



DRYDEN HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

DHS Library – 7:00 pm

Present – Gwen, Kathy, Susanne, Diane and Jennifer

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Gwen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. **Conflict of Interest** – no conflict of interest stated
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Agenda approved by Susanne and seconded by Diane
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – Minutes approved by Diane and seconded by Susanne
5. **Business Arising from Minutes** – no business arising from minutes
6. **Reports**
 - A) **Principal's Report** – Kathy shared the OSSLT data for participating students in grades 9-12. In grade 10-12+ there were 251 potential writers. 202 students wrote/13 were absent/29 students were deferred/3 students wrote who were over 18 and there were 4 exemptions. Of the deferred students 1 was an exchange student, 16 met the requirement through passing of the OSSLC, 2 students have no grade 9 English credit, 10 students will be taking the OSSLC in the 2013-2014 school year. Our grade 9's wrote a practice test (each student will receive a report card in the fall for areas of improvement and next steps). There were 182 potential writers, 171 student wrote and 11 students were absent.

Report cards were mailed out to students on April 16 and parent/teacher interviews took place on April 18 (this session is not as well attended as the anecdotal visits so the leadership team of DHS is looking at different ways that we could have this session). After administration reviewed and signed report cards a follow up email was sent by Kathy to review requirements for report card writing as indicated in Growing Success.

Graduation preparations are well under way. Caps and gowns are ordered and potential graduates are working hard along with staff to meet the requirements for graduation. Safe Grad Committee continues to conduct their monthly meetings and preparation for this event is moving forward. DHS is very proud to have a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) group this year. The group has been meeting since September and they planned an event on April 19th – Rainbow Day. Many students participated in the event that took place in student square. Also the SAVE committee planned an anti-bullying event on April 26th, many students participated in a live band performance at the DRCTC called Live Different. The student leadership class is moving forward with organizing this year's Spring Fling which will be happening on May 9th.

The school leadership team has begun the staffing of classrooms for the new school year. All option sheets are completed and preliminary staffing process has begun. We hope to have everything completed by the beginning of June.

The last item as reported by Kathy was a quick discussion in regards to the DHS website and yearbook. Good news for our students, Paul Darling and his senior communications technology class are going to put a 2012-2013 Argosy together for distribution in the fall. The solution for future years is that the yearbook will be attached to a classroom curriculum; this discussion is still taking place. We are still seeking out ways to update and manage the DHS website. A couple of ideas discussed were to hire someone to manage the site, attach it to a course curriculum, likely senior communications class or to have a couple of coop students do a school placement in the technology area. For certain we know that the community appreciates the DHS website and we have to find a solution. The website is up and running, some things are up to date, but the site needs a "face-lift". DHS is becoming an EcoSchool, through the application process and a school visit which will occur on May 13th. The environment club along with Ted Mitchell and one of his classes put the application forward. This group works diligently in reminding us to be "environmentally friendly". The group is seeking bronze status – we have now received word that we have attained silver status. Presentations will be made at our school-wide at our student recognition assembly on June 4th. DHS was given a Ministry of Education attendance audit in May. Recommendations were given and will be followed up on by a board

perspective and a site/school perspective. Verbal following up after the audit was favourable (good report) with some recommendations being made.

B) Chairperson's Report – Gwen received an email about grant dollars available. Discussion took place amongst members present on parent engagement. The idea discussed was perhaps some kind of event in the fall at DHS that would invite all parents to the school via mail out. The event might be like a “family night”. Gwen and Diane were also going to look into the Pro Grant dollars available.

C) Member's Update – Safe Grad report is attached

D) Student Update – students were absent from the meeting

7. New Business – Compass Study – Jen shared the data gathered from the Compass Study which is being conducted in partnership with NWHU and University of Waterloo. The study will take place over four years. The next steps will be to move into planning for areas that are flagged. As a whole school process some of the next steps can be addressed in the school improvement planning process. Jen also shared the case management project that we are involved in. This is a provincial initiative that addresses specific strategies to try with students in classrooms that are deemed at risk. A team of teachers along with Jen's guidance are collecting the data and it will be presented in Toronto at the Compass for Success conference.

8. Correspondence

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

10. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 28, 2013 (School Council luncheon) – R.S.V.P. to vicky.forsythe@kpdsb.on.ca by May 22, 2013.

11. Adjournment – 8:14 pm