

**Lisgar School Council Meeting
June 02, 2009
DRAFT Minutes**

Council Members Present:

Beth Doubt, Rachel Eugster, Tina Hogue, Lynn Honsberger, Paul Kronberg, Liz Melanson, Sue Nishi, David Paull, Sanjay Srivastava, Stephen Wang, Bruce Warnock, Lawrence Wolofsky.
Ex-officio: David McMahon, Anne-McKillop-Ostrom

Council Member Regrets:

Edward Chen, Lianhua He, Gertrud Jeewanjee.

Parents and Guardians:

Alex Young, Rina Young.

Meeting Chair: Rachel Eugster

Meeting Secretary: Bruce Warnock

1. Welcoming Remarks (Rachel Eugster)

Rachel welcomed all attendees and circulated the blue correspondence folder.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Stephen Wang proposed the addition of a safety item to the agenda. As the student council co-chairs were not in attendance that item was removed from the agenda. The amended agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was

MOVED BY: Dave Paull

SECONDED BY: Stephen Wang

THAT the minutes be accepted with implemented changes.

CARRIED

4. Staff Representative's Report (Paul Kronberg)

(1) New textbooks:

- Paul is collecting input on the issue from the department heads and will have information by the end of next week.

(2) Assessment/Evaluation policy:

- Paul reported on the results of a staff survey on assessment and evaluation. With a 50% response rate, 100% said they had noted an increase in late submissions, 70% reported an increase in the number of tests skipped, 50% reported an increase in plagiarism, and 90% feel that students do not believe there are consequences for handing things in late.
- The survey results are reflected in a large number of student stories about turning assignments in late and getting a higher mark, or skipping a test and having more study time before taking a make-up.
- Dave Paull asked if there had been more feedback from parents and suggested that parents get more involved in this issue

- David McMahon reported that the Board had established an OSSTF committee to look at the impact of the current policy. This will include a delegation of the principal and a staff member from each school.
- David McMahon will look at how the implementation can be improved at Lisgar within the framework of the Lisgar Assessment and Evaluation Policies as developed last year.
- Paul suggested that the new Ministry draft may have a provision for a -10% in mark for late submissions. However, the Ministry's bottom line is that the student's mark represents learning of the curriculum and that the associated learning skills are separate and not part of this mark.

5. Principal's Report (David McMahon)

- (1) School supply budget:
 - David reported that the Board may cut the school supply budget. This is what is used to buy new textbooks.
- (2) End of school year activities:
 - Valedictorian elections are ongoing.
 - The last school dance was held last weekend. There was a lower turnout than in the past.
 - The athletic banquet was held last week, with the alumni association inducting ten new members to the Wall of Fame.
 - The timetables are being built for next year.
 - Staff are very busy with end-of-year tasks.
- (3) AP calculus:
 - This course had 46 applications from which 31 were selected to take the course.

6. New Business

- (1) Safety concern – theft in change rooms (Stephen Wang):
 - Stephen reiterated that students should be made more aware that they should not bring valuables into the gym change rooms. These rooms have multiple entrances and are used by many different classes making it very difficult to keep a watch over the lockers.
 - It was noted that this warning is written in the student handbook and is reinforced by the Phys Ed teachers.
 - A suggestion was made that improved signage in the change rooms might help.
- (2) Election committee:
 - The next meeting is September 08 and an election committee is required to identify council members and officers for next year.
 - Sue and Stephen volunteered to work on the election committee.
- (3) Social event before next Council meeting:
 - Last year's wine and cheese meet-and-greet event was successful and should be repeated this year (unfortunately without the alcohol).
 - The meet-and-greet will start at 7:00 in the library and be followed by the first meeting at 7:30.
 - The remainder of the \$500 PRO grant is available to be applied against refreshments.
- (4) Doors Open Ottawa:
 - Liz needs Lisgar students from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday; she has five and would like five more.
 - There is a training session scheduled for Thursday and electronic notes are available.
- (5) Staff appreciation lunch:
 - Sanjay and Gertrud need more volunteers to replace those who have left.

- The lunch is on June 23 at noon.
- Food should be brought in that morning, or sent with students, and containers can be picked up at 2:30 or 3:00 in the afternoon.

7. Old Business:

(1) Letter to trustees regarding the three simultaneous Board initiatives:

- It was suggested that Council recommend an order for the Board to implement these initiatives, and discussion ensued about what order should be recommended.
- From the discussion emerged the idea that a better approach might be to emphasize to the Board that the issues behind these initiatives should not be looked at in isolation. This led to further discussion on editing the letter.
- David McMahon observed that the discussion appeared to be centered on the Council's interest in maintaining the gifted program at Lisgar. David suggested that the letter recommend that the Board not make any changes that might impact the viability of this program.
- Rachel asked for more information on AP courses to make trustees more aware of what the AP program at Lisgar provides. Any information on the AP programs in other Board schools (e.g. Bell or Earl of March) would be welcome.
- Rachel will redraft and circulate the letter

(2) Cross-boundary transfers:

- There was discussion about the thank you letter to the Board staff who presented to the Council on this issue. This largely centered on clarifications and follow-up questions. David McMahon will try to get clarification of the school capacity formula before the letter is sent.
- There was discussion of problem schools that loose students through transfers. It was suggested that the cause of these losses were largely perceptions, marketing, or boundary problems.
- Council members were requested to think about what should be in Council's submission to the Board on the cross-boundary issue. If each member could think of three items in the next 48 hours and send them to Rachel or Lynn we would have a good start.
- Council members could use a strategic approach to fill out the online Board survey on this issue. This survey is a tool that will be used in the Board decision making process.
- Lisgar needs attendees at the Board meeting in June that will discuss this issue. Rachel will send out details.
- It was noted that anyone can provide input as a parent to the Board in addition to and outside of that provided by Council.

8. Committee Reports

(1) SSC / Board Watch (Liz Melanson)

- Liz presented information about the Focus and Skills programs discussed at the SSC meeting.

(2) Zone 10 Meeting

- Dave Paull presented information on the Zone 10 meeting.

(3) Lisgar Alumni Meeting

- Information was provided about the status of the Lisgar Fund

(4) OCASC (Liz Melanson)

- Liz reported on the cross-boundary presentation she gave at the last OCASC meeting.
- It was reported that intermediate level specialist teachers were being lost as a result of the Ministry's Balanced Literacy initiative. It was suggested that this might be a worthwhile point to discuss with Lisgar's feeder schools.

(5) SEAC (Beth Doubt)

- Beth presented information on the Board's accessibility plan. It appears that the intermediate goal of this plan would be to select some schools which will be accessible to everybody, with the final goal of making all schools capable of accommodating everyone.

9. Round Table

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.