

APPLEWOOD HEIGHTS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday Sept 30, 2010 MINUTES

PRESENT:

Parent Members: Vida Stripinis (Co-Chair), Nicole Sells (Co-Chair), Debbie Austin, Marina Ghaznavi (new Communications - Email, Jan Yousef (Communications -Website), Mashkoor Sherwani, Monika Ladyka-Wojcik (new Secretary)

Staff Members: Marcel Giraldi (Principal), Patrick Tannahill (Teacher)

Student Members: Amara Hakak, Cindy Huynh

Other meeting attendees: Ella Dicker (outgoing Communications-Email), Annemarie Mckay (outgoing Secretary), Diana Bittner, Tahira Bohra, Aradhana Pathe, Thanh Le, Shamshad E. Ansari

WELCOME: Nikki welcomed all present, and introductions were made.

MINUTES: Minutes of meetings held May 20, 2010 were accepted by Marcel Giraldi and Jan Yousef

STUDENT REPORT: Amara Hakak, Cindy Huynh

- There has been a positive response from the students regarding the semestered system
- Most sports and clubs have started: Senior Girls Basketball, Senior Boys Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey and almost all of the clubs.
- SPC cards were sold in the second week
- Eight Grade Representatives were chosen as follows:

Grade 9 – Natalia Ladyka and Brian Lee

Grade 10 - Naja Wilson and Sabrina Redford

Grade 11 – Nilani Ananthamoorthy and Daniel Lee

Grade 12 - Kim Nguyen and Carly Wedge

- Spirit Week is being planned for the last week of October. Activities planned are as follows:

Bobbing for donuts, party games, toilet paper costumes, balloon popping, etc.

There will be a dress-up theme every day that week such as Pyjama Day, Plaid Day, Nerd Day, Crayon Day and then Halloween Dress up on Friday

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Applewood Celebrations

- As of Sept 30th, 941 students are enrolled at the school
- Introduction of Parent Web- <http://applewoodheights.peelschools.org>
- Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW) was held first week in September. There were 42 oversea students
- All students have received the required Science and Math books in Grade 9 and 10.

Updates

- Semestered Schedule: Quirks are still being ironed out. Teachers and students both adjusting to the new system. Mr. Giraldi asked student rep Amara how it was going and she responded with the fact that having four subjects to concentrate on was great but there were homework conflicts on some nights.
- Counting on You Numeracy Program starts on October 5th.
- Annual Awards Ceremony (3:30 p.m.) and Commencement (7:30 p.m.) date has been moved from November 5th to Friday November 19th to respect Diwali.
- School SMART Goals: Teaching and Learning; Climate of Learning and Leadership for Learning.
- Upgrades in the school included new windows, increased security cameras, Science rooms renovated, 25 computers installed in a new computer lab.
- First held Principal's forum was not well attended by students. Three students ultimately showed up and voiced their views on the use of cellphones in the school (declined) and access to the Cafeteria after custodial clean-up (approved).

Looking Forward

- Early Release Day Monday October 4th. Discussions for staff included Cyberbullying/Internet Safety; "Growing Success" Ministry of Education Assessment Document
- Student of The Month Presentations and Progress Card Distribution on October 7th
- Parent/Teacher Interviews on October 14th
- Clean up Café Campaign will be implemented in the near future in regard to untidiness in the cafeteria

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- "Great Start" orientation evening being held on October 27th at 5:30 p.m. at Mississauga Secondary School (Courtney Park and Mavis Road). There are 14 sessions and info can be found on the Peel School Board Website
- My Career, My Future workshop for students and parents will be held on Thursday November 18th at 6:30 p.m. Council is looking for volunteers for organizing food preparation etc. Speakers from the last workshop will be contacted again to see if the interest is there
- Annual Report will be posted on the Council Website

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mr. Giraldi provided an overview of school council functions and asked parents to be committed to school council membership. Nomination forms were to be handed in by Sept 30th and all 5 additional nominations were received. Nikki Sells mentioned that certain responsibilities would be assigned to existing council members as needed throughout the school year.

Parent Positions Available:

Chair (or Co-Chair) -- Vida Stripinis

Vice Chair (or Co-Chair) -- Nicole Sells

Lead Secretary (minutes, newsletter) – Nancy Bonus has agreed to fill this position

Secretary (back up for lead secretary)

Communications Rep. (email, email database, email recruitment) – Ella Dicker has resigned and Marina Ghaznavi has agreed to fill this position

Communications Rep. (website) – Jan Yousef has agreed to fill this position

Volunteer Coordinator - TBD

Community Rep - TBD

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 21st, 2010