

**E. L. Crossley School Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting
November 9, 2010**

Attendance:

Ed Goerzen, , Andrea McCollum, Jane Houlden, Terri Steingart, Therese Czychun, Melissa Wright, Corinne Grant, Bhavna Sehgal, Shari Pearson, Emily McCollum, Marie Saint-Ivany, Chad Reece
Regrets: Susan Hawkins, Natalie McIntosh, Stephanie Menincanin, Karen Gemmel, Tracey Borisenko, Michael Hrycusko
Absent: Rick Tarajos, Kristine Canniff, Catherine Wark

Call to Order/Welcome:

Jane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Moved - accepted

5. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes accepted -Mary, 2nd Shari

6. Business Arising from October Minutes:

None

7. Principal's Report:

- (a) Parent Teacher Interview Night- Positive feedback re new format. Some teachers will require a coordinator to facilitate a smoother transition between interviews.
- (b) Mid-term Provincial Report Cards distributed to students November 18, 2010. Newsletter will be included in package with report cards. School Council overview and goals are included in the Newsletter. There is also a small section requesting donations to E.L. Crossley. A council member inquired as to why donations are necessary as taxes should fully fund education. Mr. Goerzen responded that standards and society has changed. Expectations have changed as well. For example school plays/musicals are bigger and more costly productions than in previous generations. Curriculum has been well funded however extra-curricular has become more costly and schools are not given the funding to meet all expenses.
- (c) Early Release Day November 19, Christmas Concert December 9

8. Student Council Report

Chad Reese reported on athletics and where to find information on clubs and tryouts. There is a link on the website to the Athletic Council. The gym schedule posted outside the gym doors also contains further information.

Emily McCollum reported: successful Spirit week, magazine fundraiser (\$5000 profit), Halloween Dance (higher turnout), Coffee House-fundraiser to sponsor an orphanage in Haiti by showcasing Crossley talent, November 16- Semi formal December 17, 4 student council members attended Leadership Council in Niagara Falls - 2400 student leaders in attendance. Forum November 23 –student council grade representatives.

9. New Business

(a) Parent Involvement Committee Conference-. Andrea attended conference and attended two information sessions-(1) Presentation from Niagara Regional Police on cyber bullying and internet safety. Provided written summary of conference, including websites to gather further information i.e. www.cybertip.ca, www.media-awareness.ca, Topics included: privacy settings on Facebook, bullying, sexting, identity theft, internet luring, cyber citizenship and Hitslink-URL site download to track who is coming onto your site.(2) Session on Effective School Councils- advisory role with a focus on engaging parents and student achievement-not a fundraising group

(b)Parent Outreach–Parent Involvement Survey- Results were compiled- top three topics parents are interested in learning more about are; scholarship opportunities, time management skills and communicating with teens. According to the survey, Parent teacher interviews and Report Cards are the most effective forms of communication. Other comments included website could be better and

information should be mailed. More than 50% of parents surveyed read the school newsletter, attend special events, read the school sign, respond to Report Cards and attend parent/teacher interviews.

(c) School Council Goals- Break-out sessions, sub-committees established (1) website/communication (2) Parent Outreach- information night (3) Fundraising (4) Grade 9 handbook (5) Enhancing School Spirit. Each group met for 20 minutes and will report at next Council meeting.

(d) Grad Breakfast – Council is willing to help organize this year however will not be able to fund breakfast. Students may have to pay for their own meal. Mr. Goerzen will discuss continuation of this tradition with staff and report at next meeting.

(e) Correspondence- People for Education

(f) Special Education Funding-DSBN-Baseline funding has not increased since previous I.S.A. funding module .The DSBN did not hire additional staff to complete reports for I.S.A. applications. The DSBN is one of the lowest funded Boards in the province as it relates to Special Education dollars per student. The School Council Chairs of the DSBN are lobbying the Ministry of Education to increase funding. A meeting of School Council Chairs is scheduled later in November.

10. Question Period:

No questions

11. Agendas Items Next Meeting:

School Council goals- Feedback from committees

12. Next Meeting Date –

Tuesday, January 11 2011

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm