

# Superior Community School: Parent Council Minutes

**Chairperson:** Wendy Piccinin **Recorder:** Luisa Alfonso and Suzanne Belcamino **Date:** November 30, 2009

**In attendance:** Suzanne Belcamino, Anita Caruso, Valerie Massalin, Kathryn Hantjis, Carol McNeice, Chelsea Nagy, Jeannine Nagy, Wendy Piccinin, Ellen Mortfield, Thomas Sinclair, Ron Lee Kam, Sue Talor, Luisa Alfonso and Wayne Fletcher.

**Regrets:** Joy Himmelman, Blair Welch-Clark, Darla Smith, Eugema Ings and Larol Lee Thompson.

	<b>Discussion/Action/Decision</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm	
<b>Review and approval of Agenda</b>	<b>MOVED BY: Ron Lee Kam</b> <b>SECONDED BY: Suzanne Belcamino</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>With amendments</b></span>	
<b>Review and approval of last minutes</b>	<b>MOVED BY: Suzanne Belcamino</b> <b>SECONDED BY: Anita Caruso</b>	
<b>Business arising from minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PRO Grant</b> \$1,000. for Eating Disorder Outreach               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haven't heard anything from Ministry (today is the dead line) – Pat Grows - Joyce mail at Ministry left a voice mail for her.)</li> <li>- Spoke to Smith Clinic – Karen DeGagne willing to speak along with member of Youth Advisory Clinic and wants to invite Janice Piper who is the nutritionist.</li> <li>- Wendy and Carol working with Ron on this project but need to pick a date. Karen Gowanlock will help with posters. February 4 perhaps?</li> <li>- What happens if no funding? Look at funding from Board for Parent Council. This is contingent on funding and may have to scale back the extent of the event.</li> <li>- Book Cafeteria for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Ron, Wendy and Carol</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scholarships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tom Jones Corp giving money.</li> <li>– Letter sent to Alumni 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recycling</b> – Parent council has gone to using real glasses, forks, dishes, etc. to lessen our impact on the environment. Do not need to have recycling as a standing item on agenda. ZWAT meeting here. Provincial government policy. All public school buildings must have a waste audit. Gr. 12 Enviro Science class to do this as project.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Industrial composter looking into it. Looking at grant to purchase it.</li> <li>- Grant for greenhouse on roof. Need to show that the for community can access it.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Community Rep.</b> – How do we ask for Community Rep? - Give information to businesses nearby. Maybe approach George’s Market to ask him to come. Ron would like to see how business are affected by school. Wayne will invite Danny Thompson, owner of George’s Market, to our meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>Wayne Fletcher</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fire Update</b> - Chase and Brock Dietrich and family were very appreciated of both the staff and Students’ Activity Council Donation \$1,100. (staff) and \$500. (S.A.C.). Unfortunately, last week students Julius Jones and Nakita Hintikka had fires at their homes also. Staff as well as Student Council are fundraising currently. A portion of Unite the Way Concert door entrance was raised for these students.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Review of Bylaws</b> - Ron – Housekeeping. Decision making should have its own section. Q: Mission statement? A: Same as Board Mission statement. <b>Notice of Motion</b> - Bylaws must be voted on next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Burning issues</b>	<p>1. With regards to the concert at the school, are ear plugs provided with loud music? Hearing is being affected? It was really loud!! Make ear plugs available. Young workers awareness – look at posters that musicians are wearing them, do they do not damage their hearing. Wayne states we can take a look at it.</p> <p>2. <b>Fundraising</b>. – Bingo. Can School Council inquire as to how a school can take advantage of getting a licence. All sports teams have a BINGO licence. Must ask Licence Department at City of Thunder Bay. Wendy thinks that perhaps it can be used for fundraising. Ron asked for implications for Home and School Association since they do fundraising. Wayne will call Lynn Dziver.</p>	<b>Wayne Fletcher</b>          <b>Wayne Fletcher</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>	People for Education Newsletter School Bus (magazine)	<b>Luisa Alfonso</b>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Student Council – (Suzanne Belcamino)</b></p> <p><b>1. United Way Month</b> – a) Homeroom challenge, b) Spaghetti Dinner, c) Unite the Way Concert.  <b>2. Fire Fundraising</b> – Julius and Nakita’s homes  <b>3. Planning for Christmas Assembly.</b> Last day of school.  <b>4. Grade 7/8 Intermediate high School Leadership Conference.</b> It is an all day conference to ease the transition to high school</p>	<b>Madeline Reinikka (absent)</b> <b>Suzanne Belcamino reported</b>
	<b>Staff</b> – Student teachers are at the school and are doing very well. Collection for students who lost home to fire	<b>Suzanne Belcamino</b>
	<p><b>Administration</b></p> <p>1/ The SSSI project is under way and the focus on non-core courses in grade 9 will be the focus. The school has received \$50,000 for this project where \$40,000 must be spent on release time for teachers. The goal of the project is to improve from 65% to 70% of the grade 9 students achieving 8 out of 8 credits in their first year.</p>	<b>Wayne Fletcher</b>

