**SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

May 14, 2015

**Meeting Location**: Fisher Park School Library, 250 Holland Avenue

**Recorded By**: Elaine Vininsky, Secretary

**ATTENDANCE:**

Sue Carswell South Carleton SSC Chair

Elaine Vininsky Glebe Collegiate SSC Secretary

Mark Rollins Nepean School Rep

Michael Silverman Nepean

Joanna Gacek Colonel By School Rep

Gisele Durocher Lisgar School Rep

Caroline Peck Canterbury School Rep

Nadine Clarke Canterbury Community Rep

Catherine Roberts Earl of March School Rep

Tracy Neufeld OCASC Rep

Susanne Brown Bell School Rep

Paula Shaver

Jean Fulton-Hale Colonel By Principal

Jennifer Perry Gloucester Principal

**MEETING START**

* Meeting Commenced at 7:00 pm
* Caroline Peck and Paula Shaver approved agenda
* Nadine Clarke and Gisele Durocher passed minutes from the April 9, 2015, meeting.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SSC members and the guest speakers introduced themselves.

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**STUDENT TRANSITIONING**

Over the course of their presentation, Jean Fulton-Hale and Jennifer Perry shared several documents: OCDSB Specialist High School Major and eINFO 2014 Entry, a companion guide to Ontario universities for secondary school students.

An informal transition aide, according to Perry, is to tailor programs for students, e.g. individual tours to Algonquin College programs or the campus. Formal transition aids include college and university presentations, OCDSB pathways specialists, university student presentations and field trips to universities. Last year, Glebe had a panel on science, math and engineering.

Fulton-Hale says that universities are clearer about students need to speak for themselves (advocates), particularly those with learning issues. An enriched support program helps kids realign their learning from a structured environment to a more relaxed one. Help is also available to apply for bursaries and scholarships.

Many kids think they have to make decisions that will last years – it’s actually increments – and they can change their mind. For example, some of the teachers at Gloucester are former lawyers and nurses, who belatedly decided to enter the teaching profession.

Algonquin College can set up a gap year that involves travel. “Sometimes we forget that students need a bit of space after 13 year of learning,” says Fulton-Hale. “Across Ontario, only 30 per cent of students go onto university right after graduation.” Paul Shaver noted that Algonquin has several sample apprenticeship programs.

Perry says graduates can contact student services at their former high school and guidance counsellors will try to piece together what the student requires to move forward. Fulton-Hale added that academic advisors at university will help. Some students don’t realize that if you’ve taken a gap year, you become a mature student, subject to different rules.

Sue Carswell says that South Carleton is working on a parent handbook to show what is available for high school graduates who are unsure of their next steps. Some representatives thought that the Board should have such a document. Carswell asked about measuring the success of transitioning and Fulton-Hale said the Ministry of Colleges and University in Ontario are tracking the numbers going on to colleges and universities and the dropout rate.

Fulton-Hale said that we need to help kids accept that it’s okay for them to make small mistakes, as long are they’re not repeated and you learn from them. In the book, Mindset by Carol Dweck, the growth mindset is all about being open to failure because it builds resiliency.

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**ELECTIONS**

Paula Shaver is willing to co-chair SSC next near, along with Gisele Durocher. Ellen Dickson can help with the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) because she’s already involved. Ellen will also help with social media and communications. The previous chair had established a twitter account.

Susanne Bowen is willing to act as SSC secretary; however, she may have a commitment on Thursday nights. If she is unavailable, then maybe a new school representative will come forward on the first SSC meeting of the 2015-2016 school year.

Next year meetings will be in October, November, January, February, April and May. Sue suggests that we might have some combined SSC and OCASC meetings. A possible topic of interest to both groups would be the transition from elementary to high school.

**Prom Update**

Lisgar and Sir Robert Borden are organizing their own proms next year. South Carleton is using Studio 54 this year, but they have a reduced price of $90 for the dinner only.

**ROUND TABLE**

Sue Carswell feels that the SSC should report more to OCASC, but agrees that it is challenging to attend school council meetings, SSC ones and then both regular and executive OCASC meetings.

Catherine Roberts reported that the school council accounts at Earl of March have been merged with the school ones. However, when the council wanted to award a $100 honorarium, members were told they had to get the person’s social insurance number. Instead, they ended up giving the honoree a gift card. The school council may decide to go with a separate account, in spite of bank fees.

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**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15 PM**