

Etobicoke Collegiate Institute

School Council Meeting – March 28, 2006

Minutes & Business Arising:

- Minutes of the January 31, 2006 meeting were circulated and passed.

Student Council Report: Andrew Watson

- Congratulations to ECI for winning the Toronto Sun Yearbook competition as best graphics and best overall yearbook following a competition between over 100 schools.
- Meaghan Fortner, an ECI student from last year who participated in developing the Yearbook, shared insight into the process and what a great experience the associated course was to take. She also sent thanks to Mr. Desouza for his direction and support. All students are encouraged to purchase a copy through their student fee assessment each year.

Georgia Brown - Charity

- The 12 hour run charity event is scheduled for April 27-28. Last year the event raised \$21,000. This year's charity is SKETCH, a community arts initiative for youth.
- Parent volunteers are requested to help serve breakfast on April 28, 6:30-8:00 am.
- School for all students is scheduled from 8:00 am to noon on April 28th – 12 hour run participants must attend school to receive community service hours.

Melody Sims - Music

- ECI was very successful at the Kiwanis Music Festival: 5 - 1sts, plus a best in class and so on.
- OPUS will be held May 3 at 7:30 pm.
- Special concert on May 12 & 13
- The music trip April 4-15 will be visiting Austria, Italy and Germany.

Steven Latinovic - Athletics

- ECI had successful winter sports program in swimming, curling, Sr. boys basketball, Jr. & Sr. girls volleyball and hockey
- Sr. boys basketball played in a tournament in Saskatoon.
- Spring sports have started and include track, badminton, soccer, girls softball and co-ed volleyball
- Clothing sale was successful.
- Annual triathlon will be in early May

- Some concerns were raised about unauthorized use of field by outside groups. Ron Ellis confirmed that organized groups should have a permit to use the field but it is difficult to enforce this on weekends.

Andrew Watson - SAC

- Survivor week and dance were successful.
- Charity talent show on Thurs., Mar 30 will have proceeds going to Hospital for Sick Kids Cancer Fund
- F.A.T. being reviewed; tentatively scheduled for May 17 but dependent upon plans
- Drama is presenting 2 plays: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Actor's Nightmare scheduled for April 6 and 7
- Etobicoke Idol on May 11
- Fashion show scheduled for April 21
- SAC elections on May 18
- Grad banquet TBA
- Some discussion about student grad trip to Cancun. It was confirmed that this was not a school sponsored event and is an arrangement between parents/students and the tour operator, Parents are reminded that each year various other school endorsed trips (History & Art; Music; French) are offered that may be considered in lieu of a student grad trip if preferred.

School Council Chair Report: Sandy Brown

- Ministry of Education has developed policy on parent involvement, with details coming out shortly: includes \$1million grant program;\$500 per school for local initiatives; board level parent involvement
- Safe Schools Act being reviewed with hearings being scheduled. Potentially more focus on prevention vs. punishment.
- Other school boards including Thames Valley have announced school closings while still awaiting Ministry direction.
- Ministry has appointed a review of some School Boards whose budgets are not balanced; is TDSB a potential board as well?
- Grade 11 parenting classes will begin to care for "babies"
- Timetable and Staffing: schools will need to have members of the parent School Council to participate in staffing discussions, review processes and directions for next year: volunteers requested and several names submitted

Teacher Representative Report: Jim O'Reilly

- Jim O'Reilly was unable to attend but it was indicated that no issues had been tabled

Principal & Vice-Principal Reports: Ron Ellis, Caroline Rath & Sam Iskandar

Ron Ellis

- Professional Learning Centre booklet developed which outlines the initiatives that 13 focus groups have been working on at the Wednesday morning meetings. Examples presented were: Students at risk early identification process; evaluation policies; discipline.
- School schedule discussions: have examined possible changes, including semestering; a new option was identified in reducing class time from 77 to 60 minutes; Ron will attend an information conference and report back to the staff committee (early May) and parents (next meeting).
- The process in reviewing the school schedule includes - survey of staff; survey students and get feedback; discussion with parents likely in a meeting dedicated to the topic.
- Grade 10 Literacy tests to be held on March 29

Caroline Rath

- Timetable and Staffing: process started for Sept. '06.
- Students have submitted option selection sheets and the school has rough idea of numbers for courses; to be reviewed by staffing committee.
- There may be some changes made and some courses may be dropped due to insufficient enrolment.
- Currently staffed for 81 teachers next year (81.5 this year).
- Board has implemented firm class caps this year that must be met (14-33 depending on course).
- Course selections can be changed until end of June; some courses are now closed with waiting lists established.

Sam Iskandar

- Summatives now scheduled from April 18 to June 9; intention to set schedule so that a student will have a maximum of 2 per week.
- Exams begin June 12 for 2 weeks; exam schedule should be finalized by end of May; schedule will be posted on school website

New Business

- Discussion included confirmation that any timetable change would be as a result of the consultation process of all stakeholders and not a top down decision; parents shared concerns related to a change to semestering - academic, music, sports and extracurricular; initial feedback from students indicated preference for full year system – better variety- course & teachers; a break between the subjects.

- Reminder that parent volunteers are needed to serve breakfast at the 12 hour run , April 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 am - contact Sandy

Next Meeting: scheduled for *May 30 at 7:30 pm* in the Library.