

Ottawa Technical Secondary School School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 6, 2015

Location: School Library

Present:

Bruce Giles, Parent and Chair
Jane Alexander, Principal
Andrea Fisher, Parent and Secretary
Chantelle Crete, Parent
Christina MacDougall
Marc Surprenant, Parent
Shel Gerber, Parent
Beverly Naylor, OCASC Representative
Hilary Hampson
Stephen MacDougall
Michelle Thompson

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order on October 6, 2015 by Bruce Giles at 7:00 pm., Chair, School Council.

1. Welcome – Chair

Bruce Giles welcomed members to the meeting. A special thank you to Jane for providing lemonade and cookies.

The September meeting minutes were approved by Beverly Naylor and seconded by Bruce Giles with the following corrections: 1. Add Beverly Naylor to the list of members participating in the meeting; 2. Add to #4. Election for 2015-2016, School Council, 2nd paragraph: 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.

2. Const. Alex Kirady, School Resource Officer, SRO assigned to OTSS

The school has had an SRO for 10 years. It has been a very positive experience for students to interact with the officer. Const. Alex Kirady is replacing Const. Cory McAree. Const. Kirady talked about his police experience and he discussed examples of positive interactions with students.

3. Happenings at OTSS Principal/Staff Report

Our Terry Fox Walk, Run and Roll was a terrific success in September, with an awesome turnout of participants and money raised to support cancer research.

Last week, the school said goodbye to our SRO, Cory McAree. who has been such an important part of the school community. We took a school photo with Cory and celebrated with cake for the entire student body. Taking over from Cory as our new School Resource Officer is Alex Kirady. Alex is familiar with our school, having covered for Cory for much of last year and we welcome him back.

Teachers sanctions have ended. Support staff sanctions are currently in place. Please refer to the labour relations updates on the board website for specific information. All of our staff are and will continue to be dedicated to the safety and well-being of our students.

OTSS is looking to reinvigorate our "Retro Room", which provides our students opportunities to work on retail work skills while also providing used clothing to needy students at little or no cost. We are currently looking for donations of gently used clothing, in particular boy's items. Any donations can be brought to the main office.

Progress reports will be sent home on Thursday October 8. Friday October 9 is a PD day, so there will be no classes for students.

Parent teacher interviews will be held on Thursday October 15th. More information will be sent to all parents and guardians via a letter and synvoice message.

One of our school community's most eagerly anticipated events, the Awards of Excellence, are being held tomorrow, Wednesday October 7. Parents of students who are in Grade 10-12 and are receiving an award (subject awards, honour roll, attendance awards) have been invited to attend.

Opportunities to participate in athletics are always plentiful at OTSS. Currently the fall sports season is up and running with such interscholastic teams as boys soccer, golf and girl's basketball. VOCOM opportunities are also ongoing. Students should listen/watch for announcements over the PA, at Monday assemblies and on the TV monitors in the foyer to make sure they are aware of tryouts and practice times.

Our running club continues to meet several times a week. An outdoor education trip to Gatineau park is also being planned.

4. Election for 2015-2016 School Council

Roles for election included: Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month between 7:00-8:30. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their interests in the leadership roles. The following parents were elected:

- Bruce Gillis, continue as Chair
- Shel Gerber, Co-Chair
- Andrea Fisher, continue as Secretary

The School Council does not have a teacher representative.

5: Any suggestions on how to improve and what you would like to see accomplished in the goals of future meetings.

Parents discussed the importance of giving a voice to parents who want to participate but may not be able to attend the meetings. Carpooling was identified as one strategy to assist parents to participate in future meetings.

Chantelle Crete will develop a flyer with information about members of School Council. She will send an email communication requesting information for ideas.

Michelle Thompson will send a certificate to the students winning awards with a congratulation message from the School Council.

Suggestions were made to host a "Round the World" pot luck dinner with families. January end was proposed as a possible date (before exams). Further planning will be discussed at the November meeting.

6. Any suggestions on future guests at meetings

Invite a teacher to discuss Co-op opportunities.

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

No concerns/questions.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Michelle Thompson, seconded by Christina MacDougall.

9. Next meeting: November 3, 2015 in School Library

