

Etobicoke Collegiate Institute

School Council Meeting – October 24, 2007

Minutes & Business Arising:

- Sandy Brown welcomed all the parents and commented that this has been one of the best attended meetings for the School Council in recent years. The elected parent members were introduced:
 - Sandy Brown (Chair)
 - Julie Brown
 - Marie Bogle
 - Karen Chin
 - Joseph Frey
 - Michelle Gibbons
 - Laurie Green
 - Loretta Pisani
 - Walt Skobel
 - Rick Spence
 - Paul Tocher

- Jim O'Reilly was welcomed back as the Teacher Representative.

Student Council Report:

- *Athletic Executive:* Meagan Brown (President) reported many sports are completing their season (boy's volleyball, tennis, golf, girls basketball). The cross-country team won the regional championships and were heading to City Championships. Sports starting for the winter season are swimming, hockey, girl's volleyball, badminton, cricket and boys basketball. Intramural flag football has been held at lunch hours...it includes student teams and a teacher team. Friday Night Lights was very successful and the Senior ECI Rams won the game in the last few minutes of play. The buyout for the basketball tournament was held recently. There will be fundraising this year with bake sales and barbecues to raise money for the new format for the athletic banquet at the end of the year.
- *Music Executive:* Jillian Simone mentioned the fundraiser for students of orange and cookie dough sales - the event will end November 16th with delivery December 10th. The money raised goes toward funding the students Music trip to Milan, Rome, Athens & Malta this year. The Holiday Concert will take place December 5th. There will be a silent auction and the music

department is asking for donations of goods or services from local businesses and the community.

- Social: A visit to "Screamers" is planned.
- Charity: Students participated in a successful C.N. Tower climb for United Way. They are presently raising money for the charity "Free the Children" with a variety of activities

School Council Chair Report: Sandy Brown

- Sandy indicated that Trustee John Campbell who had planned to attend the meeting was unable to because of a recent scheduling conflict with a C. W. Jeffrey's meeting. He will attend at a later date.
- At the October 4th Commencement the School Council gave out six Prefect awards and an individual award to a Sydney Ferguson.
- The Partners in Education conference for parents on October 26th was cancelled due lack of participants.
- The parent information night on universities, colleges and apprenticeships will be held November 14 at 7 pm – all parents welcome.
- The TDSB Parent Involvement Conference will be held November 17th – information e-mailed and circulated.
- The School Advocate newsletter announced the members of the New Parent Boards across Ontario. A number of other articles were shared.
- School Council Budget: there is some accumulated money that the School Council will be giving to some programs at the school: the Library (furnishings), the Mathematics Department (a notebook computer) and the Art Department (a digital camera). This money will only supplement the overall cost and the school will top up. The School Council will be contributing funds again this year to the Holiday Party, snacks during the Literacy test, the graduation banquet and the commencement awards.
- It was agreed by the elected group that additional liability insurance was not required for the School Council.
- Success - the web site is updated and you can find the minutes to the meetings on that site as well as other information.
- On January 29th, 2008 there will be a parent information night about underage drinking. Schools within our Family of schools and other schools in the area will be invited. Parents Against Drugs will have a speaker and video presentation - it is very powerful. Our Community Liaison Officer will be there and a Social Worker from Sick Children's Hospital. More information about this event will be coming in the near future

Teacher Representative Report: Jim O'Reilly

- Report cards will be going home November 21st and Parent/Teacher Interviews are November 29th in the afternoon and evening. You need to set

up an appointment with the teacher and the interviews are ten minutes in length.

- There are two Professional Activity days. November 2nd there will be a speaker talking about working with challenging students. November 30th the teachers will be involved in curriculum based activities.

Principal & Vice-Principal Reports: Gordy Stefulic, Sam Iskandar & Jinah Park

Gordy Stefulic

- The October 16th incident was discussed regarding the early dismissal, the process and the letter sent home. The students and staff left the school at lunch with the exception of some students under the age of 16 whereby the school needed to call parents before releasing these students. These students evacuated to Central Arena on Montgomery Rd. with the administration. There were some challenges in reaching some parents based on current contact information in the system. **It is very important that the school be notified of any changes to your child's personal information especially new phone numbers and addresses.**
- The "Empowering Student Partnership Program" has begun with 30 students and teacher-advisor Barbara Wagner-Heim. It involves working with the police on a perception survey on how safe the students feel at school.
- Take our Kids to Work will be held November 7 for Grade 9 students. Forms must be completed and submitted to participate otherwise classes as usual.

New Business

- A parent inquired about any bacterial infections at ECI considering the recent news from the US about a student. Gordy Stefulic indicated there have been no issues identified in the school.
- There was an inquiry about Special Ed. Students and IEP (Independent Education Plans). All teachers are informed of any special education needs of students. Parents with questions can contact the Guidance Department to discuss.
- Punctuality can be problem for some students at the school. Administration is working with the grade nines on attending class on time.
- Street crime officers in plain clothes come to the school to talk to the students. In January, the street crime officers will be in full uniform which may not allow for the same relationship connection to the students. There are no undercover police within the school – this would mean they are posing as students and that is not in place.

Next Meeting: scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4 at 7:30 pm** in the Library.