

Ottawa Technical Secondary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15 2015

Location: School Library

Present:

Bruce Giles, Parent and Chair
Jane Alexander, Principal
Andrea Fisher, Parent and Secretary
Naveed Khan, Parent
Surria Jabeen, Parent
Chantelle Crete, Parent
Marc Surprenant, Parent
Melanie Moulougoum, Parent
Chris Ellis, Trustee
Sylvie Del Bianco, Parent
Shel Gerber, Parent
Beverly Naylor, OCASC Representative

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order on September 15, 2015 by Bruce Giles at 7:00 pm., Chair, School Council.

1. Welcome – Chair

Bruce Giles welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Introduction of School Council and School Staff Members

Member introduced themselves in a round table discussion. Chris Ellis, Trustee of Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) introduced himself and circulated a document with 2015-16 priorities.

Contact information: Chris.Ellis@ocdsb.ca

3. No minutes for June 2015 School Council Meeting

4. Election for 2015-2016 School Council

Roles for election include: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month between 7:00-8:30. The election will be held on the October meeting.

A decision was made to re-instate the Ottawa Carleton Assembly School Council (OCASC) position. Beverly Naylor will be the representative for OTSS. Chris Ellis, Trustee of OCDSB has waved the fee. Up-dates will be provided at future meetings.

5: Happenings at OTSS Principal Report

Principal's Report for School Council - September 15, 2015

-By all accounts, we have had a very good start up. Students have generally settled in well to their classes and the routines of the school.

-Our enrolment is healthy, and we predict that we will meet our spring projection of 430 students. This is great as it allows us to continue to offer the programs and course options that we had planned for.

-There have been some staff changes from last school year. We had three individuals retire in June; Wendi Morris, a long time Educational Assistant (EA) in our Autism program; Janet Dorken, another long time EA who was responsible for implementing our Remediation Plus program (an individual reading remediation program that was critical in helping many of our students who struggled with literacy skills) and Rob Lockwood, our long standing Head of Phys. Ed. and the Arts and Athletic Director.

-Returning to OTSS from various leaves are teachers John White (welding), Jennifer Bird (english and science), Christine Newman (academic resource) and Heather Galigan (Head of English & Canadian and World studies).

-We also have two new department heads who have been teachers at the school for many years. Sarah Rush assumes the role of Head of Physical Education and the Arts and will be our new Athletic Director. Lil Jones is our new Head of Technology and Science.

-Some new course offerings and programs for the coming school year...

-The Empower Reading program, designed to provide year long support to struggling readers. We are the first secondary school in the province to implement this program.

-Achievement support tailored specifically for our ASD students.

-An entrepreneurship course in second semester, working with service dogs in the school to learn skills such as dog training and care.

-More opportunities for students to take Green Industries courses and work in our extensive greenhouse facilities.

-Overall, our staff are committed in many areas of the curriculum to a focus on authentic project based learning, such as the examples already provided. We want our students engaged, appropriately challenged, and accumulating skills that will ensure them success in whatever pathway they are travelling.

Many activities and clubs are already up and running. These include Vocom sports such as ultimate frisbee and varsity teams such as golf, boys soccer and girls basketball. Many students are preparing for their coop placements and will be at their coop sites very soon.

Our annual Terry Fox Walk, Run and Roll to raise awareness and funds to support cancer research is scheduled for Friday September 25

6. Letters or e-mail to OC Transpo to get the name of the school right (OTLC)

Chris agreed to follow-up with OC Transpo to recommend changing the name of the school to OTSS (currently OTLC).

7. Introduction of Parents Reference Library

A resource list of parenting resource books will be on the web-site. The books will be housed in the front corner of the library. Parent can sign out books from the library.

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

The Policy Officer assigned to OTSS will be invited to attend the October Meeting. He has a strong presence in the school and is widely respected by the students.

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

The meet the teacher evening hosted in the Fall is on hold at this time – Work to Rule Mandate. Parents can make an appointment to meet the teacher during the day. Jane encouraged parents to email any concerns to her attention.

10. Adjournment

The meeting of September 15, 2015 was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Bruce Giles, seconded by Andrea Fisher.

9. Next meeting: October 6 2015 in School Library

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) priorities 2015-16

Last June the Board passed a new Strategic Plan to guide it through to 2019. This new plan has five areas: **Learning, Well-being, Engagement, Equity, and Stewardship.**

The Board will be addressing all five areas but placing immediate and focused attention on Stewardship following recent comments by the premier on underutilized school space and direction from the Ministry of Education. Strategies listed under Stewardship are:

- Improve access to learning environments and optimize the use of all resources through school accommodation and program review planning;
- Enhance operational practices to effectively and responsibly manage human and financial resources in support of students;
- Model sustainability, smart energy use and sound environmental practices for students.

The Ministry of Education has told boards to update their policy for boundary and program review and school closures to reflect its Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG), released in March 2015. The OCDSB is aiming to update its policy by the end of December 2015. In tandem with this, trustees are considering the development of overarching principles for providing schools to communities in ways that will help optimize the other areas of the strategic plan. The details of if and how consultation will take place for these two initiatives have yet to be fleshed out.

Currently there is a consultation going on for “The School as a Community Hub” which will have implications for how we wish our schools to be part of our communities.

Zone 6 meetings, Fall 2015

On a more personal note, this is the start of the first full school year that I have been trustee for Zone 6 Rideau-Rockcliffe and Alta Vista and I'm looking forward to the opportunities to hear from you. In addition to keeping in touch with school councils and community associations, this year I will be holding zone meetings open to any and all constituents:

- The first one will be **Saturday, October 17, 9:30 to 10:30 am** in the Aubrey Room (by the library) at the St.Laurent Complex. Come for the hour or just drop in to say hi. Coffee and other refreshments will be served.
- The second one, which will be more formal, will be **Saturday, November 14, 10:00 am to noon** at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre. Stay tuned for further details.

On Saturday, October 3, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils and the OCDSB will be holding their annual School Council Training Day. I plan to attend and hope to see some of you.

Chris Ellis

Trustee OCDSB Zone 6 Rideau-Rockcliffe and Alta Vista

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