

## **OTSS School Council**

Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2013.

### **Opening:**

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h10 on April 3, 2013 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

### **Present**

Barry Armstrong  
Kelli Watson  
Bruce Giles  
Linda Kuo  
Howard Crerar  
Annette Vogt-Cearns

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 19:10hr. Barry Armstrong led the meeting.

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from March 5, 2012**

Few changes to last meeting draft requested. Annette will issue changes and resend minutes. Linda motioned to approve the minutes with the minor changes made, Howard Crerar seconded.

- **Happenings at OTSS / Staff report**

### Barry Armstrong

- Barry brought up the School Council meeting schedule
- it was decided to keep to the same schedule - the first Tuesday of every month with no meeting in January
- parent-teacher interviews were held March 28th 4-7 pm
  
- we discussed the difference of having them in the classrooms, versus the gym
- it is much harder to get to your appointments in the time allotted
- some people prefer the classroom setting and some prefer the gym, no clear preference

### Grad celebrations:

- some celebrations are organized by students - these are not official, and not sanctioned by the schools, or the school board
- it is the Board's policy to not be involved in any of these events
- the Board is only involved in the commencement ceremonies
- there are no other events held under the banner of the school
- Anne Villeneuve will post an official letter concerning this

## Exit/Outcomes Consultations

- staff is drafting a document of what a graduate should look like
- what does a student look like when graduated
- entire school community can access document and provide feedback
- copy of document passed out to all attendees
- Barry sent out introductory letter to Bruce and Natasha

## TTFM - Tell Them From Me

- Board-wide student survey
- same in all secondary schools
- OTSS hard copy version was given to students
- this time 1 document for all secondary schools in collaboration
- must be done on-line this year
- goal: to get a handle on how kids feel
- results will be shared at next school council meeting
- letter to be sent out to offer choice of whether to participate or not
- this will happen week of May 6th, attendees provided with a copy of the letter to be sent out
- one group is excluded - the Autism group
- this is an oversight by the board and Barry has addressed this with the Board
- this survey should take 30-45 minutes to complete
- Howard asked if there was a baseline to compare the data, wondered about comparison tools
- the school knows that there will be a breakdown for each question in 2 days
- trends in the data are to be identified in regards to positive/negative/neutral results
- there will be some definition of what to do with the results

## School improvement plan - update SIPSA

- most schools in continuation

## "Launching Forward" 4 steps:

- 1. Character (nominations within school, acknowledge those who go above and beyond - occurs daily - awarded at assemblies)
- 2. Careers
- 3. Communications
- 4. Self-advocacy - student governed, link crew
  
- Day of Challenge
- place to put skills credit
- exit portfolio - skills portfolio, students have this when they leave school
- contains awards, or anything significant they have achieved at school
- each student has one
- students can then use these to launch themselves forward to success

## Communications (3)

- assistive technology to aid students
- training to students and teachers
- sexting - one staff member will be meeting with police and will present information
- marketing committee - continue to sell wonderful aspects of school
- video - positive happenings, will be presented on website

#### Self-advocacy (4)

- check-lists are available for each grade - students can check things off (ie, ODSP, work experience, volunteer hours, birth certificate, résumé, Psych Ed
- available on website

#### Math Initiative - 4SI schools

- struggling with testing
- occurs daily - awarded at assemblies
- numeracy
- meeting with Math staff to improve success of students
- concern about technology raised by Howard - takes away personal responsibility
- Barry re-iterated that there are many benefits, but that we have to be critical consumers who question media/input

#### Fraser Institute Report

- something the media has taken on as important
- OTSS ranked 712 out of 726 - using unfair data (EQAO - which our students have difficulty with)
- not endorsed by board or ministry or staff
- all students in this school are special needs to varying degrees, many do not get an OSSD (graduate certificate)
- the report does not acknowledge how many special needs students there are, either because they do not know, or they do not want to identify
- anyone who wants to complain can contact Bronwyn Funicello - she is the Vice-chair of the Board as well as Trustee

#### Departments

##### *Math/Science*

- Science - "Scienceinschools" has agreed to offer 2 free workshops to OTSS
- Math - the math dep't is continuing its work with the School Support Initiative to develop further approaches to instruction

