

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

### **Minutes – November 16, 2017**

#### **1. Welcome**

#### **2. Approval of Oct. 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes - Anna**

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

#### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- ☐ As of November 12, parent council has \$1857.00, of which \$875.00 was raised from donations.

#### **4. BOSS Update – by Holden, Jeff and grade 9 Senator.**

- ☐ Movie Night was a success, with good turnout.
- ☐ Upcoming events include a door-decorating contest, doughnut-eating contest, karaoke café at lunches and lip sync battle.
- ☐ Semi-formal will take place in 1 week.
- ☐ 'Open Mike Night' will take place in early December.

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

- ☐ Mr. Ganeshalingam is currently at the Quest conference. Topic is mental health.
- ☐ TSS has 1072 students this year.
- ☐ On November 20, mid-semester report cards will be issued and package will include a fundraising letter. Paw Prints newsletter is available on-line. There is only one hard copy printed. Parent council to buy \$50 of stamps to support school mailing.
- ☐ The grade 8 Open House was well-attended. It is a positive sign that parents want their child to come to TSS in 2 years' time!
- ☐ 17 students from the Gifted program in Richmond Hill will attend TSS in the 2018-19 academic year.
- ☐ Ms. DiAngelo – TSS has received a Green apple grant of \$1000. TSS applied for the grant this past fall. We can use this money to provide nutritious snacks before exams or in the mornings before school. Ms. DiAngelo runs the breakfast program, which takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We may be able to supplement the morning food with this money. Perhaps we can cover the breakfast program for other 2 days. The breakfast program is open to staff and students from 8:10 -8:30 a.m.
- ☐ Graduation photos are being taken this week for grade 12 students graduating in 2018.

#### **6. Presentation from Computer Studies Department – presented by Peter Benum**

- ☐ Presentation included reasons to take computer science, as well as information about careers related to computer science and what information is covered in the different computer science courses at TSS.
- ☐ Please see attached PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Benum.

#### **7. Council Topics**

a. 2017 Parent Council Fundraising Letter: Goal is to improve availability of and access to mobile digital technology and other aids for students in need. School staff will decide what equipment is needed.

b. Volunteers for lunch period: Ms. Vatoussis reached out to Thornhill church across the street to ask them for space for our students to go during their lunch period, because the cafeteria and the

library are both very busy then. Goal is for students to go somewhere to spend their time wisely. Ms. Vatoussis has met with students who said they would use the church space. Student participation in the lunch program at the church would be voluntary, not mandatory. The church are happy to give us the space because our school is close by. TSS may start to use the space gradually, e.g. 1 day per week at first. The challenge is supervision of students during the lunch periods. Administration is looking for volunteers to supervise students during lunch at the church. Volunteers would need to obtain a Vulnerable Sector Screening from the police. Volunteers could be parents or retired teachers. Currently, the church runs an afterschool program for students from E.J. Sand P.S. Administration will post information about this volunteering opportunity in the parent bulletin. If there is an incident during a lunch period, volunteer supervisor can approach church staff, who are in the building, for assistance. Lunch periods are 11:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. and 12:45 to 2:00 p.m.

c. Pro-Grant Topics – Kate Jones and Associates: Parent council meeting participants voted on the various topics. The top 2 choices were: Raising Positive Resilient and Happy Kids! And Surviving Your Adolescents: How to Manage and Let Go of Your 13-18 Years Olds. Anna Sit, co-chair will contact this company and try to arrange a presentation for the January Parent Council Meeting. There is also the possibility of collaborating with Thornlea, Westmount and the elementary feeder schools, for hosting a presentation.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. in the school library**

Upcoming Council Dates for 2017/2018:

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