

Annual Report – OTLC School Council 2008-2009

June 2009

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It gives me great pleasure to provide this annual report on behalf of the members of the OTLC School Council. Over the course of this school year, a vibrant and enthusiastic school council held 9 monthly meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month in the OTLC School Library with an average attendance of 12 members.

Early in the school year the following slate of officers were elected:

Chair: Kimberley Allen-McGill

Vice-Chair: Dan Oickle

Secretary: Vicki Ross

OCASC Representative: Dan Oickle

The council established 3 goals for the school year in October and November, and regularly reviewed these as part of its ongoing discussions and activities throughout the year.

Goal: Transition and Building Partnerships

This academic year was very much a transition year from a school council perspective. We had a change in membership due to the usual school attrition, and as a result, new members in leadership roles. We also welcomed Mr. Barry Armstrong as the new acting principal to OTLC, and were delighted that later in the year he was confirmed in the position at OTLC.

The school council reviewed the principal's profile for OTLC.

As a school council, we consider ourselves fortunate to work with a professional, specialized and dedicated staff who work with our children, and partner with us, to foster and enable success in their secondary school education. An open letter to OTLC staff was distributed and posted on the school's website.

We congratulated OTLC staff who worked so hard to host their colleagues from all over the province in October at a province-wide Vocational Schools Conference, which is a continuing education and professional development opportunity for teaching and administrative staff. A special note of appreciation and congratulations for Mr. Reg Lavergne, OTLC's vice-principal, who co chaired the event, and will be leaving OTLC at the end of 2009 to a new post as Principal of Hillcrest High School.

As part of our work, we reviewed a number of recognition opportunities for staff and community partners, and nominated one of the school's community partners for a Community Award. The council thanks the OCDSB and Mr. Jacques Lavallee of Barrhaven Flooring, who was selected as the recipient of the 2009 Community Award by the Board.

The Council also provided feedback on new staff initiatives regarding school image, employer presentations, student-led conferences, work experience programs, and commencement ceremonies.

Goal: Communications – Internal/External

The school council supported an initiative brought forward by OTLC students to change the school's name. Five potential names were forwarded to the Board by a Committee that included school council representatives. We look forward to the Board's deliberations in the future on this issue.

For the first time in many years, the Council was represented at OCASC meetings. OTLC's representative, Mr. Dan Oickle, not only represented the school council, but has agreed to take on additional responsibilities within OCASC for the 2009-2010 school year.

A draft of a School Council Constitution was researched by Brenda Reisch, and was developed by a small committee. We hope to have the constitution formally adopted early in the 2009-2010 academic year, and look forward to feedback from our membership in the meantime.

With the Parent's Reaching Out grant - \$500, we purchased a new table top exhibit and developed materials designed to provide information to parents about the council, hopefully foster increased involvement next year, and to welcome parents to the council and the school in 2009-2010.

We were delighted to have Trustee Bronwyn Funicello speak at one of our meetings.

Student Council representatives Nathan Akindolire and Deanna Lamoureux briefed the council on the activities of their colleagues.

Goal: Bringing the outside in

The school council supported the addition of a sexual health service, and endorsed the introduction of an addictions counselling service for students and their families.

Our chair represented the council at the Grade 8 Information Night, that unfortunately due to extreme weather was poorly attended.

As a school council, we held several discussions about the image of the school and are determined to foster a positive reputation and create an environment that celebrates the achievements of students, staff, and community partners who make such a difference in this educational institution.

I thank all my fellow council members who attended the meetings and contributed to our many discussions, and as a result made this year of transition and growing such a success!

Respectfully submitted

Kimberley Allen-McGill
Chair, OTLC School Council