

OTSS School Council

Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2013

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h05 on September 10, 2013 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

Present

Alberta Skwarchuk
Bruce Giles
Bu Gay
Carl Dobbin
Jane Alexander
Howard Crerar
Linda Kuo
Judy Dwyer
Kelli Watson

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 19:05hr.

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from June 4, 2013**

Approved by Linda Kuo.

- **Happenings at OTSS Principal / Staff report**

Members introduced to OTSS new principal Jane Alexander

Happenings at the school – Jane Alexander

- Ms. Alexander started with a brief description of her experience working at Brookfield High School.
- She reiterated her belief that all students are teachable, we just have to find out how.
- She also brought up the possibility of a School Garage Sale in the spring to raise funds for programs at the school
- The policy memorandum which outlines the guidelines for the sale of food and beverages in the school (PPM 150) allows the Principal to designate up to 10 school days in a year during which the sale of food/beverages outside those parameters are permitted. I brought this to the attention of the School Council for their input, as we would like to allow for the 10 accommodating school activities like bake sales, pizza days, etc. The Council agreed to have the ten days spread over the school year

OTHER NEWS

- Council was reminded of the fact that the school will be having a Terry Fox Run on September 27, 2013
- The school will also be having a Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday September 18
- As in the past year, the School Council will have a "Meet and Greet" with the parents near the end of the evening in the library
- When the question was put to the Council as to how to attract more parents to the meetings the suggestion was made to have a survey made up to be given to the parents at the Meet the Teacher night
- It was agreed this would be a good idea and a survey will be done with three questions regarding the School Council. There will also be a place where parents can make their own suggestions.

Tech News from Lydia Hamilton

- Students have been working diligently on Safety assignments in the shops.
- Tech teachers are participating in Ministry of Labour safety workshops starting this week and over the next several weeks.
- Students will begin projects once they have successfully completed their safety training.

Special Education and Department News

Autism Program

- 11 new students were welcomed to the program this year (growing from 24 to 30 students, plus 4 new staff members)
- The weekly schedule will have swimming, library visits, and other community excursions, with skating to be added in late October.
- Half-day work placements have begun at various sites, with staff and students travelling by OC Transpo – the Ottawa Hospital prepping "tips" for the cancer research lab, for one.

BIP

- First BIP breakfast
- New BIP title – program "Focus on Success" – unofficial title
- Upcoming field trip: fishing

Storefront

- One student continues his paid job at French Co. and has added a Monday shift to his previous Thursday shift. This was a job he secured after a successful work placement.
- Another student continues her paid job at Tommy Hilfiger and has continued to add more shifts. This week she is working 3 shifts (Mon., Thurs., and Sun.). Typically last school year was only getting 1 shift a week
- We are continuing our ongoing bus training. So far we have travelled on the #95, 96 and 114. We plan on doing much more as the month continues.

- One more student successfully interviewed at St. Hubert's and they are willing to take him on as a co-op student working in the kitchen prep. This is wonderful since St. Hubert's continues to work with Storefront exclusively. They are impressed with our students and their maturity (phoning when sick, properly dressed and groomed and offering 1x per week job coaching on site)

Physical Education, Athletics and the Arts

Fall Varsity Sports

- Staff is promoting fall sport opportunities for school teams. Each school year, the winning combination of willing volunteer staff-coach(es) and the necessary number of committed student-athletes create memorable experiences for all involved & promote school pride. The deadline to enter NCSSAA Fall Sports is this coming Thursday September 12, 2013. Teams being considered include: Sr. Boys Soccer*, Sr. Boys Volleyball*, Co-ed Cross Country running and Sr. Boys Golf*

NOTES:

- Where girls teams do not exist for a particular sport, girls are permitted to try out/play on boys teams.
- Where junior teams do not exist in a particular sport, Jr.'s may try out for Sr. teams. Coaches usually reserve spots on the roster to ensure player development and program sustainability.
- Further information on our Mustang Sport programs can be found on the school website: http://www.otss.ocdsb.ca/Ahtletics_and_Clubs/athletics.htm

Fall Vocom Sports

- Once again, O.T.S.S. is proud to continue its award winning intramural program in partnership with Sir Guy Carleton S.S. There are typically 13 different sports offered throughout the year featuring more than 20 teams. Our goal is to provide students the opportunity to; experience the thrill of being on a school team, the opportunity to develop team work skills in a positive, safe environment, to improve their fitness and/or sports skills, to make new friends and perhaps uncover a strength or hidden talent waiting to be discovered. The Vocom Sports League kicks off the year with Ultimate Frisbee followed by Flag Football and Soccer. Please encourage your son or daughter to join.

