

Parent Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2017
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Attendees:

Pat Hamilton, Principal
Jayne Sheppard
Irene McFadyen
Nancy Turner

Positions were appointed at the start of the meeting for the 2017 / 2018 School Year:

Chairman:	Tony Febbo
Co-Chairman:	Nancy Turner and and JR [need last name]
Secretary:	Irene McFadyen
Co-Secretary:	Jayne Sheppard

This is the first meeting of the 2017 / 2018 School Year, no previous minutes to review.

New Business:

1. **Introduction** of all Parent Council attendees
2. **Election** of new Board Members
3. **Meetings** will take place every second Monday of the month (unless it falls on a Holiday)
4. **Information sessions / Keynote speakers** will be arranged for upcoming Parent Council meetings. Nancy Turner to collect speaker information, forward list of topics for each meeting, prioritize by importance in accordance with the needs of the students (University submissions / applications, Subject Matter Experts – Math, Science, Special Education, Arts, and Police Services). Keynote speakers on mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, anxiety and depression will be arranged.
5. **Social Media:** Communication is very important between teachers, parents and students. Media available: Twitter, CASL, UGDSB website, Messenger APP. Students and Teachers use Google Chrome, allowing students and parent to stay connected with child's performance etc.

Parents need to get involved in both the school and what their children are doing. Touch base with the teachers, talk to your children, and attend parent teacher interviews.

- a. Monitor your child's behaviour
- b. Ask Questions
- c. Monitor absenteeism (with just under 1,200 students at ODSS, absenteeism is closely monitored). Auto-generated calls are sent to home phones when students are absent from school

Principal's Report:

1. **Start-up (Enrollment, Staffing etc.)**

School budget:

- Raised \$500 from a silent auction
- School Council received \$500 for Grade 9 orientation; funds currently available
- Gift card drive to assist students with nutrition and other school activities and trips (financial aid)
- Money is used for property maintenance and upgrades
- The school had hall monitors up until two years ago. Both the Principal and the Vice Principal monitor the halls and have very minimal issues

2. **Grade 9 Parents Night / Terry Fox Run / Spirit Day**

3. **Construction Updates**

- **Double gym**
 - Upgraded ceiling
- **Lower gym**
 - New flooring; school colours; LED lighting
- **Science rooms**
 - New cabinets, equipment
- **Lighting**
 - LED lighting in the 200 and 500 hall
- **Drama Room**
 - Mezzanine repaired

Overall, Heating and Air Conditioning in the school was upgraded.

4. **Ministry of Labour (MOL)**

- MOL notified when students are involved in accidents at school
- Recent incident (June 2017) has prompted the following:
 - Increasing signage in the parking lot (maximum speed signage changed from 20 km/hr. to 15 km/hr.)
 - Changing of student parking location (switched locations with teacher parking)
 - Increasing surveillance cameras in the parking lot and the perimeter of the school
 - Monitoring parking lot (Principal and Vice Principals)
 - Removal of parking privileges
- Parent raised the question if monitoring outdoors can be open to volunteers

5. **Collaborative Days / PD Days / School Improvement Plan**

- Two (2) days per month, teaching staff meet to discuss any school changes, school improvement plans, discuss and prioritize guest speakers and topics Establish what the number one priority is at that time and address it (for example: inviting Dean Huck - retired teacher from Trillium – visit and educate students on Mindfulness.
- School will begin at 9:35am rather than 8:55am
- Bussed students are welcome to use the cafeteria until classes begin

6. **Upcoming**

Collaborative Day September 27

Junior Awards September 28

NGWEDWE Camp October 2 – 4

- Students not able to attend Camp, will participate in an on-line “camp” accomplishing similar goals as those in attendance, Link Leaders who did not go on the trip are there to support the students working from home
- As at September 25, approximately 170 out of 240 Grade 9 students were registered to attend
- Those families who require assistance with payment, are able to reach out to the school for assistance (to date, 20 have been funded by ODSS)

Photo Re-Take Day October 18

- Student Cards – home week of September 25

Commencement November 3

7. Connections

- Support is available for students who require any type of assistance (Social Workers, Guidance Counselors, Teachers, Principal and Vice Principals)
- ODSS has an open door policy. All meetings / guidance remains confidential
- Police presence will commence in the coming weeks, three (3) lunch visits per week. This creates a level of safety for our students, builds a partnerships with ODSS. There was no visibility to Police presence prior to the start of 2017 school year.

8. School Spirit:

- ODSS has great school spirit! There are many extra-curricular activities available. There are always events to participate in where teachers and students get involved!

9. Community service hours / Volunteer hours:

- Effective November 3, 2017, Volunteer Hours will no longer be available to enter on-line through Blueprint. All volunteer hours are to be recorded on the form (available through ODSS website) or a handwritten letter and sent to principal. Mr. Hamilton will verify and submit.
- It is important to have your child get involved with volunteering from Grade 9. This is a great opportunity for them to learn responsibility and provides them with experience for the future

Next Meeting

October 16, 2017, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Meetings will be held every second Monday of the month (unless it falls on a Holiday)

No meetings in December 2017 or June 2018