



York Region Presidents' Council

Meeting # 7

Wednesday, December 14th, 2005 @ R.H.H.S.

Minutes Compiled by Matthew Colphon – Minister of Records

Schools Represented: Aurora H.S.; Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.; Emily Carr S.S.; Langstaff S.S.; Markham D.H.S.; Middlefield C.I.; Newmarket H.S.; Pierre Elliot Trudeau H.S.; Richmond Hill H.S.; Westmount C.I.; Woodbridge College

- 1) The meeting was commenced with a presentation by Detective Constable Todd Snooks of Crime Stoppers of York Region.

Crime Stoppers is an multinational non-profit organization. This organization helps police by gathering tips through its hotlines, which are then used to solve crimes and lead to arrests. Unlike normal calls to police, all calls to crime stoppers are kept anonymous to ensure the safety of whoever is volunteering the information.

Crime stoppers of York Region is currently interested in expanding its program into local secondary schools. The organization has already had a presence at two schools and has proven effective in resolving their situations. Their new branch, known as student crime stoppers, is hoping to expand to all York Regional secondary schools in the near future, and is beginning its influence by hosting a one day symposium early in the new year.

For more information about crime stoppers of York Region and Student Crime Stoppers, contact Det. Const. Todd Snooks at 1039@police.york.on.ca.

- 2) Presentation by Emma Rooney and guest of Street Kids International.

Street Kids International is an organization which helps provide support to teenagers. The York Regional chapter of this organization is especially concerned with at risk teens, including high school dropouts who are especially in need of moral support.

Currently, the organization is looking for committee members for its community mapping project, which is intended to outline important issues affecting youth in Sutton, Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill and Markham. In the northern towns, the issue of focus for the mapping is adult/youth relations, in Richmond Hill, the focus will be on youth services and shelters, and in Markham the focus will be on recreational issues. The committees will begin meeting biweekly in January, and are willing to help with transportation. They are also willing to offer community

service hours for the duration of the meetings.

For more information about Street Kids International and the community mapping project, contact Emma Rooney at 416-5504-8994 ext. 25 or through email at rooney@streetkids.org.

3) Conference Update

Planning for the YRPC conference, Remix 2006, is well underway. As part of this year's initiative to give the general council a role in planning the conference, the choice of theme and colour were left to the general meeting. The theme selected for Remix 2006 is music, and the conference colours will be Green and Purple. With this in mind, a logo contest has been started. Logos are due during the first meeting after the holiday break (January 11, 2006) or may be submitted electronically to the Prime Minister at yrpcpm@hotmail.com.

4) Sharing

Aurora H.S.

- Successfully held their 'Night in Hollywood' themed semi formal on December 8
- Hosted a drama known as "Dramarama". They suggest to other schools that if they are hosting a similar event they try to make all productions available on all nights or to make sure that it is clear which plays will be on different nights
- Attempted the first of potentially monthly table tennis days. Found that this was unsuccessfully due to the haste of relocating large tables and all the balls lost.
- Sent their council holiday shopping with the alternative education class, which they found helped create a rapport with the class and the rest of the school
- Has obtained a student council bulletin board and asked for suggestions of what should be posted. It was suggested that notices of upcoming events, pictures of past events, profiles of student council members and a link to their student council website be posted on the board.

Dr J.M. Denison S.S.

- Successfully finished a charity penny drive
- Has hosted a homeroom holiday present drive for needy families
- Has sent student caroling to seniors' homes

Emily Carr S.S.

- Raised \$400 during their penny drive
- Will be hosting a semi formal on the last night of exams

Langstaff S.S.

- Held an incredible 15K walk to the Pakistani consulate raising \$8000 and world issues awareness
- concluded their spirit month with their making of a giant chewed-gum ball during their most outrageous group activity day

Markham D.H.S.

- Hosted a successful Dodgeball tournament. Suggest to other schools interested in hosting a similar event to create strict rules and to be ready for competitive spirit.
- Holiday assembly will be held on Friday, December 23
- The prom committee is selling caneddeer (reindeer dressed candy canes) as a fundraiser

Middlefield C.I.

- Hosted an unsuccessful movie night
- have held Mosaic multicultural talent show and a bake sale as fundraisers for earthquake relief
- Are hosting a holiday party on Friday, December 16

Newmarket H.S.

- Successfully held mini-stick hockey tournaments during lunches

Pierre Elliott Trudeau H.S.

- Successfully held a buy-in for their Zoolander play. During the production the production they gave out free popcorn but sold water.
- A school club has gotten select male teachers to perform the Christmas dance from "Mean Girls" as part of a charity fundraiser

Richmond Hill H.S.