Health and Physical Education News and Special Events

- The Phys. Ed. Dept. continues to find creative ways to promote and encourage healthy active lifestyles by offering a variety of fun lunch time activities for students, accessing the on-site fitness centre, gym or school sports fields
- The annual National School Terry Fox School Run, Walk, Ride and Roll, will take place on Friday September 27, 2013 (rain date Monday September 30). This is our 9th year of involvement demonstrating a compassion for those facing this health challenge. Students will benefit fro a short assembly before

participating in the all-school activity. It is a truly inclusive event, i.e. students moving in a variety of different ways – walk, jog, roller blade, cycling, wheelchairs and walkers

- For the 6th year in a row, O.T.S.S. has been awarded the Secondary School Quality Daily Physical Education Award by Physical Education Canada! We are 1 of only a few schools in our School Board to be recognized. All aspects of the physical education program, intramurals and athletics, are assessed before the honor is bestowed. We received a large banner that will be put, along with the other 5, in the gymnasium as a testament to the hard work and enthusiasm demonstrated by our Physical Education teaching staff, teacher-Coaches and students athletes. Go Mustangs Go!!
- Once again this fall, there will be an opportunity to purchase school apparel; affordable tees, polo shirts, sweats, book bags and much more. It is an opportunity for staff and students to demonstrate school pride in some pretty snazzy swag. So watch for an information sheet in your son or daughter's school bag in the coming weeks.
- We continue to make community connections that enrich the delivery of our various health and physical education courses so our students will hopefully stay "fit for life". These typically include: local fitness clubs, e.g. Goodlife in the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, City of Ottawa pools, McArthur Bowling lanes, nearby golf courses, public tennis courts, baseball diamonds and horseshoe pits, to name but a few. We participate in educational programs offered by the General Hospital and Royal Ottawa Hospital to address lifestyle and mental health issues. We also receive support from the City of Ottawa Health Branch through our assigned Public Health Nurse who visits classes with age and grade appropriate information on various topics including: nutrition, sexuality, stress management, etc.

What's on in the Arts

- Educational research continues to confirm that "The Arts" is a rich and rewarding subject domain, with legitimate employment opportunities, develops an appreciation for culture, helps students discover skills and talents that foster positive self-esteem and even contribute to student success in other subject areas.
- One of the unique opportunities to students at O.T.S.S. in grade 9 is the Arts Carousel. Students get to "try" different disciplines in the Arts and see if they like it, or are good at it. If the answer is "yes" to either they can sign up the following year to take a full credit course in that particular Arts discipline.
- The Arts is an inclusive subject area, involving all of the education program areas; adaptive and system classes (Physical Support Program, General Learning Program and Autism). Joining our regular cast of Arts Teachers: Mr. Brown (music), Ms. Crupi (drama) and Mrs. Williams (visual arts), to deliver these wonderful courses are returning Teachers – Mrs. Gaunt and Mrs. Persi
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- **Student Services**

Start-up has gone smoothly – students are timetabled and counselors are now in the process of calling students down for TT change requests

Counselors: Angela Linton – for students with last names beginning A-F
 Krista Nibogje – for students with last names beginning G-Z

- **Meet the Teacher – September 18, 2013**

See notes in "Other News"

- **Other dates to remember**

September 12 – School photos

September 20 – Last day for semester 1 changes to TT

September 27 – Terry Fox Walk, Run and Roll and BBQ lunch

October 1 – School Council meeting

October 11 – PA Day – no classes

October 14 – Thanksgiving – no classes

October 17 – P/T interviews

- **Adjournment – next meeting November 5, 2013**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns (from notes provided).