

MINUTES OF W.O.S.S. SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2015

Present: J. Stieva, S. Kirkham, S. Parker, Y. Wang, S. Belford, K. Stackaruk, M. Garde, R. Kukreja, J. Sumner, V. Von Buren, T. Hamilton, M. Yu, Z. Vahed, J. Smith, S. Maheswaran, S. Lang-Doe, E. Buckland, M. Parsons

Regrets: T. Ho, T. Datta, K. Amos

1. WELCOME - Sherry Kirkham – 7:10 pm

2. STUDENT REP REPORT – T. Datta and T. Ho (presented by S. Kirkham)

- . The Grade 12 Hallowe'en parade was held on October 30th during Period 1. Non-perishable food items and money were collected for needy WOSS families. The Pink Rally/Football game was a major success and created awareness for breast cancer.
- . Despite the poor weather, the November 6th "No can, no can park" event collected numerous canned goods and cash donations for the Food Drive.
- . On November 11th each grade participated in a very moving Remembrance Day assembly.
- . The Awareness and Activism Club will be presenting Anti-Bullying Week activities and events.
- . Student Council's next big event is the Christmas assembly in December.

3. MINUTES - Siobhan Parker

Motion to approve October minutes by Rekha Kukreja and seconded by Mona Garde.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - Rekha Kukreja

- . Payments are expected from other schools soon to help defray the cost of the Ann Douglas presentation.

Motion to approve October's financials by Siobhan Parker and seconded by Michelle Parsons.

5. ANTI-BULLYING REPORT – Paul Dawson

- . Paul discussed the various WOSS initiatives for Anti-bullying week including upbeat music playing between classes, therapy dogs, "Join Me" initiative to ask kids to join other students at lunch, photo booth, free hugs, positive Post-It's, etc.
- . The Safe and Accepting schools committee is always looking for new members!
- . WOSS was one of ten schools in Ontario to win the Premier's Award for Accepting Schools.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT - Sherry Kirkham

- . The Ann Douglas presentation was fairly well-attended. She gave general advice that was applicable to all parents and was a very genuine speaker. Only about \$250 of the PRO grant was spent due to contributions from other schools.
- . New ideas are needed for future PRO guest speakers. One idea is how to talk to your kids about recent world events and not create more anxiety and worry. Other ideas include getting the kids involved at a Boot Camp, pick-up game, movie night with "Race to No Where", etc. Also,

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the format of these nights was discussed - smaller group sessions, workshops, Community Night. February is the time frame for the next speaker.

There will be another on-line auction in November/December. More items are needed please.

7. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – John Stieva

- . Closing the Gap – Money has been spent in the White Oaks Library on new furniture and book stacks. The goal is to have no “imaginary line” denoting the public and school libraries. One central circulation desk and a new entrance are planned. 2,500 – 3,000 books have been culled to make room on the shelves.
- . There will be a presentation on cyber bullying for Grades 9 and 10 on February 18th, 2016.
- . WOSS is applying for IB designation for Grades 9 and 10. This is a very expensive and detailed application process. Erin Davidson will keep us posted on the progress.
- . Flex Time – Kelly Amos has a motion in place for WOSS to have a late start option (8:45 am – 9:00 am). The day would be extended by two periods and kids in the senior grades could choose those periods for their timetable. Permission is needed from the Director of Education and then the Ministry, in order to change the school hours for a pilot study. This new timetable could be running in Sept. 2016 or realistically, 2017.
- . A PR-type campaign is being considered to help improve WOSS's reputation in the catchment area/Oakville. Realtors will be targeted as they seem to be misinformed about the school.
- . Mid-term report cards will be distributed on November 17th.
- . The WOSS debaters beat UCC to win the Oxford Cup in Calgary this past weekend.

8. OTHER – Sara Belford and Fonda Loft

- . Many thanks were passed along from Sandra McVeety for the Halton Food for Thought donations collected at the Ann Douglas presentation. She was very appreciative.
- . Fonda Loft presented information about the upcoming trip to Italy in 2016 and the 2017 100th Anniversary trip to Vimy Ridge. The trip to Tanzania in 2016 has been postponed to 2017. Also, Ms. Loft outlined the various activities planned for White Oak's 50th Anniversary weekend on May 13th and 14th, 2016.

Motion to adjourn by Sara Belford and seconded by Yana Wang at 9:17 pm.

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 18th, 2016 at 7:00 pm