##### *Co-op*

- Co-op kids were all in jobs
- from 25th to 28th of March the Grade 10 Careers students had Work Experience - some students were offered part-time employment

- in assembly a slide show was presented showing the highlights

### ***English/Social Studies***

- Ottawa Inuit School - did presentation - talked about Inuit way of life,
- students could ask questions and participated in traditional Inuit drumming with Steven Carleton
- white hare fur -one student was so enamoured with it that he thought he might slip it into his backpack
- Grade 12 college level "Long Day Gone" - novel study has begun
- This is the autobiography of a child soldier in Sierra Leone

### ***Tech***

- bake sale - Baking students raised over \$100 for Youth Services of Ottawa
- Paint for Life - to be held April 30th by Cosmetology Students - raising funds for Cancer (\$5 per manicure)
- Green Industries: completed Vesey's seeds and bulbs fundraiser
- 50% of the \$756 funds will go into the program for seeds and soil for OTSS school gardens
- the program offers "Start Your Seeds" service (36 plants for \$20) - due date is April 15th

### ***Storefront***

- Brianne has accepted a part-time job from St. Hubert's on St. Laurent Blvd. She began as a co-op student
- 3 students (Brianne, Joshua and Carl) have all completed their first step into getting accepted into the ALP (Adaptive Learning Program). They will have interviews with the director in the upcoming weeks
- 3 planned activities to do over the March Break - Merivale Bowling Lanes, movie afternoon (hosted by Kevin at his house) and Joshua hosting his 21st birthday party.

### ***Happenings in the Arts***

#### ***Music***

- Mr. Brown's Music classes benefited from an in-house visit by a community Jazz band on March 8th

#### ***Drama***

- February 14 many students enjoyed a field trip to the NAC - "All You Need is Love"
- April 18th, Arts students are eagerly awaiting a visit to the Museum of Civilization where they will be treated to multi-media, multi-theme musical integrating heritage, music and theatre
- OTSS Has Talent Show - hits the stage on April 19th - looking for the next Canadian Idol!!

### ***Mustang Report***

### ***Spring Vocom Sports***

- Boys and girls Hockey has attracted a large following
- Athletes will compete against their arch rival Sir Guy Carleton on Monday April 16th
- Co-ed track and Co-ed softball will begin in May

### ***Health and Physical Education News***

- Many students enjoyed the slopes at Mont Cascades just before March Break
- Late March the Phys. Ed students travelled to the Civic Hospital for the day to attend a workshop called P.A.R.T.Y. program - Prevent Alcohol and Risk Trauma in Youth - designed to make teenagers aware of the implications of their choices connected to risky behaviour
- April 8th - students will have the pleasure of attending a IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship game at Scotiabank Place. Tickets were free and the school absorbed the cost of the bus, so the students could go for free. The featured game is for 5th place.

Kelli Watson (not in attendance information provided to Carl Dobbin to present)

### **Day of Pink - April 10th**

- anti-bullying day
- t-shirts to be sold to staff and students to encourage more involvement

### **Key dates**

- April 10 - Day of Pink
- April 11 - OSSLT - Literacy Testing
- April 17 - Term 2 begins
- April 22 - Marks due
- April 26 - Report Cards distributed: Mission Employable
- April 26 - Mission Employable - Career sampler
- April 30th - Paint for Life
- May 13 - Dental hygienist - refers people as required for further work
- May 20 - Victoria Day - no classes
- June 5 - Summatives begin for Adaptive Students
- June 18th last day of school
- June 19th exams begin
- June 25th - last day of System Classes

Lots of activity from now to end of school year.

- **OCASC Report**

No report at this time.

- **Any other business**
- Parent-Teacher interviews to be moved away from long weekends
- apologies for inconvenience - this was not well planned
- Quote for calendars did not come through

- decision to go with sticker that Brenda had previously mentioned
- suggestion of having calendar, bookmarks for next year
  
- **Adjournment**

Annette motioned for the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 - Linda seconded. Next meeting to be held on May 7th.

Minutes submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns