

## **South Carleton High School Annual Report 2018-2019**

**Name of School: South Carleton High School**

**Address: 3673 McBean St, Richmond, ON K0A 2Z0**

### **Note from the Chair**

The Chair and Vice Chair wish to acknowledge the contributions and commitment of all School Council members. Often, there were many points of view expressed at our meetings yet all discussions remained respectful and appropriate. A special thank you goes out to those that volunteered to support school activities throughout the year.

It has been a pleasure to get to know, and work with, Principal Bill Arden over the past school season. He is a highly effective communicator and brings much to our monthly meetings. Principal Arden is a fantastic addition to our SCHS family and we look forward to working with him for many years to come.

### **Administrative**

The SCHS parent council met on the second Tuesday of every month from September 2018 to May 2019. Meetings ran from 19h to 21h in conference room 18 of South Carleton High School. Meetings were held in September, October, November, December, January, March, April and May. Meeting draft agendas and draft minutes were sent to parents and staff on the SCHS council mailing list. Approved agendas were posted on the SCHS website [here](#) and approved minutes were posted [here](#).

Number of meetings held: Regular 8; Special 0; Cancelled 1 (February meeting was rescheduled to the next week due to a snow day. That rescheduled meeting then fell on another snow day)! After two attempts the decision was to forgo the February meeting and wait for the meeting in March.

The SCHS council consisted of 12 parents/guardians of students who attended the school, 1 community representative from the Richmond Legion, the school principal, 1 teacher representative and 2 student representatives. The council also had an administrative staff member from SCHS that handled all council related finances. All community members were always welcome to attend the

meetings and often our numbers were larger due to interested individuals joining us from month to month.

## **2018-2019 Council Members**

*Chair:* Marcie Kwindt

*Vice Chair:* Kiera Delgaty-Pak

*Secretary:* none

*OCASC Rep:* none

*Members at Large:* Dawn Brown, Trie Donovan, Jenny Flower, Delphine Hasle, Betty Large, Lesley McMullen, Steve Montero, Lori Sample, Brock Sarault, Jill Sheppard

*Community Rep:* Elizabeth Douville

*Student Reps:* Lukas Beierl and Nehemiah Omakor

*Teacher Rep:* Sheri Eady

*Principal:* William Arden

*Administrative staff Rep:* Nancy Annable

## **What Did Council Do Last Year?**

### *Outreach Activities:*

SCHS parent council hosted a Wellness Fair using PRO grant funds. Although community member numbers were low we had amazing support from our invited guests/presenters. Overall, it was decided that the information available at the Wellness Fair is exactly what parents/guardians of our school are looking for. The Wellness Fair was an optimal way to engage parents of our community. However, being a rural school, it is a challenge to get parents to attend events. The Wellness Fair was a positive experience but, going forward, we will not be holding another one. The response from the community was too low to warrant the time and effort it takes to make it happen.

Council also initiated a new campaign to hopefully encourage the SCHS community to be active. We put together an “Action Photo of the Year” campaign.

Anyone at SCHS with a camera can submit action photos that will be voted on by council every month. The campaign had a slow start but we were encouraged to keep it going. The inspiration behind the “action photo of the month” came from a desire from council to see the beautification of the athletic corridor.

*Special Events:*

SCHS parent council representatives were present at the annual Undergrad Awards Ceremony. The council was also happy to provide volunteers and resources for the Undergrad Awards and looks forward to helping out in years to come.

SCHS parent council members were also present at the Year-end Commencement. Council executive opted to not have a stage presence.

Members of parent council set up a table and were present to answer questions during “Meet the Teacher” night in September.

*Focus Areas:*

The SCHS parent council functions primarily as an advisory board for the principal and staff. As such, we were consulted on several items, including but not limited to: prom, school sanctioned events, dress code, late bus options, staffing, student well being, exterior building lighting, handicap parking spaces, parent carpooling forms, smoking and vaping on school property, new paved entrance.

Introduced to the “Student in Need” fund by our new principal, Bill Arden, the council unanimously decided to support it. Council funds were directed to this important cause.

In addition, SCHS parent council recognized the hard work of our Foods and Nutrition teachers and helped support the program and all they do for SCHS by providing treats for various functions. Small financial contributions were made to the program to cover the cost of ingredients used for making treats for the Undergrad Awards.

### **Recommendations for the future**

SCHS parent council consisted of a strong core of parents but as the year went on our meeting attendance numbers steadily decreased. Although this seems to be a normal pattern for busy parents it would be beneficial to find ways to encourage members to not miss meetings. It would also be advantageous to *increase council membership*. Focus should be on recruiting parents/guardians new to the school (grade 9 parents). The hope is that with a larger council we may be able to provide more outreach opportunities for our parent community and create a base of volunteers to be there for the staff and students.

Another future recommendation would be to *create opportunities for the parent council to raise funds* with little effort. The council wants to remain an advisory body but the reality is that public funding for councils may come to an end. For example, PRO grant applications were not available in June. Creating community partnerships would be in our best interest. Attempts to better understand how such partnerships would work led to the creation of meetings with Liz and Deb of Danbys in Richmond. Talks are underway and I am hopeful that a future fundraising partnership for the coming year may happen.

*Communication* can always be improved. Of note, communication with the parent community has improved but there is still more that could be done.

Going forward, if council numbers grow, it would be nice to increase the amount of activities that SCHS council is involved with and perhaps *introduce some new initiatives/events*.

Adopted by the South Carleton High School Parent Council

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Marcie Kwindt 2018-2019 Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Kiera Delgaty-Pak 2018-2019 Vice Chair

