

Annual Report 2009-2010 Ottawa Technical Secondary School Council

It gives me great pleasure to provide this annual report on behalf of the members of the OTSS School Council. Over the course of this school year, a vibrant and enthusiastic school council held 10 monthly meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month in the OTSS School Library with an average attendance of 10 members. Early in the school year the following slate of officers were elected: Kimberley Allen-McGill, Chair; Dan Oickle, Vice-Chair and OCSAC Representative; Vicki Ross, Secretary.

The school council at OTSS is an advisory group made up of parents and staff representatives. At each meeting, we aim to discuss matters of interest to parents of OTSS students, and to support the school community. One of the highlights of each meeting is to receive informative (and often illuminating!) reports from the dedicated staff at the Ottawa Technical Secondary School who work with our children each day. We thank them for their hard work and for sharing their professional expertise, skills, gifts, and immense talents with our families!

The following is a summary of the school council's activities this year:

- A newly purchased display and information materials were on hand at Meet the Teacher night on September 24
- Over the Fall months, H1N1 was a popular topic at school council meetings, and we were pleased to receive information from school staff on both in school and board initiatives in this regard.
- A contact list of school staff was posted on the school's website for parent's information
- With the assistance of school staff, a look at the demographics of OTSS's students was prepared in order to assist with our deliberations with parent outreach activities.
- The Board's budget was an item of discussion at several meetings, and the council received reports from consultation sessions held in this regard.
- The school council display was again on hand at Parent-Teacher interviews in November, and again at Grade 8 Information Night in January.
- Our council is an active member of the Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils (OCSAC), and we participated in a survey on school council outreach programs. We were pleased to review and benefit from many good ideas shared by other school councils, and are now working on putting these into action.

Our school council does not fundraise for a number of reasons, and the only monies handled by the Council is the \$500 Parent's Reaching Out Grant provided by the board annually. This year, we are using these funds to purchase fridge magnets, that are printed with school contact information, together with meeting notices that we hope will entice parents to join us at a meeting or two next year. We have also developed a sticker to go on school information forms in the Fall requesting parental permission to add names to a school council e-mail and telephone list for communication purposes. A supply of postage will also be purchased so that we may welcome and inform any new parents joining the OTSS school community in the Fall.

Last, but certainly not least, we were delighted with the Board's decision to change the name of the Ottawa Technical Learning Center to Ottawa Technical Secondary School as of May 1, 2010. This initiative has been most firmly supported by the parents at school council meetings during its various phases over the past three years.

Thank you to all the many volunteers, who faithfully attended meetings, lent a hand, participated in discussions and shared their views around the school council table and provided support and feedback in various ways!

Respectfully submitted on June 30, 2010,
Kimberley Allen-McGill, Chair, Ottawa Technical Secondary School Council 2009-2010