

**Pierre Elliott Trudeau**  
**School Council Meeting, November 2012**  
**Minutes**

Co-Chairs: Robert Malhotra / Amar Tambar

- In attendance: K. Mark, D. Linkewich, G. Bregg, G. Tsigaridis, S. Cheong, C. Li, J. Thillainathan, S. Edwards, L. Li, S. Maharaj, R. Mukkala, C. Stappas, R. Malhotra, H.Zhang, B.Shriraam, A.Tamber, V. Raj, N. Thillainathan

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTION/REGRETS**

- Robert Malhotra introduced himself and welcomed Guest Speaker PC Price, then had those in attendance introduce themselves.
- Regrets- None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes read by all in attendance
- Motion to approve Oct. 2012 minutes, seconded by R. Mukkala, carried

**STUDENT COUNCIL REP – Janani Thillainathan, Ref. Handout Stu.Co NOV2012**

- **Student Activities Council (SAC)**  
Ontario Student Leadership Conference (OSLC) - attended for the first time.  
Gr. 9- Gr.12's bonded as a council team. Connected with other schools on improving and promoting school spirit, creative ideas, and leadership skills.  
- School Dance Nov. 22- DJ 'Finest Entertainment' (PETHS student), safety officers etc.
- -Town Hall Meetings-promote positivity, school spirit, unity, receive student ideas in a comfortable atmosphere, without SAC hierarchy.
- **Free The Children** - horror film night-entry for food donations-1200 cans collected. Donations to Longos to be distributed to homeless shelters in Markham/GTA. Next project - Penny Drive, for clean water source in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.
- **Strut** - Breast Cancer Awareness Week- Pink Day, Annual Talent Show/Performance Night, Awareness Week ends with a teacher dance.
- **Didomi** - Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child- secondary school club members donate everyday items, using their own funds, into a box and boxes are then shipped to children in less fortunate countries. Plans for a Burr Oak Secondary and PETHS partnership.
- **Octagon** - Locks of Love-students donate their hair to Pantene Beautiful Hair who, in turn, make wigs for Cancer Patients.
- **Unicef** - Syria Civil War, raising money for civilians, asking for donations and students write 'I can change the world by....' Unicef will photograph it and use it on their awareness videos.
- **Tamil Student Association (TSA)**  
- Diwali student activities included applying Henna, dressing up Competition, selling Samosas,  
-TSA students put on a dance, performed South Asian Cultural Arts
- **Music Council**  
- 'Participation House Benefit Concert' performance at the Markham Theatre, fundraiser for adolescents with disabilities. Amazing Grace-Gr.12 Wind Symphony  
- Trudeau Band Workshop, Trudeau Concert-Guest Composer, Stephen Bulla

- **Theatrics** - ‘Cabaret’ - 50 student acts, teachers participating too! Lots of talent and dedication so ‘Come to the Cabaret.....’
- **Senior Boys Volleyball**- made it to round one of the play offs, congratulations.
- **SRA** - Peer Mediators available to students  
– Anti Bullying Club, awareness week in November

### **Guest Speaker Presentation:**

#### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) – PC Chris Price (York Regional Police)**

- As the **SRO** of PETHS he is an extremely important resource for admin/staff and parents for advice and information on preventative measures for youth based situations such as Drinking/Driving, Cyber Bullying, Drug Awareness
- **PC Price** described his career in the force as being an experienced, traditional officer and detective, dealing with criminal offences in the Markham Area.
- **Prevention** is of key importance so the **SRO** meets with students, to educate them about crime and create a positive, understanding connection between student and police in a safe school. He feels that we have a positive, motivated population in our school. Many situations occur outside the school grounds on weekends and evenings.
- **Canada Referral Programme** - deals with Criminal Offences without imposing criminal charges for under 18’s. Offered to youth ‘to make things right’ through counselling and tasks such as community service, letters of apology etc.
- **Official Police Warnings** are rarely used when the truth is apparent, the Referral is made when guilt and lying are present
- **At Risk Youth** have a trusting and caring **SRO** mentor
- **Experimental Stage** in High School: Under 19 alcohol drinking, tobacco, Marijuana. Possession of Marijuana- no charge is laid for first time, considered the least dangerous for addiction, more common than harder drugs.
- **Drugs and paraphernalia** were exhibited and were on display for the student population during Drug Awareness.
- **G. Bregg** noted that alcohol can be more of a problem than drugs- youth may experiment with marijuana at a party but alcohol is more prevalent. Social Norming is empowering kids to be a majority such as ‘non smokers’ through education.
- Comments and discussion

