



York Region Presidents' Council

Meeting # 4

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2005 @ R.H.H.S., 7pm

Minutes Compiled by Matthew Colphon – Minister of Records

Schools in attendance: Aurora H.S.; Bayview S.S.; Dr. G.W. Williams S.S.; Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.; Emily Carr S.S.; King City S.S.; Langstaff S.S.; Maple H.S.; Markham D.H.S.; Milliken Mills H.S.; Richmond Hill H.S.; Sutton D.H.S.; Thornlea S.S.; Westmount C.I.

- 1) Presentation for the YRDSB's involvement in the Stephen Lewis Foundation by Dean Bodkin.

Last year, after a trip to South Africa by several key YRDSB members to witness the impact of the AIDS pandemic, the school board aligned with the Stephen Lewis Foundation and pledged to raise \$1 million in support. This presentation updated schools on the current status of this undertaking and new initiatives planned for the upcoming year, as well as sharing some vital statistics about HIV/AIDS.

Everyday, 8500 sub-Saharan Africans are diagnosed with AIDS and each day, nearly 6300 of them die. This has created complete devastation across the region as many of those infected are the working generation, which results in poor families in which ailing grandparents are left to take care of orphaned children, who are often sick as well. In the last year, the YRDSB raised \$150,000 to support the Cotlands orphanage and monies raised in the upcoming year will be redirected to the Consol Homes Orphan care in Malawi.

Funds and awareness have been raised through the participation of many schools selling a total of 26,000 red bracelets with "know care act" written on them, and due to that campaign's success, the bracelets will be offered once more this year. The presenter, Mr. Bodkin, would also like to organize a Board-wide walk-a-thon in April or May in which students from every elementary and secondary school would walk to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. In the meantime, Mr. Bodkin reminds all students that December 1 is World Aids Day, and that to support awareness, all students should wear red clothing for the day.

For more information about the YRDSB's contribution to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Please contact Dean Bodkin at 905-727-0022, 905-722-6255, 416-969-7170 ext.3629; at home 905-722-3730; fax 905-727-3053 or email dean.bodkin@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

2) Sharing

Aurora H.S.

- Student Council members gave candy to students who were in costume.
- Will be hosting a limbo day November 3
- Speaker Sunjay Nath will be attending in 2-3 weeks
- Will be hosting a school colours spirit day. It was suggested that they ensure enough publicity is done to get students involved
- First dance held selling 600 tickets (most of which were sold at registration). Each ticket was \$5, and over 400 of the sold tickets attended. Pynx productions was used, listed as okay with minor complaints.

Bayview S.S.

- A campaign was held raising \$3,400, half of which will go to the United Way, the other half towards Pakistani earthquake relief
- Hosted a Halloween dress up contest
- Upcoming spirit week with pep rally and dance

Dr. G.W. Williams S.S.

- Spectrum, the Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. racial equity committee, will be hosting a multicultural day towards the end of November or in early December. This will feature booths with music and cultural food. They are currently looking for a racial tolerance speaker.

Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.

- Hosted their "Spookapalooza" dance, drawing 270 people or about 20% of the school. This dance was hosted by DJ ray from Wayne Jones DJ services (905 775 2915) for \$428 plus \$270 for Wincon Security. The dance was rated as being excellent. \$500 from ticket sales will be donated to operation Christmas child.
- Planning to run a campaign for operation Christmas child. If 500 boxes are sent to needy third world children then teachers in the school will cross dress.
- Will be holding a Holiday Hop dance on December 22
- Spirit Month: each Tuesday this month will be a new spirit day. Upcoming are Bling Bling Day, Historical Era Day and Clash Day.

Emily Carr S.S.

- 350 tickets were sold for the Halloween dance. DJ emporium was used at \$600, received good review.

King City S.S.

- An auction featuring students as the items was held raising \$600 for the Hospital for Sick Children in memory of two students

- Held Halloween events including Fear Factor, Scary Movie Trivia and a pumpkin pie eating contest
- Have an upcoming support staff appreciation week
- Potentially have an upcoming anti-violence week
- Semi formal to be held December 1

Langstaff S.S.

- Hosted Adolfo the hypnotist. The school found the presentation “so-so” citing that there were too many inattentive students
- Hosted a Halloween costume contest
- Are planning a 15K walk to the Pakistani consulate to support earthquake relief

Maple H.S.

