

# Woodroffe High School

Discussion Draft Notes - December 6, 2011

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**Attendance:** Carolyn Johnston, Caroline da Silva, Brenda Snarr, Sonia Simoneau, Kathy Nelson, Lisa Lajeunesse, Kurtis Barrett, Cassandra Douglas, Lynn Campbell

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**Welcome:** Carolyn Johnston welcomed all in attendance and said that she had received two proxies. In the absence of two-thirds of elected School Council members both present and by proxy, it was decided to have a short discussion of the agenda items, for information purposes and defer decision making to the next School Council meeting with quorum.

**Agenda:** Carolyn suggested that those in attendance review the draft agenda with the idea that all items would be deferred to the next meeting.

**School Council Minutes:** Cassandra Douglas passed on Renald Cousineau's comment that "Parent Council" be replaced with "School Council".

**Special Meeting:** A request was made to clarify the term "Core Executive" with the suggestion that it be replaced with "elected members to School Council". Attendees of the special meeting of the elected members to School Council on November 15 were Diana Prosser, Brenda Snarr, Carolyn Johnston, and Megan Scott. It was agreed by Carolyn and Brenda that the purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm School Council activities and that the title be adjusted to reflect this.

**Student Council Update:** Kurtis Barrett noted the following student council activities:

- The school-wide game of tag "Gotcha" has started. Students pay \$1 to participate with half the funds going to fund future Student Council activities.
- T-Crew will be informing students of a test for which they need to seriously prepare but at the last moment, they will be revealing the prank and serving them ice-cream sundaes.
- Exam preparation help will be provided in the school library along with free hot chocolate.
- The Athletic Association's winter carnival will be held on December 22 at lunch.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lynn Campbell announced that the long awaited funds from the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration have been released and she was pleased to give School Council a cheque for \$4,922.17 with a note stating that the amount includes the withholding of \$1,000 for start up costs for the next anniversary. Brenda said she would ask Renald if there were other commitments associated with the cheque.

**Principal's Report:** Lynn reported on behalf of Renald that WHS has a new Education Assistant, Stephanie Mullet.

WHS is looking at its waste diversion practices as food waste is sometimes getting mixed in with paper recyclables. A suggestion was made of having the Garden Club set up composting of vegetable and fruit waste.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board as part of its board wide review came to WHS on two separate days – to speak with staff and students, and to view teaching and learning practices at the school. A written report is expected to highlight what the OCDSB reviewers expressed – namely that students are happy, friendly, diverse and engaged, and that staff focus on critical thinking and professional learning teams is novel and noteworthy.

This good news has travelled quickly among educators. Now looking for opportunities to let the wider school community know.

Some suggestions are:

1. Have rolling quotes posted on the school's website
2. Make the written report publicly available
3. Let feeder schools know of this success

**Teacher's Report:** Cassandra Douglas reported the following upcoming events:

- Dec. 7 – the Co-op Fair will be held in the school's lobby
- Dec. 19 – the school's band will be performing at WHS' feeder schools
- Dec. 20 – whole school assembly on stress
- Dec. 20 – band concert in the evening open to the community
- Dec. 21 – some students will attend the National Arts Centre performance of Oliver
- Dec. 22 – all Grade 10 students studying history will visit the War Museum and the Diefenbunker
- Dec. 23 – talent show will be held before the last school assembly of the calendar year,

**Other news:** The United Way bowl-a-thon raised approximately \$400.

The General Learning Program participated in a three on three basketball tournament at Carleton University and won Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Dave Conboy and Ian Eskritt are offering to take orders for fair trade coffee and Cocomino chocolate, due immediately as the order will be submitted Dec. 7 with funds to support Habitat for Humanity.

The Music Department is conducting a cheese fundraiser from Forfar and St. Albert with orders due by Dec. 12 and delivery by Dec. 16.

**Funding Request Reviews:** Carolyn Johnston distributed "Guiding Principles for Review of Funding Requests for Parent Council Committee" for consideration to be accompanied with requests for funds from staff.

It was noted that all but one of the points listed were already included in the School Council Funding Request template.

The item of bias was questioned as to its purpose. Carolyn noted that bias has not been a problem and suggested that comments or questions be sent directly to the Chair.

**Other Business:**

- **Student Fees** Carolyn circulated a draft flyer – a request for student fees. Many comments were made including the following:
  - Consider another mode of request. The proposed half sheet on white paper may get lost among the students’ work
  - Move the second paragraph up as this really is the point where we want to engage parents
  - Suggest “pay what you can” with the suggestion of \$35 and/or “any other amount is appreciated”
  - Add a line of “call the office if you are not sure if you have paid or not: 820-7186”
  - Remove the word “Parent” from Woodroffe High School ~~Parent~~ Council”
  - Question: Should we be funding agendas – are paper agendas still used by the student body?
  - Add the word “subsidies” to “Field trips”
- **Bridge Lighting** Brenda approached the City of Ottawa to add lighting to the pedestrian bridge over the bus transitway. Councillor Mark Taylor will follow up.

**Next School Council meeting:** Jan 10, 2012 at 7:00pm at Foster Farm Community Centre.