

Sir Wilfrid Laurier C I Parent Council Minutes

Nov 24th, 2014, in the Library

Attendance: Marios Tenentes (*Principal*), Angela Bernard (*Chair*), Pallavi Gotla (*Secretary*), Dana Thompson, Dawn Zanutel, Dietmar Arff, Ezera (*SAC Vice President*), Ferdie Umali, Judy Baribeau (*GVCA*), Marie-Hélène Frion, Pat and John Tan-Sew, Sandy Arff, Silke Miller, Terry LaFrance, Linda Forte, Melinda Nikkel.

1. Call to Order, Welcome: Start 7:00 PM; October 6th, 2014 Minutes passed.

2. EQAO OSSLT: *Ms. Melinda Nikkel (Laurier teacher and chair of PLC)*

Spoke about the school's overall results and the activities and initiatives being implemented relating to the literacy tests. Mentioned the drop in school results in recent years and how a cross-curricular approach is being undertaken to improve overall results. The following initiatives are being implemented for better results in the OSSLT test scheduled on March 26th, 2015:

1. Monthly initiatives school-wide for grades 9 and 10 where two or more teachers will work on one section of the literacy tests and then ask all staff to implement them in their respective classes.
2. March 5th, 2015 will be Blitz Day for grade 10's and previously eligible students with focus on two major components of the tests: news report and dialogue reading. This will be followed by an actual Mock Test in period 4 covering four sections of the OSSLT.
3. PLC Literacy Meet on March 12th, 2015 to mark the mock tests.
4. Provide one on one feedback to "at risk" students on March 23rd, 2015.
5. December 15th, 2015 a meeting is scheduled to discuss how to best serve students with scores less than 300 (which is 75% and the mark required to pass the tests).
6. In February, the committee will focus on students that scored 280-295 by individually discussing what needs to be done to pass.
7. In the month of February/March each PLC member teacher will offer after school literacy sessions with focus on the OSSLT. Every Monday and Wednesday at lunch students can bring work to a Room 109 for review by senior students and teachers.
8. Working with Pathways, certain students with perfect attendance will be given bus tickets to attend tutoring sessions at Markham and Eglinton. Tutoring offer is presently available to approx. 50 students.
9. Currently awaiting decision to have another class of OLC in semester 2.

The parents were shown the OSSLT website and the school scores vis-à-vis the board and province scores. The school gets the scores for each answer especially where students have not passed the test. There are EQAO student resources on line. If parents have any further questions they can send an email to Melinda.Nikkel@tdsb.on.ca .

3. Student Report: *Ezera*

1. Fall Team Sports: Varsity Girls Basketball won 2nd place in Regionals; Boy's Golf (one boy at OFFSA). Winter Team Sports: Boys Sr and Jr Basketball, Boys & Girls Indoor Soccer, Boys Hockey and Boys & Girls Swim Team. LAC is organizing Dodge Ball Round Robin league.
2. Spirit Days: *Twin Day* (students dressed up to look similar to each other); *Blue Day* was celebrated on *Sir Wilfred Laurier Day*; Halloween Fashion Show was on October 31st with winners in different categories. Both students and teachers participated.
3. MOVEMBER: Laurier had a number of participants; Race for Dignity held on October 24th to raise money for AIDS awareness and stop spread of AIDS; Me2We Scare Hunger was a *canned food drive* for the local food bank.
4. Character Education organized Respect Month in November (various respect theme events and banners in school). An assembly was organized on Remembrance Day. Optimism and Kindness are the themes for the months of Dec and Jan.
5. Robotics team won the Most Defensive Robot award.
6. The United Culture Club's (UCC) annual luncheon will be on December 12th. Students can taste dishes from different countries.
7. Drama Dance showcase scheduled on December 4th and the Holiday Sound Concert is scheduled on December 11th, 2014.

4. Principal's Report : *Mr Tenentes*

1. School Security New measures are being implemented: there are now only three points of entry into the school, one each at the north, west and south entrances. All other entry doors are locked. Of course one can exit from all the doors. This has curbed incidents of non-Laurier students inside the school.
2. School Emergency Procedures There has been a *Lockdown* and a *Fire Drill*; Jack Minor is the evacuation point for the school.
3. Suspensions and Expulsions Principals are now responsible for presenting expulsions cases to the trustees. Today *Mr Tenentes* attended an expulsion hearing which was upheld. We have had a couple of incidences this fall and Laurier continues to be safe.
4. Ms. Ravenhurst and her group of students are organizing the "Bikes for Africa", an initiative to fix and donate bikes to Africa. A metal container capable of holding 450 bikes will be sent. Information will be shared through the Council email and the community.

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5. Commencement was held on November 21st, 2014. *Mr Tenentes* enjoyed meeting the High School graduates. The pros and cons about moving the graduation ceremony from November to June will be taken to the leadership teams for discussion. Parents were asked to give their feedback.

6. School Improvement Plan involves the four areas: literacy, numeracy, pathways and community culture & heritage. For literacy and numeracy the target is to improve OSSLT results by 5%. These goals will be on the TDSB Board website for each school.

5. Community Update (GVCA): *Judy Baribeau*

1. Candy Cane Hunt December 13, 2014.
2. Christmas Tree Lighting December 6, 2014.
3. *News and Views* Community Journal on the website <http://www.guildwood.on.ca/>
4. School events can be advertised in the *News and Views* if the dates are known 3 months in advance.
5. The *Guild Parks and Gardens Advisory Group* requests feedback from parents and school.

6. Other Business: *Angie*

1. SSON results: 13 parent council members voted, by email, to submit the SSON with no changes.
2. *Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI's 50th Anniversary* celebrations May 2015: *Angie* spoke to Ms McClland about Parent Council helping out with the celebrations. Parent Council can probably serve the May 9th Brunch. More details will come next meeting. *Judy* mentioned that *Laurier's* flower beds, planted in memory of teachers, can be spectacular for the 50th, if they are maintained this spring.
3. Parent Councils can apply for a *Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant)* to a maximum of \$1000/year – Previous years, *Laurier* applied the grant to CASSI but they do not require it anymore. *Angie* suggested two new ideas where the grant can be applied: (1) a *Social Behaviour Media Presentation* for both students and parents (\$850); (2) a fridge magnet with a pertinent *Laurier* calendar. Parents were asked to send other suggestions to *Angie* so they can be presented and voted on at the next meeting.
4. A Parent expressed concern about not getting graduation photo sittings. *Mr. Tenentes* said he'll look into it.

8. Adjournment: 8:34 PM. Next meetings: February 9th, April 27th, June 1st, 2015