

# O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**PRESENT:** Mrs. L. Clausi, Mrs. L. Belisle, Mr. J. McGee, Mr. M. Pollon, Ms. K. Marks, Mr. D. Berthier, Mrs. L. Madore

**REGRETS:** Mrs. B. Ritchie, Mrs. T. Rogers, Mrs. K. Canie.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer** - read by members.

2. **Additions to Agenda**

None.

2. **Adoption of Minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

MOVED BY Mrs. Belisle, SECONDED BY Mrs. Clausi  
that the minutes of the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting be adopted as circulated.  
CARRIED

3. **School Uniform** - Update on sweater - Louise Madore  
- Volunteer sign up for Uniform Fittings - Louise Madore

As previously explained, Mrs. Lafreniere stated that unless we place an order with an other school it is not cost effective to order sweaters at this time. She will continue to work with Top Marks to see if we can have sweaters on our order sheet for September and this would include the Grade 9 students. We will ask Mrs. Lafreniere to follow-up for September.

Mrs. Madore circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist Mrs. Lafreniere with upcoming Uniform Fittings.

Members were asked to contact Mrs. Madore if interested and unable to sign up tonight.

#### **4. Suggestions for Parent/Teacher Interview -**

Mr. Berthier will share People for Education tips & strategies.

**Strategic Plan & Tell Them from Me Surveys** - Mr. Berthier explained the process to be followed for students and parents to complete the survey. He also explained the type of questions found on the Strategic Plan survey. As well, the Tell Them from Me survey currently has pre-generated questions. Next year, we can create our own.

As parents are being asked to complete the Tell Them from Me Survey and a Strategic Plan survey on line, it was felt that to put out another survey for parent interviews would be too much.

Mr. Berthier had the opportunity to meet with the founder of People for Education. As a council, it was suggested that we initiate a similar information sheet to better prepare parents before coming in for parent teacher interviews. Also the possibility of having another similar information sheet giving tips to help students to be more successful. We can adapt the sheets with our own information tips and this information could be posted on our Board Website.

It was agreed to go ahead with tips from People for Education. Mr. Pollon and Mr. Berthier will meet to finalize the tip sheets and then they will be posted on our Website.

#### **5. Reaching Out Grant - Visit from Father Francis McKee Weekend of March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Next steps**

Mr. Berthier explained that he has tried a number of times to get a hold of Father Pat to discuss this. The following ideas were discussed:

- Be part of Lengthen retreat
- Refreshments sponsored by School Council
- OSO to attend.
- Do we go ahead with all the nights or one of the nights
- Set up a business card type thank you card to welcome and refreshments provided Parent Council
- Put out a Synrevoice message to all parents
- Invite our feeder schools
- Location would be church basement
- What day and time?
- Wednesday is the big event. Will he speak about the same thing every night?
- Invited to speak to students during the day but the grant is meant for parents.
- Do we invest entire funds into refreshments or do we do it to a theme - eg. Business card attached to an Easter egg.
- Will need a meeting on the Thursday before event.
- Will need name tags.
- Should have a banner.
- Darren will find out if Wednesday is the major day - if so we should focus on that day.

## 7. Feedback to Board about budget

Mike explained that he took all the comments and then made a final copy. Mrs. Rogers felt it was good because we could do our own if we wanted. A printed copy of our submission is filed with the minutes.

### Discussion

Mrs. Rogers would like to discuss the exam schedule at our next meeting.

Mr. Berthier explained that Damian Cooper was an excellent guest speaker at the recent PA Day. Some good suggestions came out of the presentation. For example, students need to know what to have ready before they write a test or exam. We need to have days set aside specifically for review. Many students do not stay for review and parents feel that their child is spending more time at home studying. Mr. Berthier stated we can entertain this topic at the next meeting.

Questions also came up regarding the scheduling of our graduation ceremony in June. Students write their exams, teachers need time to mark and then students are informed of failures. As a catholic school we have a celebration. Mr. Berthier suggested that this is a conversation he could have before the next meeting and then bring it to council if necessary.

Religion course - Theriault only need to take one religion class. Do we have students leaving OHS because they need to take religion every year. Mr. Pollon explained that this was not a budget item so it was removed.

The number of guidance counsellors is not a budget item either. The school is funded by the number of students in the school. Mr. Berthier explained that he could go to the Board and ask for a second guidance counsellor. Mr. Berthier further explained that he meets with the department heads and they take a look at student choices. We now use Career Cruising and as soon as students enter their choices with know our numbers. This is an excellent tool.

Mr. Berthier explained that with regards to the religion course we need to keep in mind that our school is based on faith. Theriault is allowed to offer one religion course because it is a language issue. Students must take a french course every year.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of hosting our orientation night in January. We could open it up to anyone interested in attending OHS. This would include all grades from OICS to all our feeder schools. We could then follow-up with one evening in February as an open house for parents.

A brief discussion also followed regarding Advanced Placement courses.

Mr. Berthier and Mr. Pollon thanked everyone for their input into the budget document.

### **Athletic Auction**

The auction will be held on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club. Information will be posted on our website site.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Informal meeting for preparation - Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the school library to plan event.

Regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

### **9. Adjournment**

MOVED by Mrs. Clausi, seconded by Mrs. Canie  
that the meeting adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

M. Pollon  
Chair

D. Berthier  
Principal

L. Madore  
Administrative Assistant