

**Lisgar School Council Meeting
February 2, 2009
Minutes**

Council Members Present: Edward Chen, Jamie Gardiner, Rachel Eugster, Lianhua He, Tina Hogue, Lynn Honsberger, Gertrud Jeewanjee, Paul Kronberg, Karima Lotayef, Yany Luo, Liz Melanson, Sue Nishi, Sanjay Srivastava, Ruweida Shire, Stephen Wang, Lawrence Wolofsky.
Ex-officio: David McMahan, Anne-McKillop-Ostrom

Council Member Regrets: Jeremy Chitpin, Pam Hopper-Coculuzzi, Feng (Wendy) Ding, Beth Doubt, Bob Irvine, Hui Li, Dirie Mohamed, David Paull, Kate Preston-Thomas, Bruce Warnock.

Parents and Guardians: Mario Coculuzzi, Joel Cohen, Mary Ormerod

Meeting Chair: Rachel Eugster

Meeting Secretary: Gertrud Jeewanjee

1. Welcoming Remarks (Rachel Eugster)

Rachel welcomed all attendees and introduced David McMahan; attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The amended agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was

MOVED BY: Sanjay Srivastava

SECONDED BY: Tina Hogue

THAT the minutes be accepted with implemented changes.

CARRIED

4. Student Council Co-Presidents' Report (Jamie Gardiner)

- Exams took place last week;
- 'Blackout', the semi-formal dance will take place on February 12, ticket sales will start soon;
- Talent show auditions are scheduled for the 17th and 18th; many interested students; signup sheet is in the South building; the Talent Show is on March 6.

5. Principal's Introduction, Remarks and Report (David McMahan)

Introduction:

- Background: accounting, computing, law, and marketing; with the board for 30 years, including 4 years as principal at Canterbury and 7 ½ years at Sir Robert Boyden; taught other teachers and principals' courses;
- David applied only for Lisgar because of his preference for a community school in walking distance of his own neighborhood.
- He plans to continue the longstanding traditions of Lisgar.
- Kudos to the staff for their support on this very busy first day of the second semester.

Report:

- Ministry SpeakUp grant was approved: \$1,500 for Space Sim and \$600 for the Student Council.

- Staff changes, second semester: Andrea Langhammer, itinerant, back again from Adult High School; Wendy Ann Deslauriers, returning on a partial contract; EOTs: Jacynthe Bigras, French/Fr. Geography and Paolo D’Emilio, Phys.Ed./Geography.
Leaving: Peter Niedre, Science and Phys.Ed; will be the new Coaching Development and Education Director for CanoeKayak Canada; Emilie Gallichand, French, partial contract, Semester 1; Michelle Rattan, EOT in Science completed.
- New computers: Room 206: 31 CPUs and flat screen monitors; Library: 23 CPU’s and flat screen monitors; Room 209: 5 CPUs;

Q: What are David’s first insights on Lisgar?

A: Many students came up to welcome him and he sees this as a very positive sign of the character development program. School is in excellent shape thanks to the care staff. It made him feel welcome that so many staff members came to the office and introduced themselves.

Q: Is the new transfer cap known?

A: The information has not been received yet, but conversations have already taken place as to what an acceptable cap would be.

Q: Vox needs Photoshop on new computers; can it be installed?

A: This will be taken care of; it is part of the standard installation, which hasn’t been completed yet.

6. Staff Representative’s Report (Paul Kronberg)

- The new semester started well; there were very few changes to classes;
- PD day on Friday the 13th; teachers will attend workshops to stay current and stay in touch with new developments;
- Mock timetable night on February 19;
- Teachers are currently recording marks;
- Parents of students who are close to failing will be contacted by teachers.

