

DHS School Council Meeting
March 26, 2007

Present: Renee Gould, Ed Arnold, Scott Urquhart, Colleen Harder, Susan Rabb, Dallas Markall, Kelly Griffiths, Catherine Lockyer, Cyndi Cossais, Candi Wall, Terry McKay

1. Welcome by Cyndi and notice that she would have to leave early, Candi will chair last half of meeting.
2. Agenda reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept agenda.
1st Susan Rabb.
2nd Colleen Harder.
3. No Conflict of Interest declared.
4. Minutes reviewed from previous meeting and amended as per item **8c - Tip** Sheet did not go out, but will go with report cards in April. Motion to approve minutes as amended – 1st Kelly Griffiths.
2nd Catherine Lockyer.
5. **Business arising from minutes**
 - a) Parent Conference - Cyndi would like to organize a conference similar to the one being presented in Hamilton (see info. in meeting package). The structure and ideas for support and funding would follow along the same lines. Cyndi will take a look at possible funding for a local "Helping Our Kids Make Career Choices" and try to have more information for our April meeting. The information has been sent to Mary-Anne Bishop, who showed interest. This conference could tie in with our values/character education program, as well as promote parent engagement.
 - b) DHS Brochure – Following up from previous questions; the design cost was \$350, and just over \$600 to print 1200 copies. The next printing will be less expensive. Scott stated that DHS made a commitment to have better quality information for parents in order to be more effective in communication.
 - c) Internet Safety – Cybercops "Air Dogs". This program targets grade 7/8's. Dallas said there is a program for secondary as well. OPHEA and OPP Sex Crimes Unit participated in the training together. Candi will take a look at the website and update at the next meeting.
 - d) School Council Symposium in Thunder Bay – KPDSB would like to send one representative from each school council in the board (21). This is in place of the symposium in Toronto where only 3

reps. would attend. Cyndi has been asked to present at the conference, and would like to talk about the Parent Conference idea. More information should be coming out next week after details are settled.

- e) Cyndi brought attention to the DHS Report prepared by Candi for the Area School Council every month.
- f) Draft Calendar – Candi reported back that our council concerns had been forwarded to Wendy. The March Break/Easter weekend concern was common across the board. We'll see what comes of it.

6. School 2 Work Video - We watched the first few minutes of the video, but it is quite lengthy. Anyone who would to stay after the meeting and watch the whole thing is welcome. Scott will try to have copies made for everyone. The video showcases student success stories, involving apprenticeship programs, co-op, career choices, etc. It could tie into our conference idea quite well.

7. Principal Report

- a) Community Hours – Scott will be meeting with the grads again. Teachers have to chase the kids down to get them to fulfill their hours in order to graduate. Councilors will try to encourage the students, and parents will be contacted so they are aware of the situation. Could the school set a cut-off date? There are no guidelines from the Ministry of Education concerning a date. If a student shows up with their hours, even after graduation, a diploma is issued.
- b) OSSLT – this Thursday, March 29th there are 2 - 75 minute blocks for the testing to take place. There are no longer pass/fail marks for each section, it is an entire pass or fail on the whole test.
- c) Aboriginal Job Fair – Approximately 175 Treaty Three students participated. There were 22-24 exhibitors here at the school, and workshops took place at the Centre.
- d) Grade 8 Orientation Night – Lynne Pateman and Bill Hovi organized and presented the evening. Grade 8 to grade 9 transition has been a big focus the last few years. At the end of the presentation there was a question/answer period, and it was interesting to see parent perspective from 20 years ago to now. The evening was well attended, and full of good information. A challenge for parents is to stay involved even when your child does not want you involved.
- e) Laverna Green, the Aboriginal Education Coordinator for the Board will be here the last week of April to discuss achievement and performance, and the difference in learning between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. There are more focused strategies that teachers can use in grades 9 & 10, and “do’s & don’ts”. For example, when a teacher praises a student, they draw attention to the student.

Aboriginal students are taught that in humility, you don't draw attention to yourself. Teachers want more information on strategies that work for Aboriginal students. Ed Arnold added that there has been 1.5 million in funding come out for Aboriginal Education, and that our student population currently is between 35-40%. Enrollment projections show an increase to 55-60% in the next few years.

f) MISA – a database that consolidates all student information and history, including our Trillium system currently used for attendance, grades, credits, IEP's, etc. There is currently a proposal to the Ministry of Education requesting external training for staff to use the software to improve student success. MISA can help predict future student achievement, and is a tool that can be used to decide where funding can be targeted to help kids who need it.

g) Update on Aboriginal Education as requested by Ed – the program was moved back to DHS after the sale of the warehouse, and is housed in the lower level of the school with the coop and other alternative programs. There are definite advantages for students having the program on-site, especially the ability to create more flexible timetables for students based on their individual needs. The coop program will be moved for the 2007-8 school year to allow for additional space for this program. We have operated the program for 2 years to date and will be conducting a review on the structure of the program with our own staff and with our Aboriginal partners in late April and May. The largest challenge in the program is meeting the diverse academic and other needs of the students. Any changes to the program will address these areas. Continued growth is anticipated in the program in 2007-8.

h) Oral Language – Public Speaking Credit?

- 8. Chairperson's Report** – Candi reported that the last Area Council Meeting largely centered around an Oral Language Presentation given by Sara Neall and Carla Markowski. Sara and Carla are SAT's, and showed the various ways literacy is introduced and incorporated into each grade, and how the students graduate from small private group discussions to class presentations. Another interesting and time consuming discussion revolved around the Ministry of Education's directive that there be 20 minutes of physical activity in every class everyday, not including recess or gym time. New Prospect Council is having an especially difficult time with this policy, so Wendy will attend their next meeting and share the Board's view on the policy.
- 9. Safe Grad Report** – Catherine reported that there is a Safe Grad Bingo coming up on Saturday, April 28th, 1-4pm at the Legion. The Kinettes are sponsoring this event with the Safe Grad committee, 75% of profit will go to Safe Grad. You must be 19 years of age or over to attend, there is a grand prize of \$2500. The next committee meeting is

next Monday. There has been good turnout at the meetings, with more parents involved this year than previously.

10. Accommodation Review Advisory Committee Report – Candi reported that the committee had its first meeting, which was an introduction and information gathering meeting. There are 17 members, and a list was passed around showing the names of those involved. Hopefully there will be more information for our next meeting.

11. It's Your Minute - Street Smart – Dallas and Scott will check into when the grads will be attending this presentation.

12. Next Meeting – Monday, April 30, 2007
7pm DHS Library