

DVSS School Council Meeting

Tuesday April 18, 2017 @ 6:30

Location: Library

Chair Nancy Watt welcomed everyone for coming and gave a warm welcome to three students, Nick Mitchell, Abbey Lewis and Emily Egen from Student Council in attendance.

No one was able to approve the February minutes so it was decided we would send them out with April minutes to be approved at future date.

DVSS Prime Minister's Report:

Lots of activity has gone on and much is planned for the remainder of the year. Student Prime Minister Nick Mitchell shared with School Council details of recent successful events, Tropic Thunder and the Semi-Formal held at the Dundas Golf & Curling Club. Both he and Vice Abbey Lewis were very pleased with that venue since many students were able to walk there.

Candy Grams were held. Earth Day will be celebrated with the distribution of tree saplings. Twin Day is on April 28th and there will be cotton candy.

Nick Mitchell reiterated that the vision of the Student Council is not just event planning but to have the student voice heard.

Three new grade nine students and a Grade 11 rep have been added to Council. Elections for the upcoming term will be held on May 12th and there will be a week of campaigning prior. Prerequisite is a year of Council experience.

Discussion was had around an online forum in the form of a Snapchat account so students could be informed of ongoing activities.

The Council will be buying a gift for the graduating class. Ideas are being bandied about – air hockey table, Muskoka Chairs in the open area by cafeteria etc. Em suggested a bench or perhaps some furniture for around the alcove area by the gym.

Em Del Sordo mentioned that the school board is promoting School Cash On-line (SCO) and is aiming for DVSS to be a cashless building. N. Mitchell mentioned that there were issues with solely using SCO for the April 6th, 2017 Semi Formal, as students did not have credit cards, and that the payment option 'closed' many days before the event date. This meant that latecomers could not be accommodated via SCO, and that other forms of payment had to be accepted for these individuals. Anne Waldie confirmed that payment options had to be set to close a set number of days before the event date. Another issue was that each student could only purchase one ticket each, so families could not purchase all required tickets for multiple family members through one transaction. As well, guest tickets could not be purchased.

1. Graduation Report

LTO teacher Erika Imgrund gave an update on the progress of the graduation preparations. She and Carly Green are the Graduation Ceremony Organizers for this year. The graduation will be on June 28, 2017 at Redeemer College. One issue is with having enough space for all the attendees. They are looking at freeing up seats on the floor by seating more teachers on the stage. The proposed system will be as follows: when the grad gown is ordered, then students can order up to 3 tickets; the tickets will be laminated and therefore reusable; any extra tickets will be distributed by draw rather than first come first served. They are looking for 12 volunteers to collect tickets. The suggestion is that Grade 11 parents as volunteers, may be a good fit. Also, the plan is to put gold arm band onto seats to denote 'end of row' for rows of seats for students, so that extra seats in the 'front area', are available from the start. Other suggestions were made with respect to streamlining the entry into the auditorium, such as including an "Instructions Sheet" with the tickets, so attendees can know what to expect.

Erika Imgrund to check with Redeemer as to their practices for disbursement of extra tickets. She will also look into the

possibility of live-streaming to an overflow area such as the cafeteria.

2. Teacher's Report

The report was given by Jason Montieth.

- a) He spoke about the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions?? (CPS) mental health initiative that looks at ways to reduce stress within a classroom, as it impairs thinking. The key points being Collaboration and Proactivity. He spoke at length about this. His **handout is included as an attachment.**
- b) Managing Technologies in the Classroom (i.e. cell phones)
Teachers James Curtis and Michael Root are going to meet after mid-terms to look at making policies regarding the use of cell phones in the classroom.

3. Principal's Report

- a) Starting with next year's Grade 9's, a new system called Standard Based Assessment (SBEA or SBA) will be implemented. This new approach will take into account the student's test results as well as the teacher's impression of the student's knowledge through verbal discussions, to formulate the student's mark.
- b) Cancer Bowlathon April 25
Dr. Behnke-Cook Lecture at DVSS April 25
OELC – students attending leadership camp tbd
May 1st - 5th Grad Council Senior Week
May 5 Mid Term Reports sent home
May 12 Trivia Night (fundraiser led by Phys-Ed Department)
May 16 next School Council Meeting
- c) Two committees being formed with respect to use of technology in the classroom: iPad Issues Committee and Cellphone Committee. Anyone interested in sitting on these committees, please email Em Del Sordo.

4. Co-Chair Report.

Nancy Watt brought the Principal Placement Profile Survey to the attention of Council. She read a part of the letter from superintendent of Leadership and Learning, Sharon Stephanian:

“Regulation 612, Section 19 states the “every board shall solicit the views of the School Councils established by the board with respect to the following matters...” and paragraph 4 describes one of the matters being “the process and criteria applicable to the selection and placement of Principals and Vice Principals.”

Each school board determines how it will operationalize those requirements. In Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, we solicit the input of School Councils using a Principal Placement Profile Survey in which the School Council provides input to the Superintendent of Student Achievement (SOSA) with respect to the qualities, characteristics and leadership attributes required at the school.”

Copies of the survey were distributed. This will be submitted by April 28th.

Nancy went over details of Pro Grant speaker Dr. Deanna Behnke-Cook’s credentials and some background as to her selection as our speaker.

She needs help with refreshments and snacks on the day and quickly received offers from parents to help.

Anne-Claudette Hampson had sent regrets to attend Council but she has been in contact with both Brittany Jackson, Visual Arts teacher and Chrystal Dumitru with regard to the Arts Cards Project. Some wonderful art is created by DVSS students and Anne and Brittany are coordinating efforts to get some of the art put on cards as a fundraiser. More on that at our next meeting May 16th.