



York Region Presidents' Council

Meeting # 10

Wednesday, February 8th, 2006 @ 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.; Newmarket H.S.; Pierre Elliott Trudeau H.S.; Richmond Hill H.S.; Sutton D.H.S.; Thornlea S.S.; Unionville H.S.; Vaughan S.S.; Westmount C.I.; Woodbridge College

- 1) Presentation by Ken Thurston, Coordinating Superintendent of Education, and Lisa Walsh on “Communities That Work”

Communities that work is an undertaking of the YRDSB and is designed to investigate relations between the board and the communities it effects. Currently, its findings have been compiled into a report addressing various issues and containing the opinions of teachers, principals, board officials, and community members. The presentation was intended to gather student input on the findings of the report, which will be presented to the Board at a later date. The general consensus of the meeting was agreement to the findings, with emphasis on finding solutions to the outlined problems, and helping students better understand the purpose of community service. For more information on the report, contact Ken Thurston or Lisa Walsh at ken.thurston@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or lisa.walsh@yrdsb.edu.on.ca respectively, or view the report online directly below the link for February 8th's meeting at <http://www.studenttrustee.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/yrpc.htm>.

- 2) Sharing (please note that this week, not all schools present had sharing updates)

Langstaff S.S.

- Is holding an ongoing lunchtime activity called “Survivor: Cafeteria”
- The council has been holding monthly socials to increase bonding within itself. They recommend that other councils try this.
- Inquired as to what other schools’ athletic banquets were like. Responses ranged from schools that hosted athletic banquets in their cafeterias or gyms to those who rented banquet halls with an even number at each location. Prices ranged from free to \$40 a ticket accordingly.

Markham D.H.S.

- Will be hosting a black light dance on February 10

- Various Valentine's Day activities and promotions including rose sales for prom committee, best dressed couples competition, and dating with the stars.

- February 22nd is the Annual Heart and Stroke campaign night

- Black History Month Celebrations are ongoing

Pierre Elliott Trudeau H.S.

- Sold out a dance with 600 people, featuring DJ King Kahn. Dance selling tactics included early bird ticket pricing, forcing council members to sell a minimum of 10 tickets each, going into classes, having giveaways at the dance, having a Tiki bar to mix drinks at the dance, encouraging guest sales, and keeping a positive attitude throughout council.

- Valentine's Day events will include the Iflurtz fundraiser and a marriage booth.

- Next Thursday semi formal will be hosted at the Crystal Fountain banquet hall.

- the school continues to mourn the passing of caretaker Cassandra Read, who perished in a car accident last weekend. They will be naming a hallway and planting a tree in her memory.

Richmond Hill H.S.

- Valentine's dance and battle of the bands have been cancelled due to administrative and security concerns.

- RHHS reminds other schools that if you hold American Idol type competitions, the winners may be eligible to compete at Wonderland for a region-wide Idol competition through world vision.

Sutton D.H.S.

- Mardi Gras Dance by Pynx Productions will be held on February 16.

- Will be hosting a Toronto Argonaut to speak against bullying.

Thornlea S.S.

- Is running the Matchmaker compatibility program

- Will hold Hip Hop Away From Violence on March 3

- Valentine's dance and spirit assembly have been cancelled

Unionville H.S.

- Will be selling tickets to the March 30 Raptor's game as a fundraiser

- Semi formal is in the first week of March at Crystal Fountain. Tickets are \$35.

- Will be hosting a floor hockey tournament in the near future.

Vaughan S.S.

- Valentine's Day activities will include sending roses, giving every male a heart which he may then give to a girl on Valentine's Day, and playing match making games.

Westmount C.I.

- Dance was cancelled due to a lack of sales, but Pandor Productions was very good about the cancellation.
- Valentine's activities will include a spirit day, Iflurtz compatibility fundraiser and marriage certificate signing during the next week.
- School Leadership conference is upcoming, as is Hip Hop Away From Violence and Live Aids fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Woodbridge College

- Will be sending candy grams and roses for Valentine's Day.
- Will be holding a breakfast for honour roll students at the end of the month.
- Will be holding a Black History Month assembly.

3) Student Trustee Update

This meeting's Student Trustee update focused on the proposed changes to the calculus course by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Essentially, the proposal would remove some sections of the current grade 12 course to give more credence to the core components. As the situation stands at the moment, the proposed changes to the calculus course have not been finalized but are being considered by the Ministry. Student Trustee Husein Panju consulted with numerous York Region students from different high schools to gain a variety of perspectives regarding the issue at hand and the effects that this would have on the student population. These opinions were collaborated and presented to the York Region District School Board. The Board was very receptive and interested in the opinions of its students and the recommendations were forwarded to the Minister of Education himself for further review. Husein thanked the YRPC for their commitment towards taking a stand and encouraged more of such action in the future.

For more information, email Student Trustee Husein Panju at husein.panju@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

4) Skill Building Update

The interviews for conference skillbuilders will begin next week. Each candidate will receive two separate interviews, one with each Minister of Skill Building, with the exception of those who attend Westmount C.I. and Markham D.H.S., who will be interviewed solely by the minister that does not go to their school. There will be a limit of 4 builders allowed per school. Information about interview locations and times will be emailed to applicants. For more information email the Ministers of Skill Building at skillorbuild@hotmail.com.

Thank you for reading these minutes. A reminder that the next YRPC meeting is 7p.m. on February 22, 2006 at Richmond Hill H.S., and at that meeting forms and payment for the first 5 conference delegates is due.