7. New Business

Volunteers:

- Doors Open Ottawa: first weekend of June; it involves coordinating and training volunteers, who will give pre-written tours to school visitors; students earn volunteer hours—parents can volunteer, too. A training session a few days before should take place to instruct all volunteers. Elaine W. had provided extensive procedure manual. Ruweida and Lianhua volunteered.
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Sanjay, Elaine & Gertrud volunteered.
- Fourth-floor murals. Karen mentioned something about this to Rachel, but no one around the table had any information.

Action Item: David M. to check for an appropriate date for Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Apparently this has traditionally been scheduled to coincide with another annual occurrence. The vps will likely know what that is.

8. Old Business:

(1) Farwell for Karen Gledhill:

Thanks for participating in the potluck luncheon. Council agreed to have the tribute and the Ben Babelowski print framed.

- (2) Lisgar Presentation (Laura Lunn):
- The proposed topic is “No student left thinking; developing democracy and critical thinking”, presented by Dr. Joel Westheimer; date: March 26.
 - Nancy Corbett is not available to present “Emotional needs of gifted children” at this time, but may well be interested in the future
 - Emails have been sent to the psychology departments of Carleton and UOttawa for suggestions
 - \$500 could be used for refreshments after the talk in cafeteria
 - funding available through Continuing Education if at least 40 people attend the presentation, with dollar amounts scaling up with attendance to a maximum of \$500.
 - Invitations will be distributed with report cards, via SynerVoice and via email to parent distribution list. Rachel requested that the flyers be stapled to the report cards, as the only guaranteed way to get them to parents. If they’re loose, they get separated. Parents would be willing to help, but for confidentiality issues.
 - David M. will forward the invitation to the other high schools and feeder schools, with the request to forward the invitation to their councils
 - Liz M. will mention the event at the SSC meetings
 - David M. will welcome the guests.

Action Item: Rachel to distribute background info on Dr. Westheimer’s presentation to council.

- (3) Tip swaps:
The last tip swap was very interesting; council agreed to schedule another tip swap in one of the upcoming meetings
- (4) Suggested topics for the Trustee’s presentation in March:
future issues on the horizon, her take on recent Board developments. The chair of the Alumni Association will be our guest speaker in April.
- (5) Car Pool (Lawrence)
Lawrence coordinated the communication and prepared a Google map; the response was not as high as expected due to lack of parent contact info; many requests for a ride were received; very few offered to give rides.
- (6) Rachel noted that the Constitution Review Committee had made recent progress and was hoping to bring forward the proposed amendments soon.
- (7) Blue binder:
- Toonie Tuesday
 - school board budget
 - Zone 10 notes
 - Karen’s list of books on the teenage brain
 - People for education
 - Principal’s profile that got approved last month

9. Committee Reports

- (1) OCASC (Stephen Wang)
- on January 15; Michael Clarke, CFO of the Board, gave a very good presentation of the budget: the Board has a total of \$678 million for 2009/10, \$523 million for instruction, \$8.9 million for education
 - the Board is combining bus routes with the Catholic school board where routes overlap.
 - Community Member Award for a community member who made a considerable contribution to education: please send any nominations via email to Steve W.

(2) SEAC (Beth Doubt)

The SEAC meeting was rescheduled for February 2; Beth provided an update by email:

- Changes to Special Education classes for next fall;
- Motion: on SK/LLD classes (motion re retaining the last one)
- Motion: on SEA equipment (assistive technologies) and whether its acquisition can be speeded up for children requiring it;
- Training Session by Lynn Ziraldo, a well-known SEAC member from York region, who will speak to SEAC at the next meeting (Wed. Feb 25); public is welcome to attend and hear what Lynn has to say about Special Education and how SEACs should function.
- A Governance session discussing SEAC's role will be held at the end of March; again the public is welcome;
- Autism Ontario will be offering a workshop on "The Educational Experience if Students with ASD", on February 7, 2009; details available on the Autism Ontario website

(3) Treasurer's Report (Rachel Eugster on behalf of Lianhua He):

- Christmas Donations for a total of \$ 2,385 were received: \$845 to Space Sim, \$815 where it is needed most; \$85 for student fees, \$100 for academics, \$275 for arts, \$145 for athletics, \$70 for the chess club and \$50 for Lisgar.

