

Woodroffe High School

School Council meeting – May 4, 2010

Approved meeting minutes

In Attendance: Chris King, Lisa Rondeau, Don Eberley, Renald Cousineau, Anne MacDonald, Alison Forestell, Katie Ritter, Brenda Snarr, Diana Prosser, Nora Elmi, Geneva Forestell, Johanne Pilon Eberley, Brenda Joe-Packman, Shirley Schertzer

Welcome and Introductions

Don Eberley welcomed all in attendance. Round table introductions were made.

Review of Minutes

The draft meeting minutes were approved.

- Typo under “Character Conference” was noted: Antarctic should be Antartic.
- ACTION: WHS 50th Anniversary booth at Carlingwood on May 1-2nd was a great success.

SSC Report

- Brenda Packman gave information on an upcoming guest speaker as part of the OCDSB Speaker Series. Dr. Michael Bradley will talk about “When Things Get Crazy with your Teen”. Admission is free and will be held on June 1st from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Adult High School, 300 Rochester.

Student’s Report by Student Council Co-Chairs: Nora Elmi and Geneva Forestell

- 1) Pink Day – students wore pink to show their support against bullying & homophobia. Turnout was great and many guys wore pink. That evening, Geneva, Nora, Mr./Mrs. Callaghan and Mr. Cousineau attended a gala put on by the organizers of Pink Day.
- 2) WAA held intramurals in floor hockey in the lower gym
- 3) Oscars: This was the 1st annual, but turnout was amazing and students are looking forward to this event again next year. Everything went very smoothly as Student Council was well organized.
- 4) SOMA (Southern Ontario Model UN) was held in Toronto for two days. Eight students from WHS travelled with and attended the conference with students from Nepean and Bell HS.
- 5) Sport-a-thon is to be held on May 18th
 - is a full day of sports
 - students are to raise \$20.00 in pledges
 - pledge forms going out Mon. May 10th
- 6) Multicultural Potluck will be held on Thursday, May 13th, 2010. Evening will feature music and a fashion show. Admission fee is a food item to feed six people.

Renald Cousineau reported that the success of the school year has been due to the strength of student leadership over this school year.

Geneva Forestell will be receiving an OCDSB Leadership Award later in May

Treasurer/Auction Report

Brenda Snarr reported that the auction report is still a work in progress as there are still some details to iron out. The profits made were just over \$7,000.00. Alison Forestell, Chair of the Auction, felt the evening was a real success, but next year she would like to focus on how to get more people out for the event as the number of attendees was down this year. Thank you Alison for chairing the auction this year!

Guest Speaker: Jim Watson, Candidate for Mayor of Ottawa-Carleton

- Jim introduced himself and his deputy campaign manager, Adam.
- He handed out his campaign pamphlet and gave his website: www.jimwatson.ca.
- October 25th is Election Day.
- Jim outlined his reasons for running for mayor
- He is in the midst of putting together a platform
- He is not promising a zero tax freeze
- He would like to see more interconnectivity of the municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals (M.U.S.H.)
- Jim outlined 5 Themes to his campaign: 1)Affordable city, 2) Caring city, 3) Dynamic (focus on arts and culture), 4) Green and 5) Safe
- His philosophy is to always leave the city in better shape than you found it.

A question and answer period followed Jim Watson's opening remarks.

Principal's Report (Renald Cousineau, Principal)

- 1) Staffing: Renald Cousineau spoke of the sudden passing of Superintendent Cathy Nevin on April 21st and how she was such a strong advocate for the students. There was no report at this time as to who would continue as superintendent for WHS for the remainder of the school year.

Dave Conboy is still on leave and his ELD classes will be taught by Anne Marie Reid. Steven Sweeney, LTO, will be teaching Spanish. Stephanie Sommerville will be replacing Alison Carriere, who has gone on maternity leave.

