



Council MINUTES

Tommy Douglas Secondary School

Wednesday November 22, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

In Attendance

Amir Bigloo, Lisa Parkyn, Tina Gandhi, Keli Patel, Deepma (Dee) Radia, Wioletta Rehman, Beverly Chiriboga, Jasdeep Khaira, Lakmal Ranasinghe, Erica Lien, Lolade Adesina

Approval of Minutes (from Oct 4, 2023)

Approved (Lisa & Keli) with a few amendments namely

- 1) change spelling of Lakmal's last name and
- 2) change start time to 6:30pm

Meetings: 4-5/school year

~~October 4, 2023, November 22, 2023,~~ **January 17th, 2024 confirmed**, February TBD, 2024, and May TBD, 2024

~~**West Council Forum: November 15, 2023, 5:30-8:30pm hosted at TDSS (Co-Chairs represented the school)~~

West Council Forum (November 15, 2023) – Feedback from attendees

- **Erica Lien and Lisa Parkyn attended**
 - LISA - It was kicked off with introductions and then break-out sessions started. There were some vendors and support groups also in attendance. Mr Maegar shared that they held a Math night which is what they used their budget/money for. They used a passport theme, it was a great way to teach math and engage students and parents.
 - ERICA – She attended some mental health sessions where some techniques were shared regarding how students can cope with stress. The trustees were there (Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, Ron Lynn and Nadeem Mahmood were mentioned).

Financial Report

- Council has \$500/year to spend
- 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
 - Grants to other school clubs?
 - Benches: There are some benches tucked away in the cafeteria which couldn't be brought out because that would exceed capacity in that room. There are 3 different lunches now not simultaneous so the library could be used (resource room can be booked) and designated board games can be setup

- Maybe something in the atrium (ping-pong or checkers?) that can keep the students busy instead of walking up and down the halls. We can find out how many total kids would be in the cafeteria at the same time
- Streaming videos in the cafeteria could keep the students engaged. However not everyone will want to sit and watch or can hear over the talking in the cafeteria

Suicide Intervention Support for Students

- **Externally (needs to be confidential as well as anonymous assistance):** When kids ask the questions or need support we need to make sure they know who to go to or direct their friends to. We have a social worker shared with other schools (maybe with Maple High? Not 100% confirmed) that is available as a resource to TDSS. Some paperwork is needed (including consent from the parents in most cases) then the social worker connects with the kids and checks up with them periodically. So there is a bit of a process but its pretty expeditious (Cassandra Fezzuoglio is the social worker).
- **Within TDSS:** Every school has to have an assist-trained resource onsite in the school i.e. a guidance counsellor. We do have one at TDSS.
- **How to create awareness:**
 - Suggest adding this to the Newsletter (310 help or kids help phone details) so parents and kids know its anonymous and 24/7 and how to access it.
 - There is a Safe Schools assembly in Sept and Feb (start of each semester) where Mental Health is discussed by admin staff (VPs and Principals etc), this can be mentioned as well then

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

- **Semi-Formal:** Held on Thursday, November 16th at Montecassino (tickets are \$65/person)
 - Based on feedback received, the kids liked the music better last year. It was the same DJ though. Food was a lot better, there were vegetarian options, 450 – 500 students attended. The kids were well-behaved and dance floor was packed. Dee and Keli would like more variety for the vegetarian options next year, it has always been the same options so far
- **Holiday Assembly:** Will involve student clubs performances, currently scheduled for Dec 22. Being the last day of school, we need to make sure we target enough students to attend. May need to break this down into 2 or 3 assemblies
- **Holiday grams:** Sending notes and candy to be delivered to friends

Principal's Report (Mirella)

- N/A

VP Report (Cynthia Therrien: students A-G)

- **Enrollment for 2nd semester** – working to fill in the holes currently
 - Jasdeep asked about waitlist for some courses. Cynthia confirmed that its handled by the ministry and there is a process to fill all classes to capacity before additional sections are opened. Parents should start talking to their children regarding what they want to do post-

secondary so TDSS can start working backwards to plan which courses we will need and this determines the staffing.

- Jasdeep also wanted to know how we determine what courses are offered? Cynthia explained how some of these need to be allocated to special eds, autism, library etc and then review each course selected by each of the students to determine which ones will be on the cancel list.
- The numbers we have in March is what we use for planning for the next year
- **Cyber incident:** Occurred across the YRDSB, partly resolved but some things still don't work – TeachAssist works fine now but emails are delivered late and still bouncing back. Phone calls are probably the best way to reach teachers and admin staff. GAPs has been more reliable than the board emails and this is how the report cards will be delivered. No ETA as to when everything will be completely fixed.
- **School Clubs:** Basketball, curling, swimming teams are in progress. We have now put in the list of school clubs available in the bulletin
-

VP Report (Elizabeth Sloan: students H-O)

- N/A

VP Report (Milton Hart: students P-Z)

- **Feedback on Semi-Formal event:** Semi formal went well, music and food was great. The kids were very well-behaved.
- **Mid-term marks:** Were due 11/21 at 9pm so all the families will have the mid-term marks by next week
- **Transfers:** TDSS is now closed to transfers so only students in our catchment area will be enrolled in Sept 2024. This info will be circulated in time for our Grade 8 night in September 2024
- **Ontario literacy test:** Each kid will get 2 attempts. All grade 10s will be writing and any G11 or G12 who previously failed the test also eligible to write
- **Exams:** They start Jan 25th, all marks will be due Feb 1 (OSSLT).
- **Drills:** All the emergency drills and fire drills were successfully tested and executed

Teacher Staff Representative Report (Laura Gatti)

- N/A

Coming Up!

- **Ideas for the \$500 budget**

Next Meeting

Wednesday January 17th, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m., Tommy Douglas Secondary School. See you there!

Motion to adjourn this meeting was made at 7:43 p.m by Dee.