

GOULBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION:	Goulbourn Middle School Library	
DATE:	Mar. 26, 2013	TIME: 6:30 p.m.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Melissa Aitken Leigh-Anne Sinclair Robyn Darragh (Principal) Tracy Smith Andrea Davitt	Gina Montgomery Andrea Easton (Treasurer) Dorothy Penney (VP) Michele Clarke Mona Beimers
ABSENT:	Teacher Rep. Susan Rabb Jo-Anne Schroeder	Rosanne Wall Tricia Redmond
CO-CHAIRS:	Melissa Aitken and Leigh-Anne Sinclair	
SECRETARY:	Gina Montgomery	

REVIEW AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES

Melissa welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Melissa led a motion to approve the previous minutes from March 26, 2013. It was seconded by Andrea.

Melissa led a motion to approve the agenda as is. Andrea seconded the motion.

CHAIR REPORT – Melissa Aitken

Melissa advised us that there will be a Teens and Technology Information session on Apr. 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Earl of March given by Constable Archibald.

Melissa informed us that OCDSB is reviewing policy on the management of school funds. She also received a letter from People for Education. They had a few questions regarding what our school is fundraising for. Melissa completed the quick survey.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Robyn Darragh

Robyn expressed a thank you to all joining us this evening. There is a full report for us this evening.

Robyn advised that we currently have 46 followers on Twitter and she even "tweeted" about our meeting this evening.

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (CONT'D) – Robyn Darragh

Robyn gave some staffing updates including the resignation of the A/Chief Custodian, Mr. Calvin Ferguson. Calvin left to assume a management position with a cleaning company. He will be greatly missed. Mr. Cody Wagenblass will assume the position as our new Acting Chief Custodian. Mrs. Lise Gauthier, who has been with us since last May on a term Education Assistant position, will finish her term as of Thursday. We will miss such a dedicated and loyal team player. We are happy to welcome back Mrs. Sheena Church, who will resume her half time position in Mr. Terrade's class effective Tuesday. Mrs. Joanne Johnson, our Library Technician, has been away for the past six weeks on medical leave. She too was diagnosed with cancer and has had her surgery. She is scheduled to return to GMS on April 8th. Mme Monique Fournier-Redding, one of our Core French teachers has submitted her retirement letter effective June 28th. We would ask that you please keep this information confidential as the students will not be made aware of this until May or June.

We are delighted to welcome three student teachers from Lakehead University. They are working with Mrs. Friesen, Mrs. Wiggins and Mrs. Thompson. They will be here until the end of April.

We will be receiving our staffing allocation for 2013-2014 on April 2nd. At that point, the preparations for next year begin. We will be providing Council with more information (#of teachers, # of classes) in April.

Robyn e-mailed the principal at Munster regarding yoga mats for our school. The principal, Mr. Slingerland is currently on leave, so we will wait until his return to discuss them.

ACTION: Robyn will provide an update upon Mr. Slingerland's return regarding the yoga mats.

We have purchased and have received the initial 10 Ipads from our recent wish list contribution. We are currently looking at purchasing the foam GRIP covers for them. We will be test piloting them with various APPS in Mme MacLaren's room to determine the best programs and the ideal number of tablets per class. Our initial thinking is one tablet per two students.

Our Library Naming Committee comprising of Trustee Scott, Kathy Roesler, Chantal, Gina and myself met last Tuesday to discuss the consultation process. We are awaiting feedback from Superintendent Gamwell on the following proposed plan: Given the growth in Stittsville and Richmond over the past several years, we feel that consulting with our current school community would provide us with an accurate representation of community support of objection to the naming of our library. We would send home electronic communication via school e-news of the proposal to dedicate our library in Helen Sutton's honour. We would include a paragraph from former colleagues and students about what made her so extraordinary and how she

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exemplified the OCDSB's community of character attributes. We would then provide opportunity via Google doc

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (CONT'D) – Robyn Darragh

(or email response) for parents and community members to either support, object, or not

have an opinion about the proposal. They would also be provided with the forum to add other comments. The consultation time would be two weeks. We would also ensure that this information was posted on our website. We would happily contact our community newspaper and share the proposal with them in hopes of generating some media attention to this as well.

