100 brought forward from last year
  - Currently we have \$3,700 available (\$1,600 of which is already committed)
  - Shirley reviewed TTS Counsel's previous/normal allocation of funds and proposed similar allocation for 2015/2016:
    - Allocation of small amount to projects
      - 2x \$150 scholarships for graduating students (nominated by TSS Awards Committee)
      - Staff appreciation breakfast
    - Hold \$100 to roll over to the next year
    - Balance donated \$1,400 to technology – attracting board match
- Discussed request for funding/support from Grade 11 student seeking council support for a multi-purpose outdoor learning space (community garden etc.) – part of Eco-School initiative.
  - Counsel invites group to present the proposal and will decide at that stage if there is opportunity to raise funds to support the initiative at that stage.
- Open forum reviewing details of funding options
  
- **Motion proposed – \$300 for student award (2x\$150) – motion carried**
- **Motion proposed - \$300 staff appreciation breakfast – motion carried**
- **Motion proposed – \$100 for carryover to next year – motion carried**
- **Motion proposed – \$1,400 towards technology (board match) – motion carried**

### 2. PROGRANT

- Spent \$108 of \$1,000 approved PROgrant funds
- March speaker (Andy Tibido) laughing & learning a parenting seminar
- \$500 left in the fund – looking for ideas for these funds related to investment in parents/school
- Invited parents to contact Shirley with ideas

### 3. Report on Spring YRDSB Parent Forum (notes attached)

- Supporting the development of self-regulation in children
- Notes from forum attached
- Michelle Cassidy- traffic light card distributed
- We all have mental health – the card assists in assessing the state of mental health
- Parents = 4-7-8 breathing exercise



#### 4. Report on Fall YRDSB Parent Forum– David McAdam

- Discussion on “sebaticals” within the instant gratification environment

#### 5. Report on Parent Council Forum – Vivek Gupta

- Focus of forum = role, responsibilities and best practices of School Councils

#### 6. Upcoming Forum

- 5 available spots available in upcoming parent forum (March 30, 2016)
- Starts around 6pm
- Parents attending will bring information back to council
- Organizers looking for parent volunteers

#### 7. Administration Report – David McAdam

- Staffing – 11 new teachers = hired (replacing retirements & LOA's)
- Georga B – new VP from Thornlea Secondary (looking very forward to supporting them any way I can)
- Report cards going out next Friday
- Paw Prints – will be posted online
- Safe schools grade assemblies running this week
- 13 delegates from UK – visiting as professional exchange
- Student performance & well-being – continues to focus on positive
- Grade 9 Fall dance was postponed

#### 8. English Department Update – Dept Head

- 13 teachers in the dept
- Reviewed existing and new curriculum
- Written & Oral summative for seniors
- Written summative for juniors

- Mental Health Strategies = to be explicitly built into curriculum (e.g. Assessing Hamlets mental health and need to intervention)
- Reviewed pathways within the curriculum
- Reviewed grade curriculum focus (available online)
  - Grade 9 – Development of Foundational Skills
  - Grade 10 – OSSLT Preparation
  - Grade 11 – Critical Literacy
  - Grade 12 – Preparation for Send-off – academic strategies
- Assessment, Evaluation & Communication
- Learning Skills and Work Habits
- Upcoming writing competitions – posted in Paw Prints
- Parent Teacher Interviews

## **9. Open Forum**

- Concern about inconsistencies between curriculum presented by different teachers within the same grade
- Clarification –different pathways do have different exams

**Next Meeting:** March 31, 2016

- External speaker

**Balance of Upcoming Council Dates for 2015/2016:**

- **May 5**
- **June 2**