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL FORUM UPDATE**

#### **Ref. Handout: Involving Parents in the School: Tips for School Councils**

##### **Parent Involvement: A Checklist**

- Six members, from PETHS, attended –very informative
- 27 points for Parent Engagement gave tips for any event- see **Ref. Handout**
- **Trudeau Communication** includes voicemail, email Newsletter/ mark updates/ attendance. Socialising before council meetings a positive.
- **Website**- Old site has a link to New site in Word Press format – the new site has received approx.19,000 hits since August.  
To eliminate this link and have direct access to the new site requires a standard to be decided by the Board and may take up to 3 years.
- Discussion of what is efficient/effective – very positive about existing communication
- The merit of utilizing Facebook was debated- comments that it may create unnecessary problems

## **FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS**

- **Career Cruising for January 2013-** process for utilising this effectively
- Other suggestions included: Dealing with Teens, Career Planning, Teachers Present EQAO, Food Program, International Exchange, Parental Expectations- Realistic/Unrealistic Pressure, Guidance for Parenting Ideas, Parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Pathways to Opportunities, Success in High School
- Susan Maharaj noted the following on Parent/Student selection of school:
  - Inform parents about opportunities and methods for University or College selection
  - Parents are a resource for their students
  - Investigate opportunities in Gr.11 rather than wait until Gr.12
  - Competition for school Admission requirements
  - Ideas about/ discussion of Pathways- including finances

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Nil
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## **STAKEHOLDERS REPORTS**

### Administration

#### D. Linkewich

- Meeting with Board stated that the building addition is on track for next year
- Legalisation of Marijuana and the impact of this
- School Plan- Critical Thinking-asking the right questions-‘Question of the week’ is posted as an example, Wellness, Resilience
- Pathways- for University are well documented and experienced by PETHS Staff
- College Pathways- need more programme info. stating the benefits of College, discussion with College graduates about how and why they chose College etc
- Template needed for formulating data/feedback for future focus from all graduates. A system exists between Elementary and High School but not between High School and Post Secondary Schools
- Parenting- suggested synchronising Council meetings with Elementary Feeder Schools

#### G. Bregg

- Nov.9- History Dept. /Gr.12 Wind Symphony performed Amazing Grace along with skits and theatrics. A slide show was presented accompanied by a performance of Amazing Grace. Display in Foyer. Guest Speaker –Master Sergeant Peacekeeper
- Nov.29- ‘Cabaret’-nearly 50 well rehearsed acts, including 3 by staff, so ‘Come to the Cabaret...’
- Dec.13 at 7pm- Winter Melodies- all ensembles and bands, along with the choir, will perform. Due to our students enthusiastic music participation all grades will have their own ensemble and play for the first time together.

### Suelyn Cheong

- Binder in library to sign up for Grad. Photos. Proofs will be available and orders can be placed on-line.

### G. Tsigaridis

- Nov. 16 – Mid Term Report Cards distributed
- Nov. 26 Course changes, full disclosure
- Email to parents to ensure info. has been received
- Nov. -Trudeau Band Workshops with Composer Stephen Bulla

### Susan Maharaj

- Book Drive was a success and donated to Castlemore and Stonebridge
- Art- Portraits displayed around the school show the talent of our students. Toronto Harbourfront- the students were complimented on their polite and respectful behaviour-Well Done
- Guidance- Grad Conferencing, applications, PIN numbers to be distributed
- Exam schedule in the Newsletter.  
Gr.9 tips for managing study time, focus, booklet 'Study Skills for 1<sup>st</sup> Exams'
- Gr.11 –'Post Secondary Selections Help'
- Dec.11, Tues. 7pm- Rep. from University of Toronto- What do you need to think about?'
- Jan.14- Elementary students to visit
- Jan. –Course Selection Night for Gr.10,11,12- see Newsletter
- Community Service logged by office- 40 hrs to Graduate-over and above 40 is recorded by school but not noted on transcript. Lots of Resources i.e.Octagon Club

### Parents and Community

- **Inter Cultural Sub Committee-K.Mark**  
Would like to create a 'mission statement' about working together  
Relate 'Inter' with Mono cultural, Bi cultural, Multi cultural
- **School Council Constitution- R. Malhotra to review.**  
Any necessary updates to be presented to Council for approval
- **School Council Recognition Awards-** amount of award TBD  
65 Clubs in our High School, Junior Achievement etc.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Eco Action-Green Space Development**-front of school building.  
Eco Club to be involved in conjunction with Sub Committee to investigate Grants available, landscaping donations etc.  
Sub Committee Members: A.Tambar, R.Mukkala, V.Raj, B.Shriraam
- **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations-** to take place from Jan. to June 2013  
Sub Committee Members: A. Tambar, C. Stappas, H.Zhang, R. Malhotra, V.Raj, B. Shriram, R.Mukkala

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn, R. Malhotra, seconded by S.Edwards , carried