

Minutes of Meeting – Thornlea School Council

Place: School Library
Date: February 22, 2016
Time: 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Attendance: Mr. Joe Foti
Mr. John Sebastiano
Mrs. Barbara Caravella
Mrs. Genevieve Seabrook
Mrs. Debra Hanff
Mrs. Elizabeth Manz
Parents

1. Mr. Foti called the meeting to order and made the following announcements:

The breakfast program is from 8:15AM to 8:45AM. Student volunteers can get community service hours for participation.

A new microwave is added.

- Administrators and teachers
 - Mr. Sebastiano will be leaving the school in March to be the new Principal at Maple High School.
 - Mrs. Barbara Caravella, currently Vice Principal at Aurora High School, will be our new Vice Principal.
 - Ms. Tamar Stein, Head of English, will be Vice Principal at Dr. Denison Secondary School. She will be replaced by Mr. Steve Hutchison who will be Interim Head of Department.
 - Ms. Georgia Vatousis, Head of Science and Literacy Teacher, is going to be Vice Principal at Thornhill Secondary School. Ms. Jacqueline Ross will be Head of Science.
 - Ms. Nicole Anderson will be our new Literacy teacher.
 - Mr. Andrew McConnell, Head of Technology Department, will be leaving to work at YRDSB, specifically to train teachers on how to teach Native Studies, and to work with teachers in northern Ontario. Mr. J.P. Braband will be Interim Head.

Enrollment for the new school year in September is projected to be 790 students, up from 740 in October 2015. Most of the increase will be from French Immersion students from Beverley Acres Public School and because of our Pre-AP and ACAM programs.

- Enrollment in February has gone down because 30-40 students doing the victory lap have graduated. Of the 725 current students, 420 students (58%) are on honour roll, and 120 students (17% of the student population) received grades of 90% and above.
- Award Assembly on Thursday will take place in the gym.
- In sports, our 3 basketball teams will be competing in Junior and Senior Tier 1 and Tier 2 playoffs.
- SWE: Sound Wonderful Entertainment, a student talent show, will take place this Thursday.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10 students will take place on Thursday March 31, 2016. We have a whole school initiative to ensure students are well prepared. **For example, all Grade 10 Applied and Academic students are strongly encouraged to attend the afterschool literacy program.**

English Language Learners (ELL) who are not ready can defer taking the test for 1-2 years. However, it is a requirement for graduation.

If a student fails the test, the student can choose to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) instead of a retest. Upon successful completion of the course, that student is deemed to have met the provincial literacy requirement. Additionally, the OSSLC counts as 1 English credit, and there is no disadvantage to the student when applying to universities.

For special needs students with Individual Education Plan (IEP), they are given double time and the use of a computer if necessary.

92% of our students passed the Literacy Test last year with Thornlea number being number one in Area West.

2. Mrs. Seabrook asked for parent interested in attending the Regional Parent Symposium:

- The Regional Parent Symposium – “Parent Voice Matters” will take place on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. It is open to School Council parents (5 people). Further detail on the workshops and presentations at the Symposium can be found at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Parents/Pages/ParentSymposium.aspx>
- Next school council (March 21st) will include a panel of speakers around Mental health/ anxiety/addiction issues and influence of electronic devices.

3. Mrs. Hanff gave an update on the following:

- Fit Day a.k.a. Health & Wellness Day, April 20, 2016
Please refer to the memo given to parents and on the website:
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/info/Pages/Health-and-Wellness.aspx>
- Every day at lunch in April, there will be an activity for students. The activities will be updated continuously on the web page above.
- This Tuesday and Wednesday will be the last day to sign up for free activities.
- Friday will be the last day for all sign-up. That is 1 full day off-site, or 2 x half-day activities at school.

- Ms. Grant wants to remind students in Grades 9-11 to sign up for this Wednesday's Math Contests by University of Waterloo. The school has paid for the tests which are highly recommended for future applicants to U of Waterloo and students interested in engineering.

- There is a meeting this Thursday at 6 p.m. in the school library for parents who may be interested to learn more about the Vimy Ridge trip in 2017. This will be the last chance to sign up their high school children for the trip before spaces are given to another school. Some background information can be found here:
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/Departments/CIS/Pages/WW1.aspx>

- A total of 19 students are going on the school trip to France this April, headed by Mr. Foti and Mme. Pilaram, Head of French and International Languages.

- Congratulations to Mélanie Seabrook, Grade 11 student, who has won the logo contest for the York Region District School Board 2016 Science Olympics. The winning logo will be in our next E-Bulletin.

- Congratulations also to our student, Vanessa Seto, who is placed 4th in Level 1 Girls Ski Slalom at the OFSAA Ski Qualifier at Georgian Peaks on February 18, 2016.

Meeting adjourned.