

# 2005-6 HHSS School Council: Annual Report by Chair

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

To whom it may concern,

Please find below a factual report on the 2005-6 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) School Council. It has been written by the Council's current Chair, Mr. Dorian Young pursuant to the relevant School Council regulations. . This account is intended to be a fair representation of the Council's actions and is not wholly comprehensive. The contents are not intended to injure nor cause any harm whatsoever to any person or organization. Any errors or omissions are solely Mr. Young's responsibility.

## Meetings

The 2005-6 HHSS School Council met five times across the academic year on the following dates: September 20<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>, of 2005 and on January 10<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> & May 9<sup>th</sup> of 2006. All these meetings commenced at 7:00 pm and were held in the Seminar Room at HHSS.

The first meeting held on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 was chaired by Donna Austin. (Marg Cox had completed her term as Chair.) Theresa Riley kept minutes and published a draft version soon thereafter. A new School Council was formed with the following members:

### Slate of Officers

Chairman – Dorian Young

Secretary – Tammy Rea

Treasurer – Terry Goodwin

Non-Teaching Rep – Debbie Sternberg

Teacher Rep – Rob Stonehouse

Community Reps – Dorothy Owens, Donna Austin

Student Rep – Stephanie Foster

Parent Reps – Dorian Young

Diane Welborn

Terry Goodwin

Marg Cox

Tammy Rea

Helen Callaway

Jan McMaster

Theresa Riley

Christine Collins

Patti-Lou Robinson

Henceforth, Dorian Young chaired all HHSS School Council meetings. Mr. Young devised draft agendas well before each meeting and emailed them to all members for comments. A final agenda was published at least a week before each meeting. A set of documents relevant to each meeting were prepared and distributed to Council members by the HHSS Administration prior to each meeting.

For each meeting, Tammy Rea (Secretary) kept minutes and published a draft version soon thereafter. Council considered the previous meeting's draft minutes and approved them by unanimous votes. The minutes of all meetings save the last one (which has not yet been approved by Council) are enclosed herewith and available for viewing on the Council Website at <http://www.tldsb.on.ca/schools/hhss/council/minutes.htm> .

Dorian Young and Tammy Rea composed and updated as necessary a contact listing of and for School Council members.

### **Principal's Reports**

Each meeting included a report by the Principal, Mr. Gary Brohman. These reports were thorough and included essential information about the school. Mr. Brohman, a highly experienced Principal also reported on various educational matters; past and present at the Board and Provincial levels. These reports often stimulated Council discussion and were well-received.

### **Student Activity Council (SAC) Reports**

Each meeting included a report by the elected SAC rep. Miss Stephanie Foster. These reports were thorough and included details of the SAC activities for and on behalf of the student body. These reports often stimulated Council discussion and were well-received. Council members often commented on the great number of events undertaken and were impressed by the reported results; all to the benefit of the school.

### **Guest Speakers**

Each and every meeting included a special guest speaker (as suggested by the Council and invited by Principal Brohman) to speak to the School Council on matters directly related to HHSS. This year's speakers included:

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic relating to HHSS</u>
Melissa Stephens	Destination Success Programme
Chris Bishop, District Manager of Aramark Foods	School Cafeteria & Eat Smart
Chris Duchene, Head of Student Services	Role & Activities of Guidance Dept.
Kathy Hutson, Head of School Improvement and Student Success Teacher	Student Success Programme
Christie Chester, Janice Rickard and Irv Sternberg	LINK Programme for Grade 9's

All these guest speakers gave fine presentations and the Council greatly benefited from them. Thank you letters were written by Jan McMaster and sent to the first three speakers for and on behalf of the School Council. Tammy Rea wrote and sent a thank you letter to the speakers at the last Council meeting.

## **Council Considerations and Activities**

The 2005-6 HHSS School Council's considerations and activities are evident from the recorded minutes (see above). It should be noted that there was **no fund-raising undertaken** whatsoever by the Council all year.

Two items are worth reporting on in some detail because they were considered by the Council during several meetings.

