

DVSS minutes September 22nd 2015
6:30 pm

Met in the Lobby and began our walking tour of the newly renovated DVSS

Room 7:15 pm – room 2021

Welcome and introductions:

Attendance:

Present: E. Del Sordo, C. Pillinini, S. Goodacre, P. Haygarth (Teacher Rep.), A. Waldie, M.B. Kennedy, J. Kleven, K.Schaefer, N. Watt, S. Van Egdome, D. Zontanos, L. Bastedo, C. Evans, R. Jerome, S. Kennedy, M. Orlik, T. Osborne, L. Verspaget,, N. Watt, S. Moreton, K. Janitz, K. Spencer, D. Robertson, B. Bond, D. Lammers, L. McArthur, J. Naruse

Regrets: S. Holford, K. McDonald, J. Dean, C. Goodale, L. Howie, M. McDonald,

Approval of June Minutes: K. Schaefer and C. Evans
Please add D. Zontanos to list of all Present at the meeting.

Principals Report

1.

- 1000 plus students
- 70 teachers, 5 E.A.'s, 5 caretakers (shifts); (close to 100 staff)
- 1 nurse, 1, social worker and 1 A/Y Counsellor (A/Y is “Alternatives for Youth” and helps students and the students’ families deal with addiction problems. If you know of someone wanting this service direct them to Guidance and Guidance will connect them with A/Y.)
- 5 office staff including a new Administrator, Sandra Kelly, and A. Waldie

2. Construction Update -

- Science wing is scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving Weekend with the exception of the flooring as it will be completed in approximately 3 months.
- Construction is taking place evenings and Saturdays with no delays.
- We will triage all that works and doesn't work

Our teachers need to be recognized and thanked for all they have done and continue to do while the construction has/is going on.

- The Gym floor will go in when the weather cools as the floor will warp if there is humidity.
- No timeline yet for the field renovations, but maybe sometime this fall
- Renovations in the circle will begin in the summer while Family Studies room will be next year.

3. Grade 9's – were pulled from each period to meet with other students in what was called Speed Friending. It was held in the cafeteria where it seemed almost every student committed to getting to know the student in front of them.

- Grade 10's held tours the first day for the grade 9's
- The week of the 14th - two Positive School Climate Assemblies were held for the seniors and juniors....this was an opportunity for students to give thoughts and opinions on what they want from their school, to show them how to get support to jump from things like bad grades. They were also given the school rules so they would know acceptable behaviour.

- Also launched beginning of new movement...BYOKOB (Be Your Own Kind Of Beautiful) Take back the word Beautiful and define the word to create a lens by which our students can construct what is beautiful.

- Social conversation of what they can do starting with school, their community, their town etc...

4. Fall sports are up and running with no coaxing from the teachers. The teachers are making things work by working hard. (How can we let the community know how hard our teachers have willingly worked to help make things go smoother. It would be great to be able to recognize them in the community, with the community).

5. The Duke of Edinburgh awards were given out on the weekend.

6. The Terry Fox run will be taking place shortly so your students might be coming home with registration and sponsorship forms.

7. September 23rd is picture day. Those students in the Tennis competition can have pictures taken on the picture retake day or the photographer has agreed to come early and will take them at 7 am.

8. September 30th the grade 12's will have a half day, as they will be participating in "Survivor" in the afternoon. There will be 3 food trucks brought in for lunch and the students will get 10% kick back on all purchases to help toward the cost of their graduation. Was suggested **maybe** we could do this for the community every Wednesday to help support the school.

9. October 29th is scheduled for Teacher Interviews. Did not host "meet the teacher" as Em wanted to focus on the students first. Voted on having an open house with tours of the school before the Teacher Interviews, maybe from 4-6 pm for open house and then 6-8 pm for interviews. Was suggested we keep the tours running during interview sessions.

10. Graduation is June 29th at Redeemer University, 4pm

The school calendar is on line for exams. Please mark your calendars and do not book your holidays until after final exams. Your child will get a "0" if they are not present.

Staff Report:

- Difficult start to the year as teachers try to find the boxes that they left in their classrooms at the end of the year but have since been moved. However, teachers are saying how much they appreciate Em so on behalf of all teachers I thank you, Corie and Simon.

- Voting and negotiations are at 2 levels- all of Ontario has accepted at the Provincial level. District 21 (us) OSSTF has to sit at local level to negotiate. We have 4 dates set for our talks.

- The Social Justice Component at Highland/DVSS over the years has raised over \$350,000. Global Connect (taught in grade 11) raises awareness and also gives academic credit.

- HOPE- Helping Other People Everywhere. Raises awareness. Students know everything going on but I'm not sure they know where the money goes that they raise.

- There are lots of opportunities for Volunteer Hours. Students need 40 hours to graduate; broken down over 4 years is 10 hours per year. There is a Max Rotman Humanitarian Award given out yearly.

- OSSLT – Literacy test written in the spring for grade 10's but the grade 9's write as well to get a feel of what it's like. There may be 2 dates this year.

Question- How will we book appointments with teachers for interviews?

You will get a phone message from Em and or your child will bring home a note with a link to go online and book your time slot. This usually happens 2 weeks before interviews.

Elections:

Secretary: Dawn Zontanos and Sue Van Egdorn

Chair: Jen Kleven has agreed to Chair the next meeting with hopes of someone stepping forward.

Co Chair: Vacant

Other Business:

Approval of Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for \$1000. with \$950 of it to be put toward a speaker and \$50 for refreshments. We have until June to use this but it's better to start and maybe have an event in the Fall and one in the Spring. Please bring any ideas forward at the next meeting.

Question as to why we are on Day 1 and Day 2 cycle's- It is so that a student with extracurricular activities won't miss the same subject all the time. This way they will alternate.

Meeting adjourned 8:23pm.

October 20th 6:30 pm is the next school council

Minutes prepared by Mary-Beth Kennedy.