



York Region Presidents' Council

Meeting #10

Wednesday, February 9th, 2005 @ R.H.H.S.

Minutes Compiled by Husein Panju – Minister of Records

SECURITY

The remaining applications that had not been received were submitted at this time.

STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTIONS

Prime Minister Becky Walker requested that the student councils present bring in a copy of their constitution to assist in compilation of the “Student Council Manual” a guide to help councils run as smoothly as possible.

CHOCOLATE

Mars bars were still being sold at \$0.75 each or \$13 for 20 bars. Deputy Prime Minister Lisa Rosenberg asked the council if they knew of any elementary schools which had student councils to which chocolate could be sold in order to strengthen the link between the elementary schools and the high schools of York Region.

FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION

Josh Brooks and Matt Colphon, who are members of the *LEAD* program at Markham D.H.S., conducted a presentation for the Council regarding effective fundraising. Below are some of the key points that they brought up.

Set Up Your Team

One of the most important parts of an effective fundraiser is a dedicated and motivated selling team. Josh and Matt recommended trying to recruit close friends and enticing other club members with perks such as volunteer hours and making sure that they understand that they have been given a big responsibility.

Donations

Everyone should go out to get donations (not just the president). When appealing for a donation, try to be professional and include a well-polished cover letter and deliver the request in person.

Schedule

Have a schedule of who is selling and at what time posted at one (or more) central location(s). It also helps to e-mail this to the members and to phone them the day prior to their selling date.

Marketing

Posters should be put up approximately three weeks prior to the actual event to spark the interest of the students. It is also a good idea to have music playing at the sign-up tables. A bold council can even block off the majority of the main hall and give flyers to the students walking single-file.

Sell the Product

Josh and Matt suggested that the easiest groups to target are the members' close friends and the younger students in the school, due to their limited exposure in the school. A helpful technique is to have members bring sign-up sheets into the homeroom classes in order to get students to participate. Selling tactics (such as promising one customer a free ticket if they bring 10 other customers) can be used to the council's advantage.

Incentives

The actual event should follow through with the effort of the actual fundraising. Therefore adequate refreshments should be served and obviously the advertised events should take place as planned. If possible, try and contact the local media to come and televise the event.

Follow-up

When the fundraiser is completed, let the students know how successful the event was (via the morning announcements, preferably spoken by the actual members) in order to encourage future participation. Also, be sure to thank the sponsors for their much needed assistance.

Josh Brooks can be contacted at joshbrooks88@hotmail.com

Prime Minister Becky Walker requested that if any other students had a level of expertise in any subject (e.g. school spirit), that they follow-up by doing a presentation of their own in weeks to come.

SHARING

- Westmount C.I. is planning to have the first dance at their school in many years and asked for advice on how to attract students. Dr. J.M. Denison S.S. suggested that the Student Council advertise the prizes offered by the dance company and Richmond Hill H.S. encouraged them to select a target audience (e.g. Grade 9 students) and focus the majority of their promotion on this segment.

- Westmount C.I. will also be holding a dodgeball intramural league in which students can participate.
- Dr. J.M. Denison S.S. is holding a student-teacher volleyball game which usually results in a large turn-out.
- Markham D.H.S.'s Music Department will be having a carnival event to raise money for its future events.
- A Markham D.H.S. council is fundraising by decorating students' lockers for a small fee.
- At Thornlea S.S. the Student Council is holding a free wedding booth where students can pretend to get married to a friend, complete with a veil, a photograph and a ring.
- Thornlea S.S. has also instituted "fun Mondays" in order to boost school spirit.
- Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.'s Athletic Council is holding the "Husky Olympics", a competition in which a team of 6 people compete in events such as obstacle courses.
- Dr. J.M. Denison S.S. has also blacklisted the dance company Streetbeat due to their long set-up time, the defective video screens and the fact that the company's truck didn't work.
- Vaughan S.S. presented a yet-to-be-tried fundraiser in which customers pay to receive three dodgeballs to throw at Council members who run about the gym each donned with a sign stating a specific prize. If a customer successfully hits a Council member with a ball they will receive the prize listed.
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau H.S. is also holding the fake-marriage fundraiser. In this case, the school will put up two booths (to help reduce the long lines) and present the happy couple with a Ringpop each.
- Newmarket H.S. is well into the planning of their semi-formal to be held next week.
- Richmond Hill H.S. is holding a "Valentine's Week" beginning February 14th, with each day featuring events for students to participate in (e.g. free karaoke on Friday). They will also be sending a Hershey's kiss to each student of the school, with a card stating "Love, Student Council".
- Richmond Hill H.S. is planning the "March Madness" event, in which students pay a specific amount of money to receive a submarine sandwich. Later in the day a teacher vs student hockey game will take place.
- Emily Carr S.S. had their semi-formal last week and it was a great success.
- Thornhill S.S. has been selling heart-shaped lollipops throughout the week and they will be delivered to the recipient on Valentine's Day.
- Thornhill S.S. held a "dating game" type of event during the week to help encourage the Valentine's spirit.
- Bayview S.S. held their semi-formal last week, and although the turn out was great, the amount paid in security may have reduced the total profit.
- Bayview S.S. is also holding their talent show "Bayview Idol" in one month and there will be a trip for those students who wish to watch a Toronto Rock game.
- Langstaff S.S.'s Student Council holds a "fun Friday" each month in which teachers receive free refreshments.

- Langstaff S.S. will also be holding a Monte Carlo theme at their next dance. For the first hour, a fake casino will be occupying the dance floor in which attendees can play the games. There will also be a discount if students are wearing black and white at the dance.
- For Valentine's Day, Langstaff S.S. plays love songs before the morning announcements and sells crushed drinks for students to give to their "crush".
- An effective fundraiser which this school will put on is having agreeable teachers to stand against and wall and charging students a small fee for a piece of duct tape with which to tape the teacher against the wall.
- King City S.S. helped ease the stresses of exams by donating "stress-kits" to the students at the school.
- King City S.S. also auctioned off students to give the bidders reasonable assistance.

At the conclusion of the new type of Sharing Session (in which the topics were divided by school as opposed to by events), it was decided that since some people liked the previous method and others liked this method, that it will be alternated so as to please everyone.

THORNHILL CULTURE-FEST

Thornhill S.S. has been working on the presentation of a week-long (May 2-6) multicultural event to help promote the diversity in the school, in which each specific day will be devoted to a continent. The main event will take place on May 5, in which there will be a food festival, a fashion show and a talent show, each to represent the cultures within the community. The school requested all interested students to attend. To contact Thornhill S.S. about this event, call (905) 889-5453 (ext. 790) or e-mail tssculturefest@hotmail.com.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Daniel Hernandez asked students to talk about events their schools were instating for the Chinese New Year and Black History Month

- Markham D.H.S., and Markville S.S. are selling ethnic foods at each of their respective schools
- Thornlea S.S. is inviting students to attend a showing of the play "Da Kink in My Hair", which deals with the struggles of black women, and to take advantage of the student discount offered