The topic of the HHSS School Cafeteria first appeared on the Council agenda for the meeting held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Chris Bishop, District Manager of Aramark Foods was the special guest speaker. Chris invited the Council into the Cafeteria to show the considerable changes which had taken place. He spoke to the Council about the physical changes made to the Cafeteria and about the new ways in which food was being served and how it was being promoted. There was an emphasis on healthy eating and an Eat Smart Programme in place. At its meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, The HHSS School Council adopted unanimously, a recommendation to the TLDSB supporting the changes to the HHSS cafeteria and commending the Board for putting healthy eating over and above commercial gain. The full text of said recommendation is enclosed herewith and available for viewing on the Council Website at <http://www.tldsb.on.ca/Schools/HHSS/>

The Parent Involvement Initiative launched by the Provincial Government was discussed by Council across several meetings. The Council took specific actions to encourage more parent participation in school affairs. These included:

- a) Council web pages on the school website were revamped to be more user friendly, expanded in content and regularly up dated by Dorian Young. Mr Dibblee, (HHSS teacher) was very helpful in this regard. Dorian has secured the web domain [www.hhss.ca](http://www.hhss.ca) and has arranged for the school usage and control thereof. The school website can now be simply promoted as [www.hhss.ca](http://www.hhss.ca) and easily accessed by interested end users.
- b) The HHSS School Council publicity leaflet has been reworked by Dorian with some helpful assistance by several Council members. A copy is enclosed herewith.
- c) Council members Diane Welbourne and Dorian Young attended the Safe & Caring Parent Conference held by the TLDSB at LCVI, Lindsay on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Dorian reported about the Conference to the Council. Diane wrote some excellent notes about this event which have been posted on the Council's web pages (<http://www.tldsb.on.ca/Schools/HHSS/>).

d) By unanimous agreement, the Council decided at its meeting of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to spend the \$500.00 received from the Parent Involvement Grant on the purchase of a mobile Display Board System. This portable Display would be used across the school year at relevant school events (such as Parent's Nights et al) to promote the School Council to parents in an inviting, effective and attractive manner. It will also be available for use by the School. A suitable Display Board System has recently been purchased with the helpful assistance of the School Secretary, June Smith.

e) Tammy Rea, Theresa Riley and Dorian Young addressed the parents of incoming 2006-7 Grade 9 students at the Orientation Evening called "Starting off on the Right Note" held on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Each member spoke about what benefits they gain by sitting on the School Council and/or attending its meetings. They also raised some of the considerations and activities which have been dealt with by the Council over the past year or so. The Council publicity leaflet was handed out and a substantial email list of interested parents was compiled for careful and specific Council usage. Refreshments were made available to parents courtesy of HHSS. This promotion effort by Council was included in the school's advertisement promoting this event which ran in the local newspapers (see enclosed herewith).

f) Dorian Young was interviewed in his capacity as Chair of the 2005-6 HHSS School Council on the weekly HHSS Radio programme, the so-called 'Hour of Power' (local Canoe FM 100.9). This 10 minute interview; promoting the School Council to parents- was broadcast twice during the month of May, 2006.

### **Other Council Activities:**

Dorian Young attended all the District School Council (DSC) meetings held during the 2005-6 academic year for and on behalf of the HHSS School Council. Dorian duly reported on the DSC's meetings and fulfilled the completion (after Council's consideration thereof) and submission of the questionnaires and forms pursuant to the DSC's requests.

The annual MPP Question Meeting was held at LCVI, Lindsay on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Dorian Young attended for and on behalf of the HHSS School Council. A list of questions were prepared by Dorian and helpfully commented upon by several Council members (see enclosed herewith). These were posed to our MPP, Laurie Scott. Dorian reported on this meeting to the Council on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. It was noted in particular that Ms. Scott has become an outspoken supporter of the Late Busing service in TLDSB. Dorian wrote a thank letter to LCVI for holding this event and inviting HHSS Council representation.

Tammy Rea, having become involved with the Tech. Dept. and Mr. Woof (teacher), arranged and presented two public screenings of HHSS student's films, the 2005 TLDSB film award winner (an HHSS entry) and some Ontario film student winner's from the Toronto Film Festival.

School Council members were kindly invited by HHSS to attend the Graduate Breakfast on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Several members attended. Dorian Young wrote thank you notes to HHSS and to Aramark Foods for this free offering.

A BBQ was suggested to celebrate the success of the HHSS Jazz Bands in Gold and Silver standards at the 2006 National MusicFest Band Competition held in Ottawa last month , Several School Council members kindly offered their assistance for such an event . Principal Brohman generously offered to supply the main foods.

Dorian Young wrote and dispatched letters of thanks to the teaching staff of HHSS and to the Administrative, Custodial and Technical Staff of HHSS. (enclosed herewith).

### **Annual General Meeting**

The next and final meeting for the 2005-6 School Council will be held on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the Seminar Room. This will be the Annual General Meeting.

Dorian Young wishes to thank all members of the 2005-6 School Council for their attendance, assistance and support during this academic year:- which has been to the benefit of HHSS and its community.

Dorian M. Young  
Chair, 2005-6 HHSS School Council

**'Be in the know'**

**Visit the HHSS Parent Council website accessible at:**

[www.hhss.ca](http://www.hhss.ca)