Action Item: Lianhua will check into this.

(4) SSC / Board Watch (Liz Melanson)

Space Sim:

Jim Magwood reported that SpaceSim is doing okay financially; the space craft construction is almost complete, the group might not have to cover these construction costs and will use the collected funds to cover other expenses instead.

Board:

- East End Accommodation Review is still ongoing; there are three high schools in that catchment;
- Secondary Gifted Review is in the state of putting the date together;
- The last SSC meeting took place at Canterbury; Canterbury is at capacity with 1330 students; the special facilities for arts curriculum are not paid by the Board, they are covered through large student fees and community support. A very interesting presentation was given by the SRO (School Resource Officer) Sgt. Mark Houldsworth (their program is under-resourced: 24 police officers serve all 350 schools in all 4 boards; the program started 1991; their goal is to be more efficient and pro-active in how they interact with schools; they would like to raise awareness of the program by having officers speak to councils.); a child and teenage prostitution awareness campaign was done by Canterbury students.
- Trades and Technology secondary education committee: a Specialist High Skill Major program has been created; it gives 10 credits.

Gifted Review: Liz will forward the url to parents.

Q: Shall we invite the SRO to speak at the May 4 council meeting?.

A: Council agreed.

Action item: David M. to invite SRO.

Comment:

- At the last visit of the SRO, she reported on a few substances that are not illegal that kids had started using as drugs.
- She also mentioned that in Ottawa, internet crime is very problematic.

Q: Was there any mention of school transfers at the Board meetings?

A: Nothing was mentioned regarding changes to the school transfer. Staff seems to be occupied with more pressing issues.

Action Item: Liz to prepare a short synopsis on secondary gifted review

(5) Zone 10 Meeting

- Lisgar hosted the last Zone 10 meeting; Trustee holds these meetings a few times a year.
- Jennifer Adams, Superintendent, gave a presentation;
- Jennifer McKenzie asked for feedback on ideal school configuration to aid her as trustees plan for the future;
- the middle French immersion sites have been chosen, Glashan got approved;
- Cambridge School needs a new play structure, it was suggested that each school could organize a fundraiser in support of a play structure for Cambridge;
- there will be one more zone meeting between now and the end of the year.

10. Other Business

What is the possibility of adding Chinese as a language course at Lisgar? While the OCDSB does offer Chinese for credits on Saturday mornings, these classes draw primarily Chinese students. If a course were offered at Lisgar, it might attract a greater diversity of students to take it.

David would have to survey the parents to determine level of interest, evaluate the capacity to provide an additional course as part of the curriculum, and to find a suitable teacher. If it were to be added, something else would almost certainly have to go.

Q: if council put together a proposal what info would have to be included?

A: we'd have to look at first at what is involved; contact administrator of Sat morning school for input.

Action Item: David will do a preliminary review of the options.

In the past, has some of the 500 \$ of the parent outreach money to the Reach team?

The \$500 is specifically directed to Parent Outreach. There have been occasions in the past when PRO grant may have relieved pressure in that area, thus freeing up other funds to support efforts like getting our Reach team to Chicago. We should support the Reach team for their trip to the US.

11. Round Table

- Mixup between careers and civics: Bruce's and Tina's son attended careers instead of civics;
- One student received a paper from Carleton about 'enrichment' workshops; does anybody know whether UOttawa has similar offering? Yes, most of the universities offer something like this.
- A recent article in a newspaper stated that the OUAC numbers are way up; 2008 saw the largest number of applications since the double cohort. There was a large amount of applications from out-of-province, out-of-country, and from late starters. Speculation is that people who are having trouble getting a job in this economy are going for more training. This will result in the grade cut-offs being raised, which will make it harder to get into the universities.
- Six members of the Lisgar swimming team will go to Toronto for a competition, Lisgar will help cover the travel cost.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.