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	<p>2/ The school has an all day PD session on November 20. The morning was focused on instructional strategies and the afternoon on PLCs. From the data collected, it was a good day and departments are moving forward with various ways to improve instruction in classes and improving our literacy scores on the EQAO testing.</p> <p>3/ November has been a very active month with the students. Students' Council is raising money for the United Way and had a spaghetti dinner and the Unite the Way band concert. The dinner was not well attended. The concert night had a good attendance and the students really enjoyed themselves. Our fall sports have ended and even though we did not win any championships, our teams showed improvement over the season and provided some excitement in the playoffs. The winter sports are now under way and there has been a good turn out for all the sports and the teams are excited and looking forward to their season.</p> <p>4/ The grade 8 visits will occur on December 8, 9 and 10 this year. They will come to the school for a half day and every department is participating in this. The school media committee has met and is developing this year's theme which is <i>growing together</i>. The school will air on TBT a holiday season's greeting with a new twist from last year's.</p> <p>5/ Mid semester marks have been given to students and we are analyzing the data at this time.</p> <p>6/ Cabinet met today and have set the course for this year.  7/ Cheerleader's fundraising tea on December 10<sup>th</sup>.  8/ Put the Gryphon Gala on your calendar December 11 and 12. It will an evening of music, dancing and food.</p>	
	<p><b>Council of Chairs' Report</b>  Nothing new to report</p>	<b>Blair Welch-Clark</b>
	<p><b>Budget – \$1,287.52</b></p>	<b>Luisa Alfonso</b>
	<p><b>Website</b> – Website is live. Can go check it out. Send to Jen Tavares via Brenda but Luisa send minutes directly to Jen Tavares.</p>	
	<p><b>Home and School Association</b> – Eugema is in Toronto</p>	<b>Eugema Ings</b>
<p><b>Policies and Procedures under Review</b></p>	<p><b>Parent Engagement Policy</b></p>	
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p><b>Graduation</b> – Mr. Fletcher wanted to inform parent council about the school's decision to hold graduation en the gym. This is not something the council has the ability to vote on. He was</p>	

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	<p>informing them of the decision. Mr. Fletcher gave a brief background of Hillcrest’s graduation at Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. The cost of the auditorium has rising every year and it has become a major cost for graduation. TBCA also does not give the school a choice of the night either. It must be on the first Tuesday of June.</p> <p>Graduation fees \$40. It doesn’t cover everything. Revenue = student fees plus grad committee otherwise everything is subsidized by school. Last year the school had to subsidize grad in the amount of \$6,000. Not counting the rental of auditorium, graduation last year was \$2,500. over budget. Within five years, the graduation class will decrease, the cost of rental will continued to go up and the revenue will go down (less students=less students fee)</p> <p><b><u>Benefit of graduation Ceremony at the Gym</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>25% decrease in grad fees</b> (students will get \$10. back this year with eventual elimination of grad fees)</li> <li>• Rent black grad gowns. School’s color stoles will be bought and students can keep cap and tassle.</li> <li>• <b>Reception after ceremony</b> in cafeteria a possibility</li> <li>• The gymnasium can be decorated, seats on floor. It can be transformed</li> <li>• What is important for parents at graduation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See their child get diploma (highlight individuals) – There will be a stage built for students to walk across when receiving diploma.</li> <li>- <b>Take pictures</b> - Hire a professional photographer; set an area up for photos in large seminar room with back drop. <b>Students would receive a free picture.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This will benefit both, the school and the students.</p> <p>A discussion was had when Mr. Fletcher clarified any questions that were raised. Parents and one student strongly expressed their opposition of this decision.</p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>The council adjourned at 9:55 p.m.</b>	
<b>Next meeting: January 25 at 7:00 pm, Seminar Room</b>		

**Chair Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_