

Ottawa Technical Secondary School School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 5, 2016

Location: School Library

Present:

Bruce Giles, Parent and Chair
Shelly Gerber, Parent and Co-Chair
Andrea Fisher, Parent and Secretary
Jane Alexander, Principal

Opening:

The monthly school council meeting of the OTSS was called to order on April 5, 2016 by Shelly Gerber, Co-Chair, School Council.

1. Welcome - Chair

Shelly Gerber welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Sarah Rush provided an up-date on OTSS's Leash Leaders program

Sarah Rush provided an overview of the Leash Leaders program. The program has been successful and received a very positive response from the students. The students are actively engaged in the care of the dogs. Students have successfully completed a pet first aid course. Students participated in a tour of the Humane Society. Parents recognized Sarah for her vision and leadership in developing this important program.

3. Approval of Agenda and February Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved by Bruce Giles and seconded by Jane Alexander.

4. Happenings at OTSS Principal/Staff Report

We've had lots of starts and stops recently with the numerous snow days and holidays, but it has been a positive first third of the semester.

-57 of our students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy test last Thursday. We had a team of staff who organized the day, including a rousing

game of dodgeball before the test began to get everybody energized, and a healthy lunch provided by our cooking students.

-Our Women in Trades event on March 10th was a HUGE success, with over 100 girls from grades 7 and up visiting the school to learn about opportunities in the Trades & Technology and to meet women with successful careers in these areas. We are hoping to make this an annual showcase event. Thanks go to all of the students and staff who participated and a special thank you to Ms. Loker who was the architect of this event.

-Currently we are working on our spring staffing process and associated with that is the building of the timetable for next year.

Our Senior GLP group and Link Crew went on a 3 day camping trip to Tim Horton's camp in Quyon, Quebec. The experience was a huge success for all involved.

-Spring sports are revving up, including Track and Field and continuing VOCOM events.

-OTSS's website is being converted to a new Board-wide template, so it will look different in the future and we hope to continue to make improvements so that it is more user friendly and comprehensive.

5. OCASC meeting report

Beverly Naylor - OCASC Rep was not in attendance. We will add this to the May agenda.

6. Any suggestions on future guests at meetings.

No suggestions.

7. Updates on any ongoing Council projects

Andrea Fisher presented the idea of a parent shadowing experience similar to Grade 9 shadow experience in the work place at the February meeting. The goal of the experience would be to increase parent's engagement in the school and the School Council. Jane Alexander discussed with a small group of teachers. The teachers expressed concerns about parents disturbing class room activities. Jane Alexander will present the idea to more teachers and provide feedback at the May meeting.

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

Suggestions were made for Mr. Loewen to speak at the next meeting about the outdoor education program. Jane Alexander will invite Mr. Loewen to the May meeting.

Organizers of the multi-cultural dinner in April/May were not present at the meeting. The dinner will be delayed to the fall.

Jane Alexander will look into the status of having the Parent Resource Library on the school's web-site. Parents will be able to visit the site to review book titles. This year's Pro-Grant will be used to purchase multimedia items for the Library.

9. Adjournment

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

10. Next meeting: May 3 at 7:00pm in School Library