

Ottawa Technical Secondary School School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2016

Location: School Library

Present:

Bruce Giles, Parent and Chair
Andrea Fisher, Parent and Secretary
Christina MacDougall, Parent
Stephen MacDougall, Parent
Melanie Moulougoum, Parent
Jane Alexander, Principal
Hilary Hampson, Parent

Opening:

The Monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order on February 2, 2016 by Bruce Giles, Chair, School Council.

1. Welcome - Chair

Bruce Giles welcomed members to the meeting. Participants introduced themselves in a round table discussion.

2. Approval of Agenda and November Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved by Christina MacDougall and seconded by Bruce Giles.

3. Happenings at OTSS Principal/Staff Report

Principal's Report for February OTSS School Council:

-Our school has been exceptionally fortunate to have been chosen as the recipient of a Canadian Welding Association grant. This prestigious grant provides annual funding of \$5000 a year for ten years to support our Welding program. We are the only school in Ontario and one of ten in Canada to be recognized. We are very proud of our Welding students and their teachers Mr. White and Mr. Giroux. More information and photos are included on the school website.

- The wrap up to the first Semester went very well. 4 days of credit rescue were run by Ms. Dunbar and Ms. Mecredy in the library with over 20 students each day taking the opportunity to rescue their credits and successfully complete coursework.
- Our Grade 8 evening and tours in January were exceptionally well attended. This is evidence of the interest in our school that is circulating in the community and bodes well for the health of our many programs.
- Today (February 2nd) a new semester began! We had our first assembly at which we honoured all of the students who earned a place on the Semester 1 Honour roll. It was a terrific way to kick off the second half of the school year.
- Semester 1 final report cards will be sent home February 9th.
- Student Council is holding a spirit week next week. Students can participate in many fun Valentine's Day activities, including a dance on the afternoon of February 11th.
- We welcome 2 new teachers to OTSS effective Semester 2. Mr. McRae will be joining us in Science and Autism Physical Education, and Ms. Vlug in Mathematics.
- Many athletic opportunities continue to be offered daily, including open gym at lunch and the Fitness centre. The next Vocom event is volleyball. As well, our Ski and Snowboard club is looking forward to 3 February dates at Camp Fortune and Edelweiss. Thank you to Ms. Weatherall and the rest of the staff who take the time and effort to organize and supervise this very popular club.
- Important upcoming dates: February 12th Professional Activity Day (no classes for students), February 15th Family Day (holiday for students and staff). March 10th Women in Trades event

4. OCASC meeting report

Beverly Naylor - OCASC Rep was not in attendance. We will add this to the March agenda.

5. Response on cancelling of December meeting

Email communication was sent to the parents. Most people present received the information.

6. The possibility of a Parent Shadow Experience at OTSS

Andrea Fisher presented the idea of a parent shadowing experience similar to Grade 9 shadow experience in the work place. The goal of the experience would be to increase parent's engagement in the school and the School Council. Parents discussed concerns; the potential to disturb students in the classroom and the need for consent of this type of activity from parents. Jane Alexander will present the idea to the teachers and provide feedback at the March meeting

7. Any suggestions for future guests at meetings

The public health nurse and technology teacher were recommended as guest speakers at future meetings. Suggestions were for the public health nurse to address health issues and interventions provided to students. Suggestions for the technology teacher were to present trends and changing technology that create opportunities for students. Jane Alexander will make arrangements for the speakers at the March and April meetings.

8. Updates on any ongoing Council projects

Organizers of the multi-cultural dinner in April/May were not present at the meeting.

Jane Alexander will look into the status of having the Parent Resource Library on the school's web-site. Parents will be able to visit the site to review book titles. This year's Pro-Grant will be used to purchase multimedia items for the Library.

The School Board is changing the web-site of the school. Jenifer Tremblay has requested an up-date of the progress.

9. Any other concerns/questions members have about upcoming school events

No concerns were identified. The **next Parent Teacher meeting will be: February 25, 2016.**

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm by Christina MacDougall, seconded by Hilary Hampson.

11. Next meeting: March 1, 2016 in School Library