

# WOSS School Council Highlights 2005-2006

## Attendance and Membership

The first two meetings in the fall, we had over 20 people but the numbers slowly dwindled. However, we had a small but loyal group of people who came out regularly over the year, averaging about 10 people per meeting.

## Financial Support

*Supported the following clubs/teams/activities:*

- Life Skills students trip to Lord of the Rings: paid for transportation
- Debate team, supported the provincial competition at WOSS
- Grade 8-Grade 9 Transition Committee for Welcome Week and their mentorship program
- Teachers Spring Appreciation Luncheon

## Communication

*Web site*

Maintained a web site dedicated to WOSS School Council (accessed through the school web site) containing pages on:

- WOSS School Council Mission statement and Goals
- General info on School Councils in Ontario
- Meeting dates and location
- Meeting Minutes (PDFs)
- Monthly E-News (PDFs)
- Parent links of interest
- Links to a staff directory
- Links to the School Board

*E-mail address list*

By handing out forms at parent nights and sending forms out with Semester 1 report cards, we were able to create a parent e-mail address list of about 120 parents. This allowed us to send out monthly messages (see *E-News*) and quick information messages, on demand

*WOSS E-News*

Sent out monthly news briefs to parents in our e-mail list, which highlighted key dates for the month and reported on individual student and student club/team/group achievements, upcoming events, and information of interest to parents, etc.

## Family of School Meetings

Attended four Family of School Meetings this year

- shared school council issues and concerns with the other schools in our “family”
- listened to a presentation about the HDSB initiative re: boys and literacy
- learned about the proposed capital plan for Halton schools
- took part in some Tribes activities to become familiar with the program used in many of our feeder schools
- listened to a presentation on the Vision for Children in Halton Report
- brainstormed ways to market schools and increase parent involvement

**Fundraising**

***Donation Letter***

Last year, we designed a donation letter to go home in the summer package asking parents to donate to the Council and receive a tax receipt from HDSB. The letter allows parents to specify where they want their money to go (specifically to students clubs/teams/groups/activities). We collected about \$300 in donations in the fall.

**Speakers**

We hosted two events for parents:

- Phil Hedges in October spoke about career choices for students. It was an excellent presentation although not well attended.
- Garfield Gini-Newman spoke about the latest research on Understanding and Parenting Teens. This was well received and well attended.
- We surveyed attendees to find out more about how they found out about the event (e.g., school sign and web site, Public Health, Dominion, own school newsletter), where they came from (a variety of elementary and high schools), and what speakers they would like to hear next year (all want more speakers about teens – social, behavioural, and academic issues). This information will help us with planning for next year.
- From the attendees, we established an e-mail list (not all WOSS parents) for marketing future speakers.

**Plans for Next Year**

*Constitution*

Revise our constitution (it's the original one from 1997)

*Parent Nights – Speakers*

Organize a speaker for a parent night on teens

*Grade 8-Grade 9 Transition*

- Continue to invite our feeder school Grade 8 students and/or parents to events at WOSS, e.g., our Parent Night speaker, and Debate, Drama, and Band presentations
- Continue to send our *WOSS E-News* to feeder schools
- Support Welcome Week in September

*Fundraising for Council*

- Consider some new ways to raise funds
- Send out the donation letter again in the summer mailing

*Communication*

- Continue to add e-mail addresses to the Council E-mail list (send form home in the summer mailing)
- Continue monthly *WOSS E-News* messages
- Update/revise web site (looking for someone to tackle this next year, with assistance from WOSS staff)

*Council Membership*

- Increase parent representation on council
- Get council members to take on specific responsibilities such as web site updating, *E-News*, fundraising committee, etc.
- Market the council at the Welcome Week BBQ and Grade 9 Parent Night

*Marketing the School*

- Send out school brochures to real estate agents with an introductory letter from council to promote the school