



Council MINUTES

Tommy Douglas Secondary School

Wednesday January 17, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

In Attendance

Amir Bigloo, Keli Patel, Deepma (Dee) Radia, Tina Gandhi, Jasdeep Khaira, Lakmal Ranasinghe, Erica Lien, Lolade Adesina, Wioletta Rehman, Diana Zincarelli DiNardo.

Approval of Minutes (from Nov 22, 2023)

Approved (Erica) with no amendments.

Meetings: 4-5 per school year

~~October 4, 2023, November 22, 2023, January 17th, 2024, March 27th, 2024, and May 22nd, 2024.~~

Financial Report

- Council has \$500/year to spend + \$800 grant
 - Have any additional grants been awarded to Tommy Douglas for Math and Science? There were additional support teachers added to the math classes to support the D-stream. Only seen so far in the area of staffing.
- Gisella was not in attendance but the group brainstormed to gather ideas
 - Last year, the funds were spent on the bike clinic – kids brought their bikes and we repaired them. The student Reps liked this initiative, Do we want to do this again this year?
 - **Sandra** to follow up with the shop teacher who managed the bike clinic last year to confirm that he still has the tools and doesn't need to buy anything else for this year
 - The project has to be completed by **June 24th**. We need to submit all the invoices by May after it has been approved
 - Parents Reaching out (PRO) Grant
 - All YRDSB can submit 1 proposal.
 - Can't be used for salaries, gifts, purchase of goods and services, refreshment costs over 10% (max \$80 allowed), prizes or incentives for parents and / or students, nor for fundraising
 - Can address social inclusion, racism, hate etc, can support mental health initiatives, knowledge building for parents
 - Someone suggested Yuttadhammo Bhikkhu or Lakmal to ask if either of them do presentations externally
 - Someone else suggested Paul Davis (who previously led a mother/daughter seminar). He is local (Woodbridge) so could be cheaper if he doesn't have to travel. He can cover social media security. **Sandra** to look into the 2 names, find out what Emily Carr is doing, perhaps we can join forces

- **Jasdeep** – Can we survey the students via google forms to give them a few options (mindfulness, cyberbullying, social media safety) to identify topics they are interested in that we could use for the grants? We could also get the student council to send out the surveys

Suicide Intervention Support for Students

We are fully equipped to handle the suicide prevention program. We need to be ready when anyone shows some sign of self-harm – i.e. run to guidance.

- **How to create awareness:**
 - **Jasdeep** contacted Kidshelp phone but didn't hear back. She also contacted York Support Services Network (affiliated with 310 COPE), they work alongside York Region and have worked with the school before. They are more than happy to provide a refresher to the school if needed.
 - We were looking for organizations who are trained and who can provide support or train for intervention. If we do have an Open House, they can also come in to give a lecture or talk. Could they setup a booth equipped with flyers and other tools for parents during the next Parent's night (once scheduled).

Student Report (2 TDSS Student representatives – Timothy & Kyle)

- No student council representative attended today's meeting.

Principal's Report (Sandra)

- Today the GR9 were in EQAO math testing and continues tomorrow. OSSLT results came in yesterday from 1st Semester. Staff have to speak to the students in Gr10 who were not successful before they distribute the paper copy results.
- Exams are Jan 25-31: Students are provided info on how to avoid stress etc
- Feb 5 - Semester 2 starts. Timetable updates will be available for Gr11 and 12 first to help the Guidance dept for graduation.
- Safe school Assemblies for Semester 2
 - We have to review the safe schools assembly with the students (slide deck) and teachers may provide commentary as the videos and slides are displayed. ETA is week 2 of semester 2
- Upcoming Events
 - Feb is Black History month – we will have an assembly for this as well. Likely to partner with Emily Car just like last year.
 - Jan 24 - Turkish Parents Night
 - Black Parents Night - Will plan a tea and crumpet night for black parents specifically.
 - Feb 7 - Course Selection Night for parents
 - Ski trip – 5-day excursion
 - Italy Trip – international trip in March (Milan, Venice, Florence and Rome). 39 student have signed up. Average cost was about \$5k including airfare, dinners, sight-seeing. They pay extra for lunches and tipping fee

VP Report (Cynthia Therrien: students A-G)

- N/A

VP Report (Elizabeth Sloan: students H-O)

- New system implemented for Hall Passes
 - Vaping, bathroom vandalization
- Attendance and lates – Calls will be made to the homes for persistent lateness
- Bathroom rules are in place
- New YRDSB Ministry of Ed Courses
 - There are some new courses G10 applied math (again), only with parent and SO approval
 - New Tech course – TAS1/2O – all students may decide to take a tech course in either Gr 9 or 10 effective this Sept.
 - Now G9 Geography has been de-streamed, we can now offer the Applied version
 - Revised G9 and G10 Business Courses (BEM 1O and BEM 2O)
 - GLC2O on mental health literacy

VP Report (Milton Hart: students P-Z)

- N/A

Library Update

- Music – The band will be competing in the Ontario Music Festival
- Peer tutoring is still in progress – Tue/Thur during all 3 lunch periods in room 109. Encourage your child to come for this support as they review for exams. Classroom code needed.
- Drama – Mr Marchenko held Winterlicious in Dec, there were hand-crafted ornaments that parents could buy as part of fund-raising. Want to encourage the parents to attend more of these
- Library will be getting more collaborative seating soon

Coming Up!

- Grad date is June 27th Offsite (largest grad set so far with 425 students!)
- Prom is June 6th

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 27th , 2024 @ 6:30 p.m., Tommy Douglas Secondary School. See you there!

Motion to adjourn this meeting was made at 7:56 p.m.