

WOSS School Council Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2006

Minutes

Present

Jackie Williams (Chair), Dianne Moseley (Treasurer), John Welsh (Community Rep), Simon Khanna (Parent), Daniel Neibert (Parent), Craig and Sandi MacDonald (parents), Kelly Amos (Parent), John Monteiro (Teaching Staff rep), John Stieva (Principal), Bob Soden (Vice Principal), Loraine Fedurco (Vice Principal),

Regrets: Elaine Moore, Kathy Batycky, Tara Seeber

October's minutes

Clarification on these items:

- Request for advisor for IB program discussed at September's meeting: need parents to volunteer as essay advisors starting in the fall of 2007. Jackie will include this in the next *E-News* and again closer to the end of the school year.
- Constitution: Daniel, Jackie, and Kelly will form a committee to revise the constitution and have it ready for fall of 2007
- Fundraising Committee: John Welsh will contact Bob Seitz and meet before our January meeting to "brainstorm" possible fundraising ideas which the council will discuss in January.
- Council doing bingos to fundraise– the possibility exists that council may be able to do a bingo in February. We will revisit this at our January meeting. Currently bingos are making between \$400 and \$800 a night. We would need 8 to 10 volunteers.
- Clarification that council's GIC matures February 27/07, and is **currently** earning an interest rate of 3.25% (**variable interest rate**).

Chair's Report

Council Executive for 2006/2007:

Kelly Amos has agreed to take over as chair as of December 1, 2006. Kelly was the former School Trustee for this area and is a WOSS parent. We now have a full slate of officers.

Graduation Donation

Council discussed and voted on whether our graduation committee will be a standard donation each year. The decision was unanimous that we do but a condition was attached that the amount not exceed 10% of the council's available budget (i.e., funds that are not targeted for a specific purpose such as the Parent Involvement Funds).

Parents Reaching Out Grant

The deadline for submission for this grant was November 21. This grant was for initiatives that would reach parents that have particular obstacles as far as communicating with the school, for example, ESL. Jackie was away for a month and did not act on this so we missed the deadline. Kelly indicated that Iroquois Ridge has submitted a proposal to extend their current parent programs which is coordinated by the public health nurse. WOSS should take a look at what Iroquois is doing, as they seem to be getting parents into the school on a regular basis.

Family of Schools Meeting

WOSS will host the November 28th F of S meeting in the Staff Conference Room. This may be the last meeting as our trustee is being replaced by a new trustee who may not choose to continue them. Anyone is welcome to attend but usually the chair or an appointee goes.

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Council Web Site

Jackie and Dale Andrews (teacher on staff) will work on redesigning the council web site to bring it in line with the new school site, hopefully by fall 2007, if not sooner.

Repaired track

It appears as if the WOSS track has been graded and new gravel added as a temporary measure. WOSS is still the only high school in Halton without a proper track and it will be requested yet again this year by the principal.

Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines

Boards are requested to form public committees to discuss and recommend solutions for school closures, new schools, and school renovations/restructuring. Kelly indicated that this committee will look at creative ways to solve pupil accommodation problems. It is not just about closing small schools.

Involving Parents

Jackie distributed a document on tips for involving parents. It is available on the www.edu.gov.on.ca site. It's an excellent source of practical ideas which we can use to help us decide what to do with our parent involvement funds.

Student Council Report

John, Bob, and Loraine reported that the student council is planning a Christmas concert with auditions starting soon. They are also planning a ball hockey tournament in December.

Treasurer's Report

- Dianne Moseley reported that we currently have \$1588.68 in the chequing account (which includes the \$975.60 received from the board for Parent Involvement Initiatives) and \$5000.00 invested in a GIC. The "Board dollars" must be used up by July 31 or we lose the funds.
- We also received about \$1400 in donations (through our donation request letter sent home with report cards), some of which was targeted for specific student groups (e.g., \$1000 for the cheerleaders).
- We discussed that our donation form be revised to ask the donator if we can acknowledge the donation publicly in our newsletter. Jackie will revise the form and make sure Kathy Christie (school secretary) has the new form.

Staff Rep Report

J. Monteiro

- John reported that the school is in dire need of more data projectors. They are becoming as common a teaching tool as were overhead projectors in the past. They are needed for both teaching and for students to do presentations. Each projector costs about \$1000. Currently there is one projector for each floor of the school (3 altogether) and the ideal situation would be for every department to have one (that's about 10 altogether).
- John also asked if we could support the staff appreciation luncheon that will be put on during the Semester 1 and 2 turn around in early February. Since we have a meeting between now and then and we were running out of time, we decided to put that discussion off until January. Last year we gave the staff \$150.

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Principal's Report

R. Soden

- Bob presented the EQAO math results for 2005-2006. The percentage of students receiving a level 3 or 4 has increased since 2004-2005, particularly the applied students.
 - Applied have gone from 24% to 45%. On a board level the increase was from 30% to 48%. On a provincial level, the increase was from 27% to 35%. Part of the increase can be attributed to the fact that essential students were not included in the applied data this year.
 - Academic have gone from 75% to 82%. On a board level, the increase was from 76% to 77%. On a provincial level, the increase was from 68% to 71%.Another factor that has contributed to the increase for both applied and academic is that fact that 30% of the final mark is now based on the WQAO test. As well, there have been concrete measures taken to develop and implement instructional strategies to help with numeracy and prepare students for the test.
- Bob also presented the school literacy plan (which is part of the School Effectiveness Plan, see below).
 - One focus will be on assessing applied and essential students' reading levels and developing strategies that address problem areas.
 - As well, staff in all disciplines will be integrating a core set of five reading strategies into their program for all students.
 - The school will also develop a standard format for writing forms (paragraph, essay, report, and labs) so that students get a consistent message in all disciplines.
 - The five most common errors in student writing will also be identified and communicated to staff. This will prepare teachers for assessing student writing and providing feedback to students.
- Bob is still trying to contact the Police Service Liaison, Sean Thomas, come and speak to the council and drug use in the area.

John Stieva

- John presented a draft of the School Improvement Plan and went over highlights of the plan. He would like council to review it and be prepared to discuss the plan at the January Meeting.
- John was asked for a "wish list" for the school as far as how the council could help. He indicated that data projectors are desperately needed as John indicated in his report (see Staff Rep Report).

Next Meeting

January 15, 2007 (there is no December meeting)

Items to include on the agenda: School Effectiveness Plan follow up; fundraising discussion; donation to staff appreciation luncheon, council doing a bingo in February

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.