

Etobicoke School of the Arts – School Council Meeting
February 9th, 2010
Information Resource Room (Library)

Attendance: Maud Huiskamp, Kathleen McCabe, Marlene Murphy, Deb Girvin, Shari Schwartz-Maltz, Gord Eklund, Kelly Nadal

1. Welcome and Introductions

Maud Huiskamp opened the meeting at 07:30 and welcomed everyone. As it was a small group of familiar faces, introductions were not necessary.

2. Opening Remarks

Maud commented that as of February 8th, ESA's constant contact was up to 626 active members from a previous 588 members in October 2009, an additional 38 members. Maud extended a big thank you to David Brown for his work in monitoring constant contact. She also thanked David for his excellent work on the ESA electronic newsletter. David has done a great job in getting the newsletter out regularly, on time and including many of the events going on at ESA. Thank you David!

Maud mentioned that this would be her last year at ESA and we should start thinking about the council for next year. People should consider whether they would like to take a position on council or nominate someone for a position.

3. Declaration of New Business Items

There were no new items to discuss.

4. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the school council meeting on Jan. 12th, 2010 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kelly Nadal and seconded by Gord Eklund.

5. Report from Student Council

There was no report from student council this month as no representatives from the council were present.

6. Report from the Principal – Ms. Kathleen McCabe

Kathleen reported to the council on the following issues and events:

- I. All schools are currently developing a new leadership model with regards to assistant curriculum leaders. Previously, the assistant curriculum leader (ACL) would be responsible for overseeing 2 or more subjects. In the new model, each discipline has its own ACL. This is a huge improvement. ESA now has 14 ACLs.
- II. Audition day was held on Friday January 22nd, with approximately 640 applicants, many who auditioned for 2 or even 3 of the majors. The day went smoothly. The process was very efficient this year, with all applicants being contacted by email regarding receipt of the applications and the time and date of audition. The complete application package was available on the website. Acceptance letters went out Monday February 8th.
- III. Report cards go out Friday 19th. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday April 25th, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m., by appointment.
- IV. There is a P.A. day on Friday February 12th.
- V. On Thursday February 18th, ESA presents Arts Showcase. Audience members may purchase a ticket for a group of shows presented in different venues around the school. All groups meet in the auditorium for the final performance. The evening presents work from all 6 majors.
- VI. In sports:
The junior and senior volleyball teams are in playoffs.
The hockey team is in the midst of the regular season.
The ski and snowboard finals are tomorrow, Wednesday February 10th.
(Note: As an update to the minutes, the ESA girls' snowboard team won the City championship!)
- VII. The Student Council is running a campaign to raise money for Sketch.
Sketch is a non-profit organization that offers space and materials for homeless and street youth from ages 15 to 29, giving them a chance to express themselves through art, with opportunities to exhibit and sell their work. For the fundraiser, participating male students and staff are growing beards. Students may buy a chance to vote on whether a certain participant should "save or shave" their beard.
- VIII. ESA is working out the final details in an exciting partnership with Shaftesbury Films, a film and television company based in Toronto. This is an exciting opportunity for ESA students. The company will support ESA in

various ways still to be determined, but possibly through donations of materials or giving tours of film sets to students.

There was a brief discussion on the subject of exam preparation. Some parents felt that although there are a few days of review before just before exams, this may not be enough, particularly for grade 9 students. Suggestions were made, such as having a longer period of review, as well as some sessions focusing on skills such as building good study habits or taking good notes. Some of these concerns could be addressed earlier in the term.

7. Report from SESAT

Marianne and David Brown were not present, but Marianne forwarded the following report:

SESAT is hosting a professional comedy night on Tuesday Feb 23 at 7:30 in the auditorium. This year's lineup includes the three-time Canadian comedy award winner and 2009 Gemini award winner Debra DiGiovanni as the host for the evening. Dave Hemstad, Graham Chittenden and Mark Bennett will join Debra. Tickets are available at the office and will also be on sale this week during the lunch break. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students for advance tickets, or \$25 for adults and \$20 for students at the door.

Debra DiGiovanni came to the school on Friday to help select several students who will be participating in the show and she also signed autographs and posed for pictures with the students at lunch. This is a major fundraiser for the school so please help out by attending the show and enjoying a night of laughs.

Performance season is upon us. The first major show is the musical theatre production of "Let's hear it for Broadway" on March 23 – 26. If anyone is able to help with set up, clean up and help sell refreshments during the run of the show, please let Maud or Marianne know.

8. Report from Staff Representative – Mr. Gord Ekelund

The teachers have been very busy with exams and audition day and are now in the midst of report cards. Gord applauded the investment that ESA teachers put in to their jobs. Many teachers spend hours in the school after classes working with the students.

Gord thanked the council for their commitment and work. He echoed Maud's thanks to David Brown concerning the newsletter. David has made a great effort to communicate to teachers in order to report school events and performances in the newsletter.

February is African Heritage Month. On Friday February 11th, 2010, Etobicoke School of the Arts will present the show “Something About My Baby”. The show will feature ESA students and will be presented twice in the morning as well as in the afternoon. The evening show will feature a performance by COBA Dance Company. The cost for the evening show is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

9. Report from Political Liaison – Christina Loeffel-Verhagen

Christina was not able to attend the meeting. There were no recent meetings to report on but Christina forwarded the following information on sessions on Parent Engagement in the TDSB:

Parent Engagement in TDSB

Responding to Parents’ Unanswered Questions

This session will enable parents to get information on the following:

- Getting involved in their child’s education
- School Council (Regulation 612/613)
- Volunteering in schools
- School council budgets/funding/insurance
- Parent protocol (process for dealing with parent concerns)

Sessions will be held at the following dates, locations and times:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
February 17, 2010	Downsview SS (library) 7 Hawksdale Road	6:30 P.M.
February 24, 2010	Richview Collegiate (library) 1738 Islington Ave	6:30 P.M.
March 4, 2010	Jarvis Collegiate (library) 495 Jarvis Street	6:30 P.M.
March 9, 2010	David & Mary Thomson C.I. (library) 2740 Lawrence Avenue East	6:30 P.M.

If you wish to attend, please indicate your name and the location you will be attending.

To register please call 416-397-3529 or e-mail: outreach@tdsb.on.ca

10. Update on ESA Parent Survival Night – March 9, 2010

Maud thanked Debra Girvin for suggesting and contacting Jennifer Kolari as a guest speaker for Parent Survival Night. At this point we need to confirm what money is left in the council budget and to see if Jennifer Kolari’s speaking fee can be kept within our budget.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Gord Eklund motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Marlene Murphy. Maud Huiskamp adjourned the meeting at 8:40.