

WOSS School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday Oct. 20th, 2008

In attendance: Kelly Amos (chair), Nick Varricchio (VP, North campus); Gary Tam (student rep); parents: Jackie Williams, Kathy Batycky, Simon Khanna, Susan McIntyre, Craig Macdonald, Sherry Kirkham, Mary Raike, Saadia Khan, Dianne Moseley, Moda El-Kholy, and Uma Kalia-Ito.
Regrets: John Stieva (principal), Bonnie Husain (teacher rep.), Daniel Neibert (Com. Rep)

Welcome K. Amos

The people who attended the meeting introduced themselves to the group

Minutes from September K. Amos

Motion to approve the minutes passed on consensus with two minor changes to the spelling of two names.

Treasurer's Report

There was some confusing in interpreting the report that was created by Pam Cottingham (school business manager) and Kelly will follow up on it. What we do know is that

- we received about \$400 in donations from parents from our yearly plea for money that goes out with the new school year schedule and information.
- we have won several calendar prizes, including a \$250 one
- we are still in a deficit situation

Student Rep Report Gary Tam

- Student council hopes to raise student spirit and money. They are planning a Spirit Week at the end of October which will include a cinnamon stick sale, Fright Night (with a movie), a costume dance, and a Dress Up Your Teacher Day.
- They are planning more spirit events throughout the year.
- Student council is also looking into changing CHAT as the current system isn't being used. Abbey Park seems to have a system that is popular.

GUEST SPEAKER Michelle Schwarz – Public Health Nurse

- Michelle gave a presentation on her role at White Oaks. She is the public health nurse liaison and focuses on mental health, substance use prevention, injury prevention, nutrition, physical activity and bullying. Her role is to provide support not only for the student, but also for parents. The best way to contact her is by her email.
- Some of the schools hold informational seminars for the parents. Kelly asked if we could get a list of the topics that are covered, and then we can survey our parents to see if they would be interested in attending informational seminars at WOSS, which Michelle could facilitate.
- Jackie will send out by e-mail Michelle contact information to parents to make them aware that she is available as a resource.

Chair's Report K. Amos

- Election - Saadia is not able to continue on with the Treasurer's position, so we needed someone to step up to take on the position. Sherry Kirkham has offered to take on the Treasurer's position for this school year.
- Calendar sales - ongoing
- PIC Conference - The conference is this coming Saturday, October 25th, at WOSS, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is free. All that needed is for an official signup by Wednesday, October 22nd. The opening speaker is Carole Bertuzzi Luciani on "How to be involved in your children's education when you don't have a lot of time". There are several options for sessions to attend during the day.
- The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is looking for more volunteers to join the committee. Forms were distributed.
- 2008/2009 planning - One goal from last year that we have not yet done is find a fundraiser specialist to help with the fundraising for the building of a theatre at the school.

- Fundraising - Internet/Silent auction was one of the ideas for raising funds for council. The goal would be to have at least a couple of items each month for a monthly auction. Council needs someone to organize the auction. Craig suggested we first try to see if we can get items from local businesses and hope to launch the auction by January. Jackie Williams will put a request out to the parents in the email newsletter to see if anyone has items to donate. Sherry has a Maple Leafs signed jersey she will donate. Mary has offered to help out. Kelly will prepare a letter for people to take with them when asking businesses for items. We will tally what we can get at our November meeting.

- Principal nomination award committee – S. Khanna

We have received a lot of letters in support of John. The application is completed except for John's part. The plan is to send the entire application package by courier next Monday.

- Reaching out grant - Mary spoke about this grant. She would like us to use a grant to create a DVD about WOSS to help parents understand the school when deciding where to send their child for high school. The DVD could be created at WOSS, at a cost of about \$2.50 per unit. Mary will submit the application for the grant by Friday's deadline and we should know within 10 days if we will get the grant money.

- Other - A new School Council handbook supplement, received from the school board, was handed out by Kelly.

Principal's Report (40 min) J. Stieva was not available tonight, so Nick gave the report.

- School Effectiveness Plan - This plan is an improvement plan that is assessed, reviewed, and revised each year. The plan has been worked on and will be ready for January. The plan has identified goals. An example is the school has a safety and well being SMART goal to train all the essential teachers trained in the collaborative problem solving approach to help students in the essential program handle difficult social conflict situations more effectively.

- Accomplishments - Awards night and commencement evening were both very successful.

Other

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Date – November 17th, 2008