

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Minutes of School Council Meeting

April 1, 2008

Seminar Room – 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Jim Henwood (Chair)
Irv Sternberg
Cathy Outram
Jackie Richards
Terry Goodwin
Marlene Vieira (recording)
Sharon Luke
Wayne Cooper
Marg Cox
Rob Taylor
William Pentesco
Tammy Rea
Christine Collins

Regrets:

Gary Brohman
Helen Callaway
Jan McMaster
Duane Pratt
Jackie Richards

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Jim Henwood welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Guest Speaker: Vice-Principal, Irv Sternberg

Vice-Principal, Irv Sternberg introduced himself to the Council and provided a brief description of his role and responsibilities as vice-principal of a high school. He explained that he is primarily responsible for students' discipline and attendance, with his philosophy being "discipline in a firm, fair and friendly manner". Statistics related to student suspensions were provided to the Council, reflecting figures from the 1999/2000 school year up to the end of March 2008. Questions related to the suspension statistics were then responded to.

Irv Sternberg reported that the former Safe Schools Act is no longer effective in Ontario, and is replaced by Bill 212, which is new legislation around safe and caring atmospheres in schools. Trillium Lakelands DSB has developed a Code of Conduct and Safe and Caring School Teams Binder, which will promote an emphasis on safe and caring schools throughout the district. This initiative will include a Safe and Caring School Team in each school. HHSS is currently re-examining the school rules.

(continued...)

2. **Guest Speaker: Vice-Principal, Irv Sternberg (Continued)**

The documentation that will be required under the Province's new legislation was outlined, specifically as it pertains to student suspensions and how decisions are made about suspensions and expulsions. A summary of the reasons for considering suspension or expulsions, as well as the Standards of Behaviour for students were circulated to School Council members.

It was noted that under current legislation in Ontario, all students must attend school until they are 18 years of age. In response to questions about how this is possible for students who are not interested in remaining in the regular school setting, Irv Sternberg described some of the alternative learning programs that are available. Additional questions regarding truancy and suspensions were responded to, and the role of the school's attendance counselor was outlined.

It was confirmed that the Board has a template for Code of Conduct and HHSS' handbook for students is being reviewed and revised to reflect the Board's template and language. It was noted that students are made aware of this information at the start of each school year.

A new initiative for graduating students, "Party in the Right Spirit" was described, and a handout outlining the details of the program was circulated to School Council members. This full-day workshop is to be offered to Grade 12 students graduating in 2008 and will include presentations and interactive youth-focused workshops creating awareness about high-risk situations that occur around pre and post-prom parties.

Appreciation was expressed to Irv Sternberg for a very thorough and informative presentation.

3. **Minutes of the School Council Meeting**

MOTION: Moved by Sharon Luke, seconded by Marlene Vieira
That the Minutes of the School Council Meeting, January 8, 2008, be approved.
Carried.

4. **Student Activities Council**

A written report by Co-Captains of the SAC, William Pentesco and Bethany Snelgrove was circulated. William Pentesco reviewed the report, which outlined details about recent activities such as Spirit Week, Valentine's Day dance and Coffee House, as well as upcoming events which include fundraising for Free the Children (building a school in Africa).

5. **Principal's Report**

Principal, Gary Brohman was unable to attend, but his written report was distributed to the Council and highlighted by Vice-Principal, Irv Sternberg. The report outlined details on the following items:

- Parents' Night – March 5, 2008
- Option Sheets
- Teams to OFSAA – Winter Season
- Art – What great opportunities our teachers provide
- Upcoming – Party in the Right Spirit
- Scheduling and staffing

(continued...)

5. Principal's Report (Continued)

Feedback was sought from the Council regarding Parents' Night and various opinions were offered with respect to the date to hold the second semester Parents' Night, and the number of hours. It was agreed that teachers need a sufficient amount of time to ensure adequate assessment materials can be reported on to parents. It was also agreed that: the evening should be kept to three hours in length, the "charts" currently sent home are very helpful, and that, overall, parents find the evening to be a valuable method of communication.

There was discussion about how to engage more parents in these evenings and it was suggested that parents be surveyed. Sharon Luke and Cathy Outram volunteered to assist with developing a survey.

6. District School Council

Notes from the District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Marg Cox had attended the last District Council meeting on February 21st and she provided a brief report on the evening. She expressed concerns about the format and discussion not being very relevant to HHSS.

7. School Council \$500 – Monies Spent to Date

An update on this item will be provided at the next meeting by Gary Brohman.

8. Outstanding Follow-up

It was noted that Marg Cox had requested a status report on the psychoeducational assessment wait-list for this year, compared to last year's list. This report is to be provided by Gary Brohman.

9. Website

Sharon Luke demonstrated on a laptop computer the work-in-progress that she has been doing on revisions to the school's website. Positive comments were noted about the work to-date, particularly the updated graphics.

10. Information Received

An informative article had been distributed with the agenda, from Teach Magazine, regarding education for today and tomorrow.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Marg Cox, seconded by Terry Goodwin
That the meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Carried