

OTSS School Council

Draft - Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2013

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h00 on June 4, 2012 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

Present

Barry Armstrong
Howard Crerar
Bruce Giles
Susanne Striegler
Carl Dobbin
Jane Alexander
Annette Vogt-Cearns
Linda Kuo
Natasha Heston

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 1904hr.

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from May 7 2013**

Howard had comments about the minutes. On the 2nd page, about the bullying conference, 3rd bullet point - only 5 types of bullying listed. Bruce checked his notes, 6th type of bullying is physical.

Natasha distributed copies of a local newspaper article about a new anti-bullying program coming to the OCDSB.

Natasha moved, and Linda seconded approval of updated minutes.

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

Barry introduced Jane Alexander, who is the new principal coming to OTSS from Brookfield HS.

Jane described her background – she started as a science teacher in spec ed and this will be her 6th school. She is very excited to be here and believes all kids are teachable; We need to be flexible and find out how.

Barry is going to sir Wilfred Laurier HS in Orleans – he came from there and is very pleased to be going back.

Happenings at the school - Carl Dobbin

June 18th is the end of the term for the adaptive students.

June 19th exams start.
June 25th is the last day for system classes.
June 28th 1pm is commencement.

Sept 3rd – 1st day of classes
Sept 10th – School Council meeting

Math Department

- Math recommendations for positive achievement has been submitted by math teachers. Students who successfully completed pre-requisites will be moved forward and closer to their numeracy goals.
- Science teachers Jaime McDonald and Miroslawa Wasilewski took advantage of school board funded release time (1.5 days) to continue organization of our lab area. The event helped us maintain a safe learning environment for students.

Physical Education, Athletics and the Arts

Spring Vocom Sports

- Co-ed Track and Field took place on Fri May 1th at the Terry Fox Athletic complex, involving throwing, running and jumping events with about 25 students, with OTSS the victors by the narrowest of margins.
- Co-ed Software on May 31st concluded this year's Vocom Sports League.

Varsity Sports

- A group of 20 competitors, 4 staff/coaches and a student team of minor officials attended a series of qualifying meets beginning with the East Division Championships on May 15, followed by the City Championships May 22nd. These are Tier 1 open meets and highly competitive with many accomplished local athletes participating. Despite these odds, 3 of our student-athletes qualify to compete in the NCSSAA Championships: Dylan S., Meenah Y. and Rily R. By virtue of their performance at the City Championships both Dylan and Meenah will travel to Belleville to compete in their specialty events as part of the Regional Track and Field Championships, May 30 and 31st. NEWS FLASH: Both have qualified for OFSAA Track and Field Championships in Oshawa, June 6 – 8. This is Dylan's 3rd time back and enters the competition ranked #1 in discus, and Meenah's 1st (in fact the 1st ever that a female student from OTSS has qualified for OFSAA in any sport!!).

Physical Education News

- Approx. 40 students applied for free cycling helmets as a result of a recent initiative of the Education Foundation of Ottawa and their partners. Students will receive their helmets through the school before classes finish for the summer.
- Thanks to some central funds from the school board, senior students from both the PE and Co-op were able to come together to take a FREE certification course in emergency first aid and CPR certification, a much valued

certification by employers. This opportunity was valued at over \$150 per student. Two groups attended either 3 mornings or 3 afternoons to complete the course.

- The Outdoor Ed club enjoyed the last trip of the school year to Lac Phillipe, Gatineau hills. The weather tested students and staff alike. Despite the cold wet conditions, everyone found a way to live and laugh. Monies for this trip were largely funded by a Ministry of Education grant that was brought to our attention by school board staff.

In the Arts

- Mr. Brown's Autism music class participated in the Glebe collegiate talent show for students with special needs by special invitation on Friday May 31st. The show featured solo vocal performances by Ben and Ashley and a special ensemble 'movement to music' performance by the remaining students.

Co-op Department

- As the school year draws to a close the co-op students are very busy. They are ensuring that they have enough hours to accomplish the 2 credit program (which is 220 hours); they need to complete their summative assignment and demonstrate to their co-op teacher what they have learned at their placement. It is a busy but very rewarding time as they see what they have accomplished and how far they have come!
- A joint effort between Co-op and Phys Ed certified 29 students in St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid and CPR. The students spent 3 half days with a St. John's instructor and are now qualified and can indicate this qualification on their resume. Plus the cost was FREE.

Tech News

- On May 3rd, 13 grade 8 students from Queen Elizabeth school had the opportunity to participate in hands on full period (75 minutes) activities. Senior students from OTSS mentored our visiting students in their area of skill. QE students arrived at OTSS, divided into 2 groups, each with a QE teacher. They went to cosmetology, welding, woodworking, and baking where they created lunch and dessert for all of the grade 8 students.
- May 31st – 9 students completed their Falls Prevention Certification, which is recognized by industry employers.
- June 8 and 15 – 6 Green Industries students will have the opportunity to obtain their mini excavator, forklift, scissor and boom lift certifications.
- This week students will begin their summatives in the Tech department. Eligible students will also have credit recovery opportunities during exam week in the afternoons.
- Despite sanctions earlier in the year, the OTSS team has pulled together to support our students in many extracurricular experiences!

English / Social Science / Languages

- Summatives across the department have begun. Students are engaging in a vast variety of tasks such as: analyzing graphic novels, comparing "The

Avengers” to classic Greek myths, building their perfect family, analyzing classic rock songs that relate to the cold war, and learning classic inspirational poetry.

- Civics students are getting the chance to see Canadian democracy first hand as they tour the Parliament Buildings on June 3rd. This is a critical piece of learning in the class as it sets theory in a practical setting and lets the students see the processes they have been learning about in action.

Principal's Report

Barry Armstrong –

- Flag out front is half-mast – Mark Laporte EA from the physical support unit retired in December, battled cancer and died on Saturday.
- Question to co-chairs – what extent do you want to be involved in commencement ceremony? You can address graduates on stage, or present diplomas, or not. Natasha and Bruce decided they will be presenting awards to the graduating students, and make a presentation.
- Tell Them From Me survey – all of our classes except autism participated in May to complete the survey. Our results will be based on 229 students who participated. The survey was completed on line and 2 days after the principal closed it, the results were given. Barry brought copies that were given to staff. It will be brought to the students in the fall by Jane. There are 3 different reports. Barry went through the first report. Barry explained no study hall next year (due to new board policy of teachers in front of all rooms) so there will be more teachers in the hallways (where 30% of bullying occurs). The administration next year will be using the reports in the fall, and will address the issues brought up by the results. The second report is on Student Outcomes and School Climate – Social/Emotional Outcomes, Physical Health Outcomes, and Drivers of Student Outcomes. The third report is based on student’s opinions on the school and staff – unedited.
- PRO Grant – peel off bumper stickers 6 X 3.5 inches. We need to decide what to put on them. Barry and Natasha said the letters OTSS and the school emblem in the school colors.
- **OCASC Report**

Susanne had nothing to report at this time.

- **Reminder School Council meeting in new year starts Sept 10, 2013 – the second Tuesday of the month.**
- **Any other business**

There was no other business raised.

- **Good bye to our Principal**

Barry said good bye and that he will miss OTSS – he feels that the staff has done wonderful things for the students, having a supportive school council and he is proud of his tenure here.

Bruce and Natasha gave him a thank you card signed by the school council.

- **Adjournment – next meeting September 10, 2013**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susanne Striegler.