- Successfully held both an equity assembly and the 30-hour famine
- Are beginning a star search talent show
- Their world action council hosted a fundraising winter carnival

Westmount C.I.

- Successfully hosted their night of the bands. To relieve stress, they hired a production company (phase 3 productions, available online at www.phase3productions.com)
- Had an around the world spirit week focusing on one country per day. As a bonus, the council worked with Aramark and matched the cafeteria menus to the country of the day
- Held Shave to Save head shaving fundraiser in support of cancer
- Are beginning I-flurtz fundraiser
- Is dissatisfied with Jacor Marketing as their school's clothing supplier
- Have upcoming door decorating contest and dodge ball tournament
- are looking for an inexpensive but reliable motivational speaker

Woodbridge College

-Hosted a successful semi formal at Mala Vida, using Mary Jane DJ services

-Held a stuff bear drive for the Hospital for Sick Children

5) Student Trustee Report

During this meeting, the Student Trustees updated on their efforts in resolving the bussing issues brought up in previous meetings. A summary of their findings is found below. The Student Trustees were also curious as to whether students though an initiative against bullying (i.e. a conference, symposium or a hotline) organized by them or the Board would be good idea. Lastly, the Trustees would like to remind councils to check for their monthly board reports and that if there are any issues in your school, please feel free to email Husein or Abbas at husein.panju@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or abbas.lakha@yrdsb.edu.on.ca respectively.

Thank you to those who attended this meeting. We remind you that submission for the Remix 2006 logo contest are due at the next meeting, which will be held on January 11, 2006, and that applications for skillbuilding and security at conference continue to be available. Happy Holidays!

Policy #680.0 – Student Transportation

Presented to: YRPC – December 14th, 2005

By: Husein Panju and Abbas Lakha (YRDSB Student Trustees)

THE LOWDOWN

THE CURRENT POLICY:

2. DISTANCE LIMITS

- a) Kindergarten – Grade 3 – A child within 1.2 kilometres from the school shall not be entitled to transportation
- b) Grades 4 – 8 - A child within 1.6 kilometres from the school shall not be entitled to transportation
- c) Grades 9 – OAC – A student living outside of a local municipal transit service area, and within 3.2 kms of the nearest York Region District School Board secondary school shall not be entitled to transportation. A student living within a local municipal transit service area and within 4.8 kms of the nearest York Region District School Board secondary school shall not be entitled to transportation
- d) Students may be transported for reasons of safety rather than distance in situations where this is recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Associate Directors, and approved by the Joint Board Consortium



POLICY FOR COMMENT

“Your input is an important component of the Policy Review process. If you feel a Policy needs to be revised, it is most helpful to the Policy Committee if you outline clearly the reasons for your concerns and also suggest alternate wording to reflect your position. The Board welcomes your comments and suggestions.”

Guideline for Policy Review:

1. What is the purpose of the proposed policy?
2. How does this policy enhance student achievement?
3. Who will be affected directly or indirectly and who should be consulted?
4. Has sufficient data been gathered to support retention of or revisions to an existing policy or introduction of a new policy?
5. What are the financial implications? Do the policy provisions fall within school and board budget parameters?
6. Can implementation be accomplished within a reasonable timeframe?
7. How do the proposed changes modify, complement or replace existing policies or procedures?

THE “DOCUMENT INTEGRATION PROJECT” POLICY:

From the Policy Statement:

*“All students who live within **walking distances** or secondary students who have access to public transportation are not eligible for Board-provided transportation.”*

“**Walking distances** do not apply to secondary school students who have access to public transportation. Walking distances are the distances that students are expected to walk to school and are categorized by grade as follows:

- Junior Kindergarten – Grade 3: a child who lives within 1.2 kilometres of the school
- Grades 4-8: a child who resides within 1.6 kilometres of the school
- Grades 9-12: a student living within 3.2 kilometres of the nearest secondary school.

Students may also be eligible for reasons of safety rather than distance in situations where it is recommended by the superintendent of education and/or the coordinating superintendent of education.

Students may also be eligible for reasons of hardship rather than distance upon recommendation by the principal and approval by the manager of STS [Student Transportation Services]. Each case is considered on an individual basis.

THE PROPOSAL(S)

Upon consultation York Region students in the past few weeks, it was found that arising problems with the proposal could include, but are not limited to:

Overcrowding on the public buses
Delayed timings
Environmental destruction

Public buses arriving late
Derogation from prior school bus routes
Money spent on bus passes

For reasons such as these, the (tentative) recommendations include:

That the York Region District School Board, with regards to Policy #680.0 enact a subsidizing plan for which students using public transportation could be at least partially reimbursed for their finances

AND

That, with regards to Policy #680.0 the York Region District School Board collaborate with the York Region Transit system to modify bus routes to maximize efficiency