

Colonel By Secondary School Council
Minutes of meeting held on
Tuesday, March 24th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Jason Lawrence – 2 new parents introduced themselves.
2. Attendance – Jason Lawrence (Co-Chair), Marie-Claude Meunier (Co-Chair), Jean Fulton-Hale (Principal), Balazs Fazakas (Vice Principal), Michel Belanger (Staff rep.), Lewis Harthun (IB Rep), Wanda Thompson (Treasurer), Michele Simpson (Secretary), Joanna Gacek (OCASC Rep), Xiaohua Wu, Weiya Gan, Delia Kecskemeti, Cathy Amini, Lise Baillot-Kutukian, Parag Srivastava, Charu Srivastava, Suzanne de Abreu, Mary Ellen Norland.
3. Presentation – Reach for the Top/Quizbowl team
 - a. Team dates back to pre-2000. What is Quizbowl – common throughout the US and Ontario and in international schools in Asia and the Middle East. Dominant quiz tournament format for high and post secondary schools.
 - b. Academic distribution among Literature, history, science, religion and fine art and rewards the academic knowledge. Benefits work ethics, develops study habits and critical thinking, team building and overall develops an inquisitive nature.
 - c. Joined the team in Grade 9 and allows growth both intellectually and individually.
 - d. The team that buzzes correctly gets a bonus question. It's all about knowing more than the other.
 - e. Colonel By's achievements – 2 time defending Provincial Champions (2014, 2015). Undefeated against high school opposition for the last 2 years winning every game and every tournament. First Canadian High school team to play and win a university-level tournament. Currently ranked 9th out of 2173 schools worldwide, peaking at 7th in late 2014. Highest ranking Canadian school in history. All prior tournaments attended paid for out of pocket.
 - f. HSNCT (High School National Championship Tournament) – May 29-31 in Chicago, IL. Top 256 teams from USA, China, Singapore, Canada and the rest of the world. Only three Canadian schools have ever attended (Lisgar 1, Toronto 1, Edmonton 1). Cost per person is \$1,200 per student including tournament fee (\$750), lodging, transportation and cost of teacher supervisors that accompany them on the tournament (\$220 per person per day – total 2 days). Doesn't include travel insurance and meals. Total approximately \$6,000. Requesting school council founding. Have so far received \$70 from Ontario Quizbowl Association and one donor totaling \$320 so far. They have contacted Superintendents of each area as well as CBC Ottawa so far. The cost to the parents is the same for Colonel By as for Lisgar.
 - g. Last year Colonel By supported the Quizbowl team to attend a tournament in Toronto with their staff advisor. The staff advisor is responsible for arranging excursions and supporting fundraising. There is a concern as to whether the School Council can support one group as opposed to any other group. Legally we cannot take a vote right now since we do not have quorum. We will need to ask the Council members to vote on this request.
4. Reports –
 - a. Principal's report – Jean Fulton-Hale
 - a.i. OSSLT is Thursday, March 26th at the school. The test is once per year and is usually sat by Grade 10 students as well as any Grade 11/12 students that have not completed this graduation requirement.
 - a.ii. Series of presentations in April – No regrets – taking smart risks. An injury survivor will come and present to Grades 11 and 12. Gives us a chance to listen to different choices while still having fun.
 - a.iii. The school received funding for a breakfast program and are part-way in the renovations to providing for it so that students can come in and have a good breakfast or have a mid-morning snack. This is being done by our Student Success Teachers.
 - a.iv. Vernissage in early April, C Flats concert, To kill a mockingbird presentation in early April. Our Students Council is organising a pink bubble challenge at lunch time.

