

Thornhill Secondary School Parent Council Meeting

Minutes - September 13, 2018

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Anna (Co-chair of Parent Council) and Ms. Ziegler (principal) welcomed parents and TSS staff to meeting.

2. Student Council Report

- Presented by a member of student council.

3. School Council Report 2017-2018

The following topics were covered in the report:

- Parent, Family and Community Engagement (activities involving parents in the school)
- School Climate
- Diverse School Community (multi-cultural activities)
- Fundraising
- Recommendation on Stewardship of Resources (e.g. installation of air conditioning)
- Additional Support and Training (information on the strategy of YRDSB)

- Fundraising: There is an option to donate a small percentage of funds raised to a YRDSB Trust Fund for low-income students who attend schools which do not generate much income through fund-raising. Not sure who decides what percentage of funds would be donated.
- Generally, TSS raises about \$3000 from straight donations, NOT by fund-raising events (e.g. selling cookie dough/magazines/wrapping paper, etc.).
- School budget comes from Ministry of Education (per pupil funding) and SAC fees. Students must be enrolled full-time (4 credits per semester for grade 9-11 students; minimum 3 credits per semester for grade 12 students) in order to receive funding/staffing allocation. SAC fees subsidize most school activities/events.

4. School Council Elections for 2018-2019

- Anna handed out sheet explaining role of School Council: “To improve student learning and to develop a shared sense of accountability for the public education system among both parents and educators.”
- Results of today’s Parent Council elections:
 - Anna – continues as Chair
 - Morly - continues as secretary
 - Caryn Zusman will be treasurerThere are 14 non-executive voting members.

5. Administration Report – Ms. Debbie Ziegler

- Guidance department is working hard to make timetable adjustments for students.
- Terry Fox Carnival is next week – students should bring money.
- March break 2019 Europe trip for students: Trip was originally to Greece, but was changed due to concerns about students being near water. Trip is now to London, Paris and Amsterdam. Trip is 10 days long and will cost in the upper \$3000 range. There was some parent discussion regarding possible, less costly alternatives for March break trips and/or taking students to places in Canada. Unfortunately, it costs more

to fly to some places in Canada than to Europe. Ms. Ziegler reported that in the past, there has been more interest in Europe as a travel destination than in other destinations. YRDSB does not allow students to travel to the USA (except for DECA), because of the policies of the current US government.

- TSS will be 65 years old in 2019. We are hoping to get some building upgrades. Blackboards will be replaced with white boards. TSS is looking into the feasibility of installing air conditioning.
- TSS is a highly-ranked school. It offers AP and Gifted programs. Enrollment is currently over 1000 students.
- **Ms. Vatousis:** Ms. Vatousis is in charge of the Student Advisory Group, which meets with advisory groups from other York Region high schools to exchange ideas.

A House System is being implemented at TSS beginning this year. All students are divided into one of four houses (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) based on their birth month. Houses contain students from every grade. Students will receive t-shirts at Terry Fox day next week. Students will be able to earn points for their house by engaging in different activities.

- **Ms. D'Angelo:** Breakfast Club is run by Catherine D'Angelo, who is head of Alternative Education at TSS. Breakfast Club provides snacks to students from 8:10 to 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, except during exam time. Snacks include juice boxes, apples, applesauce, granola bars and chocolate milk. It is held in the cafeteria and is open to everyone. Students can earn volunteer hours by helping out with Breakfast Club. Ms. D'Angelo is hoping to start this coming Monday, September 15. Every year, breakfast club asks for donations from the Parent Council.

Ms. D'Angelo is head of the Alternative Education program at TSS. This includes Co-op, Special Education and a program for at-risk students, where electives can be earned through work credits.

6. Safe Schools Presentation

Next Meeting: Thursday October 11th, 2018 in the school library

Upcoming Council Dates for 2018/2019:

- November 22
- December – no meeting
- January 17
- February 14
- March 28
- April – no meeting
- May 2
- June 6