



**Almonte and District High School  
School Council Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2011  
7:00 – 8:00 pm, Library Mezz.**



**Mission Statement  
We Develop Responsible, Innovative Citizens in a Positive Learning Environment**

| Item  | Notes   | ACTION   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Welcome</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attendance</b> – Laurie McCabe, Maureen Dagg, Melissa Kerwin, Kristi Farrier, Geoff Baskwill, David Bentley, Tammy Welk</li> <li>• <b>Regrets</b> – Jannine Atkinson</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Parent Reaching Out Grant &amp; Transition Project</b> | Laurie and Maureen explained that ADHS, as well as our local elementary schools, has received funding from the PRO grant pool which will enable us to serve parents' needs as ADHS goes through the process of becoming a grade 7-12 school. (Information describing the use of the funds is added to the end of this document.)  | Laurie will let us know what she learns at the first Team Discovery meeting next week. |
| <b>Parent Reaching Out Tools</b>                          | Maureen described the "Building Parent Engagement" toolkit from the Ministry. We were to have copies for everyone this evening, but it turns out that the Board is supplying copies to all of the schools for all parents, so we will distribute it as soon as we get it. The parent toolkit includes a useful section called "Help on the Net" – links to useful resources for parents.  |  |
| <b>School Success Plan and Hubs</b>                       | Laurie talked about the School Success Plan and its three goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Students will become proficient in math and literacy in order to achieve graduation req'ts.</li> <li>2) Increase collaboration to improve student learning.</li> <li>3) Students will benefit from effective communication which supports their learning.</li> </ol> Our administration has each program leader looking at our current situation, ways to measure improvement, what must be done to improve, and how to do it. | Laurie – school success plan should be posted on the school site.                      |
| <b>Parent Survey Result Evening Sessions</b>              | Last year, the results of an extensive parent survey, and PRO grant monies, were used to enable the school to create information evenings for parents. Some of those speakers are coming this year, since they were unable to do so last year due to other commitments. In particular, CHEO folks are coming to do presentations on teens.  |  |

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|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Goals &amp; Directions</b></p> | <p>The perennial problem with school councils – we need goals and objectives! Should be somewhat better, with more information from the Ministry, once we have toolkits.</p> <p>How do we get more parents to these meetings? How do we get them informed? Most parents don't even know that there is a school success plan.</p> <p>Communication improvements are suggested – changes to school website, SC articles and information in newsletter. Geoff pointed out that there are three ADHS Facebook pages!</p> <p>Much can be done to make suggestions for numeracy improvements, especially in light of 7-8 students coming to ADHS.</p> | <p>Geoff will look at the school site and suggest useful info that could be kept there.</p> <p>Moe will get a list of math sites and useful links for parents to be published in the newsletter. And an explanation of the math marking system.</p> |
| <p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday, October 3, 2011</b></li> <li>• <b>7:00 – 8:00 pm in MEZZ</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Everyone Invited</p>   |

(Section of PRO Grant follows)

**PART OF THE PRO GRANT APPLICATION, DESCRIBING WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE GRANT MONEY**

**Outline the steps to be followed in the process in order to meet your goal. Indicate what, how, who and when it will be done.**

**What will be done?** The UCDSB is implementing a 7-12 model for many of its high schools in order to allow greater access to programming for intermediate students, and to best use existing facilities. The Parent Council of ADHS wishes to increase parent knowledge of student transitions from elementary to secondary schools; and from grade 8 to grade 9. We also wish to involve parents in the important decisions affecting their children as the new model is implemented.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**

**How does this enhance parent engagement in support of improved student achievement and well-being?** According to school council surveys, the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process of two years ago, and a recent family of school councils meeting, there are many concerns among parents regarding their children’s well-being with this new model. By engaging parents in the process of the transition, we hope to overcome any perceived and real barriers to student success. By engaging them at this important juncture, we are hopeful that it will lead to more successful parent engagement throughout intermediate and senior high school years in our school.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**

**Who will do it?** Since there is significant community interest in these important transitions, we wish to coordinate between the high school and the feeder elementary schools, with parents, school administrators and staff, and students involved. Speakers will be engaged who can give seminars on student transitions and mentoring of the intermediate-level student.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**

**How will it be done?** We will have a series of meetings and information nights, as well as student-led tours of the school facilities – before, during and after any changes that must be made to accommodate the new model. Parents will be encouraged to offer input and suggestions, and to identify any barriers to student success that arise under the new model and facility modifications. Parents will also be invited to a series of seminars that will help them to become more knowledgeable about how to support both student transitions and intermediate learners in our system.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**

**When will it be done?** The project will start in the fall of 2011, and will be ongoing throughout the 2011-2012 school year. It is our plan to continue with the project as the 7-12 model is completed for the fall of 2012. This is our year to ensure that this important transition is as smooth as possible for our kids, and to ensure that, when they move into our school in the fall of 2012, they are moving into a welcoming environment with supports in place for their success and well-being in our system.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**

**Why do you want to organize this project?** The large number of parents who have come out during the ARC process and at family of school council meetings, as well as our school surveys, have made it abundantly clear that a significant effort needs to be made to ensure that our community is satisfied with the transition to this new school model. We will need to spend a significant amount of time and effort keeping all of the stakeholders involved and informed in order to ensure success.

**(Please try to limit your response to 150 words) :**