

**Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board**

**Orchard Park Secondary School**

**School Council Minutes**

**November 25, 2015**

**In attendance –**

**Cathy Craig - Chair**

**Chris Harron – Vice-Chair**

**Marco Barzetti - Principal**

**Mike Murray – Student Council Advisor**

**Bobbie Chaggar**

**Dawn-Marie Clarke**

**Lorie Gaudin**

**Cynthia Mech**

**Glenda Rookwood**

**Vicki MacNaught**

**Jody Declercq-Jovanovic**

**Bruce Percy**

**Rod Harron**

**Farzana Gul**

**Mahmood Ahmad**

**Amanda Santha**

1. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Vicki MacNaught moved to approve the agenda and Dawn Marie Clarke seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved on consensus.
2. The Minutes of the meeting from September 16, 2015 were presented for review. Cynthia Mech moved to approve the Minutes and Laurie seconded the motion. The Minutes of September 16, 2015 were approved on consent.
3. The Student Council Report was presented by Michael Murray. He shared information about the Council's activities including the Council's attendance and participation in Leadership Camp. He also discussed four events that were held or were being organized by Student Council. These events include:
  - a. Christmas Spirit Week
  - b. January Exam Stress Relief activities
  - c. Dress Up March
  - d. Amazing Race (June 2016)

Michael also shared that the Junior and Senior Formals both went very well. Attendance at each event was approximately 200 students.

4. The School Council does not currently have a Community Representative. It was discussed and agreed that a Community Representative should be recruited to join this Council.
5. The Report of the Chair was presented by Cathy Craig. She shared that she had attended School Council training and brought back available resources to the school office. She also shared that "Yammer" was an option discussed for communication but that this tool seems better suited for an elementary school setting. The Chair reported that Grade 8 Night was very successful. There were several new parents who signed up. Next year, there was a suggestion to include a School Council station as part of the tour. The Council discussed considering including a table at the January 2016 Grade 8 Night to promote this Council. The Council discussed using the \$500.00 of parent involvement money towards magnets again this year. Rod Harron moved to use the money for this purpose. Vicki MacNaught seconded the motion. The Motion was approved on consent.

6. The Principal Report was presented by Marco Barzetti. He shared eight important developments with this Council, as follows:
  - a. Grade 8 Night went well from his perspective and promoted academics and staff instead of sports and the facility. He also reviewed the academics package that was distributed at Grade 8 Night.
  - b. Planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion is well underway. There will be a single event taking place on Saturday June 4, 2016. The planning committee for this event is anticipating attendance of 1500-2000.
  - c. Orchard Park enrollment has increased by 30 students for this year.
  - d. Orchard Park conducted an interest survey. Students were asked what their interests are to assist with course scheduling. This year, students selected gender studies, social justice, interior design and dance.
  - e. Orchard Park is receiving capital funds for renovations. The renovations are planned to include:
    - i. Enlarging the learning commons and cafeteria
    - ii. Moving larger program areas downstairs, including cosmetology and hospitality
    - iii. Gymnasiums and science labs will be retro-fitted.
  - f. Literacy and Numeracy diagnostics will be given to Grade 8 incoming students. Students who are identified through this process as requiring additional assistance or support will be able to take preparation courses in semester one to prepare for the grade level course in semester two.
  - g. Enriched courses are now available for students who require additional challenges, but the curriculum expectations are the same as Academic level classes.
7. There was no correspondence to review at the meeting.
8. There was no other business to discuss.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.