- 2) Next year the projected number of students will be 860, which means 60.83 full-time equivalent teachers. There will be no surplus teachers at Woodroffe. The grade 9 French Immersion class is increasing to two full cohorts. If trend continues, eventually there will be three full French Immersion classes.
- 3) AP (Advanced Placement): This year six students wrote an AP exam in French Language. This is an American-based exam that gives students the opportunity to challenge themselves and they can receive an exemption or recognition of a full credit

at the university level. Next year, WHS is looking at expanding the program to English and possibly Science.

- 4) Fire Drills: All schools are mandated to do three fire drills per year. WHS has done all three, as there was a fire in the classroom of W. Guenter-Woods, on April 28th there was a panel malfunction, and on April 30th there was a pot left on in the kitchen of the daycare.
- 5) Change to Lunch Hour Next School Year: Lunch hour will be extended to a full hour next year from 50-minutes this year. This will allow staff more time to do more intramurals and clubs with students. The school day next year will end at 3:10 p.m.
- 6) Own the Change (A City of Ottawa Project): Several students and some staff are part of a program called "Own the Change". Students at WHS have decided they would like to get rid of commercially-bought water bottles. One initiative is to give the grade 9 students in September a stainless steel water bottle and to buy two new water fountains for the school.
- 7) School Census: 60 staff have responded.
- 8) CAYFO (Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa): Nelly Oseke was runner-up in an academic success award and will be given a bursary with this award.
- 9) "Hello Dolly" – On Friday, April 30th, the elementary feeder schools were invited to attend a performance of the school musical, "Hello Dolly". This initiative was a huge success as it allowed the cast to perform in front of a full audience.
- 10) 50th Anniversary Reunion Committee: Renald Cousineau acknowledged the hard work that the reunion committee has put in over the past two years. The reunion will be held at WHS on May 28th and 29th, 2010.

Teacher's Report: (Katie Ritter)

- The teachers really enjoyed themselves at the auction and there was a good turnout.
- Students from Pemberton, British Columbia are visiting Ottawa this week.
- There was a biology competition held recently which was organized by teacher, Colleen Bruski.
- Next year there will be a trip to Costa Rica, organized by Holly Newsome. It will be an eco-initiative based trip. There will be a commitment from students to engage in eco-initiated activities upon their return.
- A new program called "T-Crew" (also known as Link Crew in other schools) will start at WHS. Rebecca Chambers, Jeff Prentice and Brian Schmidt, teachers, will be involved in this mentorship program for grade 9 students. Last week there was an information session for current WHS students wishing to apply as mentors. Applications are due on May 5th.

- Upcoming Events:

May 13	Multi-cultural Potluck
May 18	Dance Show
May 19	Dance Show
May 25	Special Workshop called “Smash the Glass Ceiling”, guest speaker will be Brett Cumberbatch who will speak to about 60 at-risk students
June 2	Athletic Banquet
June 3	Band BBQ and Concert on the Lawn

- In sports, rugby, girl’s soccer, ultimate frisbee and track and field is going on.
- On May 23rd, student visitors from France will be arriving.
- The Guidance Department has invited any students who have not yet filled in their option sheets for next year to do so.
- There was a city-wide Dance Showcase on April 29th. It was a great way to celebrate the success of the dance programs in the OCDSB schools.

New Business

- Lisa Rondeau talked about an opportunity that is being offered by her place of employment for an artistic theme to be held the second or third week of May, 2011. Previously it has been given to schools such as De LaSalle Secondary School.
- Katie Ritter said that very few teachers have responded about requests for funds. A discussion was held and it was decided that at the June 1st meeting, School Council will take funding requests, but that it will be done again early in the fall.
- Brenda Packman reported that to date over 800 people have registered for WHS’s 50th Reunion. Families in the daycare and members of the community will be invited to celebrate on Saturday by attending the events being held outside on school grounds.

Correspondence

- Alex Cullen’s community news for April and May has been received.

Next Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m.** in the library. The Staff Appreciation Lunch is to be put on the agenda.