You may have heard that the spray bottles for cleaning tables were taken from the classrooms. There was a concern last week as one of our teachers noted evidence of a rash on a few of her students. A couple of them mentioned they were itchy. We were made aware that one student had sprayed his classmates in jest and over saturated one surface. As we had no proof as to where the rash originated, we wanted to be proactive and informed our Site Supervisor, who immediately sent additional custodial staff to clean the rooms and common areas to prevent germs from spreading. We also considered the possibility that the cleaner used (which is a board approved diluted concentrate) may have caused an irritant. We removed all products and they were tested at the board. We are happy to report that all bottles fell within the appropriate range of the OCDSB's Health and Safety requirements. However, we are reviewing our practices to alleviate this from happening in the future given some students' skin sensitivity issues. We will be purchasing new bottles and will be using dish soap and water to clean our surfaces after snack and lunch from now on.

We have been asked to solicit your input on Exit Strategies. A committee has come together to generate a list of characteristics and skills that they believe are vital to the success of all students. We would like to take some time to review the document and to generate feedback on behalf of the School Council as a whole. Miss Penney and I will record your information and will happily input it electronically. This information has gone home to all of the GMS community via email blast.

Dorothy advised us that there is another Board/Ministry initiative being tried out at schools. It is called "Tell Them for Me". It is linked to anti-bullying and safe schools. The survey will take each student approximately 30 minutes and classes will be brought in one at a time to complete it on the computer. It is completely voluntary and confidential. Students will be doing the survey on Apr. 22 – 24. Parents have to let the school know if they don't want their child to complete it. This is a pilot year for the survey and it will be required on a bi-annual basis.

TEACHER'S REPORT – Robyn Darragh

Robyn advised that our final dance unit with Luv to Groove begins this Thursday. We look forward to creating a flash mob with Julia and Raul.

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Wiggins Centre is collecting pennies for We Create Change. We are hoping to fill 25 bags of pennies for safe drinking water throughout the world. Daily updates are provided to students each month.

TEACHER'S REPORT (CONT'D) – Robyn Darragh

Mme Norton's class won tickets to watch a Ladies World Hockey game at the Nepean Sportsplex on Fri., April 5 at 12 p.m., they will watch Germany versus Czech Republic.

Notices will go home shortly about Director's Cut with program details and cost to families. We thank you for your \$10/student contribution to this exciting opportunity as part of your wish list contribution.

Mrs. Daoust had a committee of students create and post posters regarding our annual Cake Walk to be held April 9th. We are awaiting further details from Rosanne as to when the cakes can be delivered Monday evening to include in our March e-news.

Mme Klassen will be joining us for our meeting next month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Andrea Easton

Andrea forwarded a cheque to GMS for \$7,000 for the school's wish list.

Andrea stated that there were 2 NSF cheques from the last food deposit and one has been reimbursed.

FUNDRAISING REPORT – Melissa Aitken/Rosanne Wall

The annual Cake Walk will be on April 9th.

Dizolve laundry detergent sheets were brought in to look at as a possible fundraising idea. Samples were distributed for members to try.

FOOD PROGRAM REPORT – Melissa Aitken

Melissa suggested an email blast go out soon to parents regarding the upcoming Council positions that will become available in Sept. (i.e. Food Program Co-ordinator, Treasurer, etc.).

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Melissa advised that there were other school communities at the high school

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meeting. Melissa attended the meeting, as well as Stittsville councillor, Shad Qadri and Trustee Lynn Scott. MPP Jack MacLaren did not attend the meeting. A petition with signatures regarding pleas to build a high school in Stittsville was sent to Jack MacLaren's office. Mr. MacLaren is supposed to speak on our behalf at Queen's Park.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Andrea D. suggested that we bring in a planner from the Board to better inform us of the steps required and what we can do next to get a high school in Stittsville.

ACTION: Robyn agreed to contact the Board to have a planner come to our next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Melissa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gina seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD TUES., APRIL 23, 2013 @ 6:30 P.M.