

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Minutes of School Council Meeting

September 23, 2008

Seminar Room – 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Jim Henwood (Chair)
Gary Brohman
Sharon Luke
Cathy Outram
Jen Paton (Teacher Rep)
Duane Pratt
Tammy Rea
Jackie Richards
Sandy Stevens
Rob Taylor
Marlene Vieira (recording)

S.A.C. Representatives:

Mitch Rea and Lindsey Snelgrove

Regrets:

Jan McMaster
Christine Collins

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Guest Speaker: Dr. Darrell Dobson, Head of Modern Languages and Literacy Coach

Darrell Dobson described his position at HHSS as the school's new literacy coach, noting that he will be working with teachers to incorporate and imbed literacy skills into the curriculum across all subject areas. Throughout the Trillium Lakelands DSB and province-wide there has been an increased focus on literacy because of the Grade 10 Literacy Test that students must pass before graduating from secondary school. Samples of previous tests were provided for Council members to take home and review.

Results of last year's Grade 10 Literacy Test (based on the Grade 9 curriculum) were then addressed in detail by Darrell Dobson. HHSS' results were the lowest in the board at 75% average compared to the board's (83%) and the province's (84%). It was pointed out that there are several factors to consider when looking at the results. Socio-economic status is considered to be the single greatest indicator of how a child will perform on a test, and Haliburton County has the lowest socio-economic level in the province.

Results were broken down further by the following categories: gender; academic/applied; Special Needs (IEP, IPRC). Details were also provided regarding the school's Special Needs population. It was pointed out that HHSS has more than twice the average provincial rate of Special Education students, with 34% being in this category and 24% requiring accommodations for writing the literacy test.

Several questions of clarification were responded to and Darrell Dobson spoke about various cross-curriculum initiatives being considered as areas that staff can focus on to help bring about improvement in the school's literacy rate. Jim Henwood thanked him for an excellent, informative report for the School Council.

3. Minutes of the School Council Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Tammy Rea, seconded by Sharon Luke
That the Minutes of the School Council Meeting, 2008, be approved.

Carried

4. Student Activities Council

Co-captains of the Student Activities Council (SAC), Mitch Rea and Lindsey Snelgrove provided a brief report on the start-up of school activities. They described the events around the first home football game and a successful Spirit Week, as well as upcoming events. Ministers of the council this year will each have their own sub-committees and meetings are held over the lunch period. It was noted that the students had enjoyed a special presentation by a guest speaker (Andy Thibodeau) about how to enjoy school and how to be great leaders.

5. Principal's Report

Principal, Gary Brohman circulated his report to the Council, as well as the 2008-09 School Profile and School Year Calendar for Trillium Lakelands DSB. The Principal's Report was then reviewed and elaborated on, with respect to the following:

- Staffing for 2008-09
- Enrolment – Full-time Equivalent
- Student Success Program – Learning Centre
- Eat Smart Committee
- School Improvement Plan
- Important Dates
- Eco Schools Initiative
- Breakfast Club
- Video Surveillance Cameras
- Turn-It-In Plagiarism
- Late Bus
- Getting by or Getting Better Staff Meeting (PD)

Of note, Parent's Night will be held on October 9, with progress reports being sent home on October 8. It was suggested that a couple of laptops could be set up to demonstrate the school/school council website. In response to a query, Gary Brohman apprised the Council on a hazing incident that had occurred the first week of school.

With respect to video surveillance cameras, concerns were expressed about activities in the smoking area and it was suggested that a camera be focused on that area. It was agreed that this would be investigated by the Principal/Vice-Principal.

Jen Paton provided a report about a new technology, currently being used by Math teachers, utilizing the Smart Board and clickers by the students for answering multiple choice questions (similar to TV game shows). It was agreed that a demonstration of this initiative would be provided at the next meeting.

Members of the Council were also presented with HHSS tote bags, as a token of appreciation from Principal Brohman.

6. Other Business

It was confirmed that radio ads will be prepared by Sharon Luke for Canoe FM and will include notification about Parents' Night (these were already paid for through the Parent Involvement Grant). Jim Henwood will read/record some of the radio ads. As well, public service announcements, for both local radio stations, will be utilized for advertising Parents' Night.

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 11 and will include a special presentation by Amy Klose on the new Math Smart Board/clickers technology, as well as the Eco initiative.

Upcoming meetings will be held January 13, April 7, and May 12, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.