

**Huron Heights School Council Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2009**

Attendees:

Tod Dungey	Sharon Cameron *	Leslie Lee
Jeff Foran	Heather Doswell	Tracy O'Connor
Ellen Rass	Joyanna Gatis	Deb Uden *
Carmen Spiteri-Johnson	Kathryn Goldsmith *	Morag Wilkins
Joanne Blair	Vivien Haines *	Cathy Wilkinson *

Welcome – Tod Dungey

- Tod welcomed everybody

Council Elections – Tod Dungey

- Sharon Cameron has agreed to be the chair
- Kathryn Goldsmith has agreed to be the secretary/treasurer
- Deb Uden has agreed to be Grade 9 rep
- Sue Del Tin has agreed to be Community rep
- 5 parents have handed in their "voting member" nomination forms. Any other interested parents still hand in a form to Kathryn. Forms can be printed off from the HHSC website.

Student Council Report – no rep today

Chair Report – Sharon Cameron

- Cobb's bread - Leslie thanked everybody for his or her support. She has talked to Joanna about supporting the Breakfast Club again this year. We can continue doing the Thursday evening at 8:45-9:00. Once at the school, the janitors can be called (either school extension or their cell phone) to open the portables where the bread can be stored. With enough notice, if we don't require the bread the next day (e.g., due to a holiday), Cobb's can let another group know that they can pick up. We just need to sign the form. Deb Uden, Joanne Blair and Tracy O'Connor have volunteered to take turns doing the pick up. If anybody else is interested, let one of them know to put you on the rotation.
- New website - Kathryn reviewed the new website at <http://www.huronheights.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/hhss.sc/default.htm>. Any suggestions should be passed along to Kathryn.
- School Council e-mail - Tod will sort out how to get Sharon access. There is a HHSC phone extension with voicemail. This has not been published on the website at this time.
- Link crew – This group is active with the Grade 9s at the beginning of September but then it fizzles out. Having activities beyond transition day has been issues since the Link students quickly get busy with other activities so don't want to commit beyond the transition day. We'd like to see ongoing support for the Grade 9s. Tod will take this suggestion away to review.
- Sharon indicated that last year, at her daughter's public school council meeting, one of the parents who works for the board expressed concern that Huron Heights is unsafe especially with dark, unsafe hallways. Tod replied that the last renovation addressed some of the major issues that had been identified. Health and Safety come in 3 days/year to inspect all the school and no issues have been documented. Tod invites any person who has safety concerns to come and talk to him.

Admin Report – Tod Dungey

- There has been a proposal to do joint School Council meeting with the other 3 high schools on October 22, November 19, March 4 and May 13. The first hour would consist of school wide topics with the second hour providing an opportunity for each school council to meet separately for their own short meeting. Comments: Thursday is an inconvenient night so it is unfortunate the dates were just provided without other school input; only want to hear what is going on at our specific school. Tod will respond that we are unable to participate and if they want to consider non-Thursday dates in the spring, we might reconsider.
- October 22 - Huron Parents' Night
- Tod requested suggestions for Topics for future meetings. Suggestions: Art's Huron - how the transition has gone and what may change next year; Guidance - discuss issues with getting appointments the first week of school, summer school programs especially foreign travel e-learning, virtual learning, summer school, evening school, "repertoire" classes; Math pathways; Peer Mediators;

- Maaiké Carrinus - Psycho ed consultant for the board is available to come for a talk.
- Schedule - October 27, November 24, back to second Wednesday of each month starting in January
 - Announcements are posted each day. Clubs and teams put up posters and announcements so students are encouraged to keep an eye out for clubs/teams they are interested in. Office is putting together a list of clubs and teacher advisors and hopefully it can be posted on the Website.
 - Peer Mediator training is starting this week. Students are trained in conflict resolution to help mediate problems between two willing students.
 - Parent Reaching out Grant - Cynthia LeRoy had volunteered to look into this but we haven't heard anything from her. Kathryn will e-mail Cynthia to get an update. Deadline is October 16th. We still have the \$500 that is provided to councils from the board each year that can be utilized even if submission isn't done.
 - H1N1 Virus – There have been some interesting reports about having pregnant women staying home, for example. The board is still forming an action plan. They do not recommend school closure but the promotion of good hygiene habits. Caretakers are being extra diligent in making sure supplies are available. The Board isn't putting hand sanitizers in the school. If a student is showing flu like symptoms, he/she will be sent to the office and the parents contacted to pick up the student. The student should stay home until symptoms gone/feeling well. This also applies to the staff. If there is an outbreak in the school, teachers will take into account number of students out of class when doing their lessons. Tod has a concern if a lot of teachers are off due to illness and will work with the Board as required.
 - Fall Forum - Wednesday, October 28th - Newmarket High school at 6:00. There is a dinner then breakout sessions. Let Tod know if you will be attending.
 - School startup – We currently have over 1700 students. We are staffed for 1720 fulltime equivalent students and were up to 1745 a week ago. There is usually some attrition before the end of October. HHSS is the third largest school in the board and the largest staffing in the board. We run a lot of programs that require more staff - special ed, tech classes. Enrolment has declined over the last few years as the community is maturing. There are no new sub-divisions in our catchment area. Approximately 75 Arts Huron grade 9s transferred in.
 - Art's Huron – We created a postcard and printed enough for all Grade 7s in the "north". Some schools said they didn't get any, gave out to the grade 8s instead of the 7s or were sent to wrong schools. It has been a challenge but we will work through it (approximately 30 schools). It was suggested that Tod send a note to the schools asking them to put the information in their newsletters. Three times/year, the Arts Council meets with the four Arts schools. Tod wants to discuss communication - see about coordinating a communication plan.
 - The teams/groups are in full swing.
 - Auditions for the Musical are happening. The show is Honk, which requires some younger students so an invitation has been sent to some of the elementary students to participate. The show is at the end of November. This Thursday (October 1), Art's Huron is putting on an event – a full potluck dinner exclusively for Arts Huron students. October will also be "Artober Fest".
 - Parent Talk - parenting workshop – forms were passed around.
 - November 28th – Arts Huron Open House will include showing a bit of the musical and a presentation.
 - The school budget is less this year by about \$30K, due to less students and Ministry allocation of funds. Tod needs to watch what money is being asked of parents and what school can fund.
 - October 9th - There is a new interim report being piloted this year by the board to get consistency between schools. There will be only one sheet per student though teachers may send something additional depending on the teacher. The board wants feedback so we can share our opinion next meeting.
 - School automatic e-mail process – We had it set up by end of last year but we are having some issues so trying to figure out where the problem is - synvoice or trillium. At the moment, we can't send e-mail messages.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27th
7:00-9:00 in the library – everyone welcome!**