

Woodroffe High School
School Council meeting – February 2, 2010
approved meeting minutes

Attendance: Don Eberley, Lisa Rondeau, Brenda Snarr, Caroline da Silva, Steve Gray, Brenda Packman, Anne MacDonald, Nora Elmi, Geneva Forestell, Karen Cairns, Joyce Wagland, Alison Forestell, Renald Cousineau Cassandra Douglas

Welcome & Introductions

Don Eberley welcomed all in attendance. Roundtable introductions were made.

Review of Minutes

The draft meeting minutes of December 2 were approved as presented.

Review of Agenda

The draft agenda was approved as presented.

Students' Report

Student Council Co-Chairs: Nora Elmi and Geneva Forestell reported that t-shirts will be provided for all students' council members (Mr. Blackwell is printing). A holiday assembly (co-organized with WA) in December went well. Grade 8 information night went really well. Student Council had room where members could talk to incoming students and their parents.

Upcoming events include:

- A second round of Gotcha is starting up Wednesday February 3
- Day of Pink will be held February 19 – a chance for students to wear pink representing anti-discrimination, and anti-bullying. More info can be found at: www.pinkshirtday.ca

Principal's Report

Staffing: Principal Renald Cousineau reported that many interviews for staff hiring were completed in the past week and gave an update on current staff status.

Speak-up Grant: Woodroffe High School put forth many grant applications for a total of \$2,400.00 for six projects including an events promotion wall, ELC class visits and leadership classes, and girls' book club.

Grade 8 Night: held January 14. A change from previous information nights was the bringing in as many WHS students as possible to showcase many high-school activities including dance, band and student council.

50th Reunion: Classes will be shortened the Thursday and no classes will be held the Friday before the Reunion weekend to allow for setting up and other preparations.

Revised Policy on School Transfers: Viewed as a positive change which emphasizes educational needs over the availability of physical spaces.

Bill 157: an Education Amendment Act, also known as "Keeping Our Kids Safe at School" was passed in the Ontario legislature. It requires school staff to report serious student incidents to the principal, and requires principals to contact the parents of victims. This formalizes a process that is already in practice at WHS.

Good news: On Wednesday, January 20, General Learning Program (GLP) and Dual Support Program (DSP) students from WHS were recognized at Ottawa City Hall for their efforts in the 2009 "Cleaning the Capital Campaign". Mayor O'Brien and Councillor McRae thanked the students for their commitment to volunteerism and community service. More on this story can be found at: www.ocdsb.ca/Documents/News_Releases/News_Releases_2010/NR_jan26_2010.asp

A.C.E.S.

Joyce Wagland presented the program A.C.E.S. (Alternative Character Education Students) that is based on a program at Fletcher Meadows public school in Guelph. This popular program is for disengaged students who either do not attend school regularly, or do not do the work required at school, and are generally not succeeding.

The program provides a semester of alternate education material that takes place outside the school setting with classes starting at 8:30am and ending at 1:30pm. The program is expected to revitalize the students (maximum 10) so that they may rejoin the regular school program more fully engaged.

Teacher's Report

Teacher representative, Cassandra Douglas reported that the band concert and the January dance showcase were amazing. At the holiday assembly the teacher performances were well received.

Important dates:

- Feb. 4 Grade 8 day where students will participate in Grade 9 classes
- Feb. 11 Report cards go home
- Feb. 12 No classes, professional development day
- Feb. 15 No classes, family day
- Feb. 19 Option sheets are due
- Feb. 19 Fundraiser at Chapters in the Pinecrest Mall from 5:00-8:00pm
- Feb. 20 Grade 12 marks are sent to universities
- Feb 16-26 Course transfer opportunity
- Feb. 25 Information night for 2011 Guatemala trip
- Feb 25-27 Hello Dolly performances
- Mar. 4 Blood donor clinic, must be over 17 years of age to participate
- May 18-30 Students from France will attend WHS by way of France/Canada exchange

Treasurer's Report

Brenda Snarr reported that there is no change to the financial status report from when it was last reported in December.

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Report

Brenda Packman reported on behalf of Chris King that the Parent Engagement Survey was completed by her, Don Eberley and Anne MacDonald, and submitted.

The Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization or OCISO has a video "For Our Kids" which deals with how parents can become involved in the school community and is available in 20 languages. More info can be found at: www.ociso.org/at-school.htm

OCASC has applied for a \$30,000.00 grant from the Ministry of Education to support parental involvement in schools. Response to a survey regarding this grant is requested and Chris will respond.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report

Anne MacDonald reported that there was a budget presentation which outlined some cuts to programs, but nothing critical. She noted that the Identification Placement Review Committee of IPRC is continuing with its special education plan – a major annual deliverable for the school board that SEAC reviews. A presentation of the gifted program is scheduled for the next meeting.

50th Reunion

Brenda Packman gave a status update on the many plans for WHS' 50th reunion scheduled for May 28 & 29, 2010. She and Renald Cousineau walked Council through the web site www.woodroffehs50.com

Auction

Alison Forestell reported that the January meeting of the Auction Committee was a success. The date of the auction has been set for Wednesday April 21. Admission is \$10.00 and tickets will be available for purchase at the next School Council meeting. The goal is to sell 200 tickets in total. The format of the auction is the same as of years past with both a live and silent auctions. Brenda Packman will again be organizing a pre-auction as well.

Help is requested from parents to go to businesses that have been sent a letter soliciting donations for the auction. It was noted that a personal follow-up with a copy of the letter is a successful formula in securing donations.

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| Action: Alison Forestell to send out list of businesses that have donated in the past and request volunteer help: parents to follow-up and help secure donations for this year's auction. |
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Other business

Caroline da Silva noted that the Glabar Park Community Alliance was hosting their annual Winter Fun Day at Kingmere Park on Saturday February 13 from 12:30-3:00pm. She noted that council did not have a community representative and suggested that maybe a member of GPCA would be a good fit.

Ajournment

Next meeting – March 2 at 7:00pm in the school library.