- Will be holding a trivia challenge on announcements
- Sold candy grams for Halloween very successfully
- Sold 100 SPC cards, highly recommend this campaign due to easy publicity. Emily Carr also recommends selling SPC cards at registration
- Held a dance hosted by Massive entertainment. Rated them as satisfactory, but recommend their previous supplier, Street Beat entertainment

Markham D.H.S.

- Music Retreat successfully held by music council for grade 9 music students October 27-28 at Jackson’s Point Conference Centre.
- Halloween has taught this council the importance of publicizing all events, regardless of what they are.
- Semi-Formal will be held November 3 at the Moonlight Banquet Hall.
- A Dodgeball tournament is upcoming. Westmount advises that this is a very popular event, having sold out all 80 spots within the first day of registration last year. They also advise that the organizers use soft balls and strictly enforce the rules.

Milliken Mills H.S.

- Held door decorating and dress up contests for Halloween
- Their dance has been cancelled due to recent violence in the Milliken area
- Operation Shoebox will be held in support of the yellow brick house

Richmond Hill H.S.

- Halloween dance by massive entertainment, good review
- Currently in wait for a new council office
- Upcoming semi formal at DiNardo’s mansion (905 841 3737)

Sutton D.H.S.

- Will be hosting a blue/white spirit day
- Successfully held a Halloween costume day

- PYNX hosted their dance; they rated them as being alright
- Plan to hold a pep rally soon, directly before a large basketball game
- Recommend Campus Hoody for school clothing needs
- Semi formal to be held on December 8

Thornlea S.S.

- Toronto Argonaut Mike Fletcher spoke against bullying, he is highly recommended.
- Halloween cupcake decorating was unsuccessful due to a lack of publicity at their school
- Will be hosting a club day in the near future
- Upcoming battle of the band/talent show night called "Some Wonderful Entertainment"
- Does not recommend fusion dances

Westmount C.I.

- Successfully hosted a dress-up day for Halloween
- Hosted Speaker Andy Thibodeau
- Are running a warm blanket/clothing drive
- Will be having spirit wear made by Jacor

3) OSSSA

The OSSSA (Ontario Secondary School Students' Association) is looking for Leadership Developers (AKA skillbuilders) for its conference Nov 18-20. The conference will be held @ King City S.S. at a cost of \$60 for LDs or \$105 for delegates. If your school is interested please visit www.ossaa-aesso.org for more information.

4) Student Trustee Husein Panju Speaks

After the last YRPC meeting, Student Trustee Panju talked with the head of transportation regarding the various concerns with busing at different schools. Since many of the concerns were school specific, it was recommended that individual councils converse with their school's busing secretaries and administration. It was also noted that a late bus for students involved in after school activities is an available option and is already at some schools, but this is an option that is at the discretion of administration.

Currently, a revision to the busing policy (YRDSB Policy #680.0) is being made. The revised policy could see significant changes or elimination of bus routes, especially in areas where public transit is available. Changes made will likely not affect special groups of students such as those with special needs, in French Immersion or in the Arts York program.

Lastly, the Student Trustee is attempting to visit all student council meetings at least once during the school year. If your council has not already done so, please contact Mr. Panju and arrange a convenient date at which you can meet. To contact Student Trustee Husein Panju concerning a meeting date, busing or any other student issues in your school, please email husein.panju@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

- 5) World Vision. Kevin Chan, a representative from World Vision Canada attended this YRPC meeting as follow up to his presentation during the meeting of October 5, 2005.

World Vision is a non-profit organization which had 25,000 staff members world-wide. Although this organization is based within Christianity, it offers relief to persons of all religions in disaster zones such as those found after the tsunami, as well as providing aid to struggling third world communities. During the presentation, Mr. Chan was marketing the 30-hour famine, an event which is run nationally during April 1-2 as a fundraiser for world vision's causes. During this event, participants abstain from any solid food for a full 30 hours to simulate the conditions of living in a third world country. Currently, about 50% of York Region's high schools participate in the famine, some of which raise upwards of \$10,000 during the event and involve over 400 students in each school. For more information about the famine or world vision, please contact Kevin Chan at kevin_chan@worldvision.ca or go to www.famine.ca.

Thank you again to all schools who attended this week's YRPC meeting. Any concern with or inconsistencies in the minutes may be reported to Matthew Colphon, YRPC Minister of Records at m.colphon@gmail.com. All other questions or concerns regarding the York Region Presidents' Council should be sent to Tania Kolesnik, YRPC prime minister, at yrpcpm@hotmail.com.