

OTSS School Council

Ottawa Technical Secondary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 5 2015

Location: School Library

Present:

Bruce Giles, Parent and Chair

Jane Alexander, Principal

Jenifer Tremblay, Vice-Principal

Angel Linton, Teacher and Head of Student Services

Andrea Fisher, Parent and Secretary

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order on May 5, 2015 by Bruce Giles at 7:00 pm., Chair, School Council.

1. Welcome – Chair

Bruce Giles welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Discussion on volunteer opportunities with Angela Linton, Head of Student Services

Angela reviewed the requirement for diploma students to complete 40 hours of volunteer hours. Students are encouraged to complete and submit hours during Grade 9 and 10. The Community Involvement Notification and Activity Completion Sheet – *is attached*. The following information is required: activity, number of hours, completion date, location, phone number, supervisor's signature, principal/designate's signature. There are many opportunities in the community for student's to volunteer. Some students have used supervisors from their volunteer experience as a reference.

Information is available:

<http://www.volunteerottawa.ca/index.php/volunteer/get-started-volunteer-links/find-an-opportunity>

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes from April 7, 2015 meeting.

April minutes approved by Andrea Fisher, seconded by Bruce Giles.

4: Happenings at OTSS Principal/Vice-Principal Report

Recent happenings....

Ms. Last's cosmetology students held a very successful 4th annual Paint for Life event on April 29th. Over 100 manicures were done on students, staff and community

members. \$1000 was raised for cancer research.

OTSS's baking students won Gold; beating our 19 other teams in the Algonquin College Baking competition. Congratulations to the team of Jenny and Charlotte and teacher Mme. Sauve.

Three OTSS students are currently at the Skills Ontario competition in Waterloo, competing in the areas of masonry, welding and baking against students from all over the province.

Upcoming events...

Students will have the opportunity to complete the Tell Them from Me Survey, beginning May 19th. This is an important chance for our students' voice to be heard.

The next few weeks will see a flurry of field trips and activities before we move into the summative and exam season to end what has been a terrific school year.

Spring sports are in full swing, including varsity track and baseball teams.

News from the Special Education department

Congratulations to the students in the Autism Unit who participated in planting and maintaining the Community Gardens at the Vanier Partage Food Bank. Last week the students received a community volunteer award for their work and dedication. We are back at the gardens again this spring!

News from the Coop department

Students that are taking co-op are doing really well in their placements! It is just past the halfway mark and they should have accumulated enough hours (110) for 1 credit and are starting on their second credit.

At our most recent integration session we had a guest speaker from Northern Lights come and speak to the students about interview skills, getting and keeping a job and ways to find a job. The students found it very informative.

Students are working hard on their summative presentation that will be presented to the class the week of June 1.

5. Information on GLP Students to be integrated into the adaptive program.

Decisions are made on a case by case basis. Students are integrated into workshops in Grade 11.

6. Any suggestions on how to improve future meetings and possible guests

Email and phone messages to remind parents of the meetings are not consistently sent. Jane reported that the web-site was moving to a new platform and improvements are planned to showcase the important work of the school.

Members discussed exploring opportunities to use social media, i.e. skype, Facebook, twitter to engage parents to participate in meetings/school activities. Jane will meet with media staff and report feedback at the June meeting.

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

No concerns or questions

8. Added agenda item – One-day workshop, Beyond Graduation, April 11 2015

Presented by: Citizen Advocacy, Lifetime Networks, Families Matter Co-op, Community Foundation of Ottawa and Plan Institute for Caring Citizenship.

Andrea attended the workshop and provided an up-date. This workshop is designed for both a student with a disability and family members. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a head start on creating a plan for a good life after graduation. This workshop includes work exercises to supports students to explore their own ideas and possibilities. Families are provided important tools and information about resources to plan for beyond graduation.

This full day workshop is offered twice a year in the Spring and Fall. The cost is \$35 and lunch is included. It was an excellent learning opportunity to meet the course facilitators, students and other families. The day included informative presentations by the course facilitators, successful student stories from both a student and parent perspective. It was also an excellent opportunity to learn more about community resources. Five families from OTSS participated. My family, including my 15 year old daughter, really enjoyed the day. I appreciated meeting experts in the community that I can contact with questions. The families went home with a lot of written materials; handouts and a book.

9. Next meeting June 2 2015 in School Library

10. Adjournment

The meeting of May 5, 2015 was adjourned at 7:30 pm by Andrea Fisher, seconded by Bruce Giles.