

Woodroffe High School
School Council meeting – March 2, 2010
Approved meeting minutes

Attendance: Don Eberley, Brenda Snarr, Caroline da Silva, Brenda Packman, Nora Elmi, Geneva Forestell, Karen Cairns, Diana Prosser, Becky Hughes Cloutier, Johanne Pilon Eberley, Kathy Nelson, Chris King, Katie Ritter, Alison Forestell, Renald Cousineau

Guest: Alex Cullen

Welcome & Introductions

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

Review of the Agenda

The items: Safe Schools Info night recap; and SEAC update are scratched from the agenda. Brenda Snarr requested an item to be added to New Business. The agenda was approved as amended.

Students' Report

Student Council Co-Chairs: Nora Elmi and Geneva Forestell reported that another game of Gotcha starts Thursday March 4 at lunch time. The t-shirts for the Woodroffe Athletics Association and those for the Student Council have arrived and have been distributed.

In support of school spirit, Student Council are encouraging students to participate in Jersey Day, Neon Day, Decade Day, Twin Day and Canada Day, by wearing clothes representative of that day. Student Council has been accepting student nominations for the Woodroffe Oscars for categories such as “best smile”, and “most likely to change the world”.

A 24 hour wake to raise awareness and money for AIDS will be held March 26-27 at the school.

Order forms to purchase and personalize clothes with text and logos have been distributed with the expectation that completed forms and monies will be submitted by Friday March 5. Discussion by School Council of whether this activity would be of interest to students of feeder schools and whether it could be promoted through the existing lines of communications between Councils resulted in the decision that Principal Renald Cousineau will contact his counterparts in J H Putman and D Roy Kennedy schools.

Action: Renald Cousineau to contact the Principals of WHS' feeder schools to see if they would be willing to promote WHS' Student Council's activity of personalizing clothes.

Guest presentation

Bay Ward Councillor and Ottawa Mayoral candidate, Alex Cullen presented some of his views and plans for the City of Ottawa.

He specifically noted items of direct interest to WHS including the light rail transportation system that will pass close to the school with a stop at Lincoln Fields, and the plan to address some of the pollution problems in storm waters that run through the Pinecrest corridor and are the cause of beach closures in the summer.

He answered questions on keeping it fresh after being in politics for more than 25 years, the changing demographics of the city, the balancing of quality of life and urban intensification, and the continued need to provide purposeful opportunities for our youth.

Alex Cullen thanked School Council for the opportunity to present and answer questions. He concluded that elections are about choices and encouraged everyone to look into the issues to make an informed decision on October 25.

Review of Minutes

A correction to the acronym A.C.E.S. was noted in the review of the draft meeting minutes of December 2. The minutes were approved as amended.

The Chair suggested that the minutes could be posted in its draft form shortly after the meeting to allow the school community to be aware of timely issues of Council. The risk of posting a draft document that has not been reviewed and may contain inaccuracies could cause confusion or concern with its readers.

It was decided that the benefits of an early posting outweighed the risk and that the draft minutes would be put on the publicly available web-site as soon after the meeting as possible and replaced with the approved version following the subsequent meeting.

Decision: Draft School Council meeting minutes to be posted to the school's web-site and replaced with the approved version the following month.

Principal's Report

- Staffing: Principal Renald Cousineau reported that math teacher, Adelina Valiquette replaces Meera Shah.
- Web-site: The weekly Tiger Times is now posted to the school's web-site.
- Lunch hour: The school's leadership team decided to increase the lunch time from 50 minutes to a full hour to allow for club activities and meetings as well as time to eat lunch. The extra 10 minutes will be added to the end of the school day beginning September 2010 pending approval by the school's Superintendent.

2010 school year: The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's web site is stating that the start of the next school year for students will be Tuesday September 7, 2010.

Good news: A follow-up the October 6 presentation to School Council by Scott Gordon, on the English Literacy Development (ELD) program, Renald Cousineau reported that the first semester was a success with students achieving 68 of the 76 credit and non-credit courses for a success rate of 89.5%. He noted that of the students that were not successful, three were due to the inappropriate class placement due to scheduling restrictions.

The Nutrition class under the direction of Emily Elwood raised \$250 for Haiti.

Link crews: The mentoring of Grade 9 students as they transition to high school is helped by Link crews managed by Jeff Prentice, Brian Schmidt and Rebecca Chambers.

Teacher's Report

Teacher representative, Katie Ritter reported that course selection for next school year, done through the collection of option sheets, was due last week, yet some are still missing. An on-line program is being piloted within some schools and may be available across the board next year. It is anticipated that the on-line version will help reduce costs currently attributed to manual data entry, and help with data quality and timeliness.

The trip to Pemberton is a few weeks away. The fundraiser at Chapters book store on Friday February 19th yielded \$320.

The musical production of Hello Dolly has been rescheduled to the end of April. A seamstress is needed as well as someone with expertise in theatrical lighting.

Staff is completing a school board-wide census to help identify staff skills.

IKEA and OCRI are again auctioning artistically decorated chairs in support of the school breakfast program in Ottawa. The chairs will be on display at the entrance of IKEA at Pinecrest Mall and will be up for auction until Sunday March 7th. More information can be found at: www.ocriauctions.com

Important dates:

- Mar. 12 Applications to take part in next year's trip to Guatemala are due.
- Mar. 15-19 March Break – no classes
- Mar. 22 Selling of Cocomino chocolates and fair trade coffee begins.
- Mar. 24 Progress reports will be mailed
- Mar. 26 Earth Hour
- Mar. 31 Parent/Teacher interviews (to note this is a Wednesday night)
- Apr. 1 Character conference

Treasurer's Report

Brenda Snarr reported that there is \$578.02 in the school council bank account. Discussion on whether School Council needs to purchase liability insurance led to the decision to investigate the policies currently in place.

Action: Renald Cousineau to share the details of the school's insurance policy to help School Council determine if more insurance is needed for Council activities.

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Report

Chris King reported that Kathy Dempsey was OCASC's guest speaker on the topic of the budget. There is a \$14million shortfall.

An alternative school representative brought up the issue of lack of consultation in the process of deciding whether or not to close a program. The result was agreement to draft a letter to Trustees requesting a more inclusive and transparent consultative process.

A document on healthy foods has been released by the Ministry of Education (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools)

OCASC's constitution will be voted on at the next meeting – March 25th

50th Reunion - www.woodroffe50.com - no update.

Auction

Alison Forestell reported staff at WHS has been very helpful. Nutrition teacher, Emily Elmwood will help oversee the food preparation and need a parent volunteer as well. Still need volunteers to help collect donations for both the silent and live auctions – 27 items have been secured. Tickets are now on sale and posters are ready to go. Pre-auction dates are April 6-16.

Action: Alison Forestell to send out notice that tickets for the auction are on sale at \$10 a ticket.

Correspondence

- Bay Ward package of information from City Councillor, Alex Cullen.
- Mission Employable Conference will be held on April 15 from 9:00am-2:00pm at 1645 Woodroffe Ave.

Other business

Brenda Snarr said that a sign stating improvements to the pedestrian bridge over the transitway near the school is only for paving. She recommended that a letter be sent to the City of Ottawa requesting lighting to help with visibility and possible crime deterrent.

Action: Brenda Snarr to compose a letter for Don Eberley's signature on behalf of School Council and Renald Cousineau's signature on behalf of WHS requesting that the City of Ottawa install lighting on the pedestrian bridge over the transitway.

Ajournment

Next meeting – April 6 at 7:00pm in the school library.