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- a.v. Leadership camp on April 15-17.
- a.vi. Please check the school calendar on the website. The last date for field trips is May 8 as we prepare for exams.
- a.vii. Phase 2 of renovations this summer – school will not be open.
- a.viii. A number of trees were taken out last year due to Emerald Ash worm, and these will be replaced in partnership with the evergreen society.
- a.ix. April 24th is the last dance.
- a.x. OCDSB has a new policy on return to learn and return to play (concussion policy). Someone will come to Council in May to make a presentation on this new policy.
- a.xi. There are about 25-28 classes per course until the start of the exams. Very conscious of that as we work towards commencement.
- b. Tell them from me survey – Balazs Fazakas
 - b.i. Third year in a row that the survey will be administered during the week of April 20th – 24th. Survey will run from April 20th – 23rd. You will be notified via Synrevoice and a letter will go out to parents to indicate if you would not like your child to participate in this survey. It is 100% voluntary and the student can choose not to complete if they so desire. We had a 78% completion rate 2 years in a row. We have received important feedback from our students on a variety of topics about life at school.
 - b.ii. Last year there was a version of the survey sent to the parents with a very small buy-in. It will not be repeated this year. There will be a regrouping to see how to roll that out in the future.
 - b.iii. The survey will be done either through the computer lab in the library or through the English course that is mandatory for all students.
- c. Staff Report – Michel Belanger
 - c.i. Very successful option sheet year. The students figured out how to fill them out well. Gave students a few weeks afterwards to change or correct any mistakes made. Basically cut off right now in order for Admin to look at numbers and section allocations. Around May 1st, students will be allowed to make requests for course changes. Last year, about 200 course requests were being entertained in September and even up to December there were 100 course requests.
 - c.ii. A Synrevoice message will be sent out for both parents and students to be aware.
 - c.iii. Relay for Life kicked off beautifully. About 30 students have volunteered to be a part of about 10 committees with 10 teachers for shadowing. Expect it to go very well this year. Looking at Parents Council getting a team together this year. The students are trying to beat last year as we aimed for 68,000 and got about 100,000. Kick-off is April 22nd this year. We are very aware of young students and teachers in this school who are dealing with cancer in their family. May 29th is the day of the event. If you or a loved one is a champion we would love to include them in our survivor records.
- d. IB Coordinator/Representative – Lewis Harthun
 - d.i. Wrapping up the applications applying to Grades 9 and 10. Had major mail outs for students for Grade 11 and 12 this year. Exams are around the corner for Grades 11 and 12 coming up in May. One student got great news as he was just selected to attend the Intel Science and Engineering Fair where over 70 countries are represented.
 - d.ii. If there is a teacher strike, IB will have to be contacted regarding effect on the IB exams. They have handled similar events in the past, but there is no official statement from IB until the event occurs.

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- e. School Council Report (including Finance report) – Jason Lawrence/Marie-Claude Meunier/Wanda Thompson
 - e.i. Balance \$9,392.10. Not much activity. Bursary cheques are all cleared. \$4,510 is available for budget distribution.
 - e.ii. Teacher’s circulated suggestions for the money available for distribution. There is no quorum at this meeting, so we will have to circulate to all members to attend the meeting in April to do the distribution.
 - e.iii. There is a proposal that there be an opening for all groups to present to the School’s Council each year prior to budget distribution. There should be criteria put in place and disseminate to all groups. There would also need to be some transparency with all parents especially for donations received at the beginning of the school year if we are going to include club trips.
 - e.iv. Students Council will also be requested to provide a list as well for consideration at the April meeting.
 - e.v. Meeting venues – Suggestion that we approach the school board to have our School’s Council meeting in a more central venue downtown like the Board office on 133 Greenbank road or Staff Development Centre at Confederation Centre. Also could make the time earlier. For alternate venues there would need to be lead time for the school to ascertain availability especially for parking. We could do a Google survey at the next circulated meeting notice which would allow parents to indicate what they would prefer as a meeting venue and time. A similar survey was used for IB Volunteers and it worked really well and it automatically collates the results.
 - f. OCASC report – Joanna Gacek
 - f.i. Talked about closing schools and no cuts to IB schools. We are 112% at our school while there are schools in Barrhaven that are running at 150% capacity. Renovation at Colonel By has \$150,000 already set aside by the Board.
 - f.ii. The previous Secondary School Committee was all about prom. We are asking that Schools Council arrange a meeting for parents of Grade 11 and 12 students re proms. Schools and parents are taking a larger part in proms at secondary schools even reviewing venues. This is the first year that the School Board has opened the door for schools and parents to have a more active participation in proms.
 - f.iii. Commencement is on June 24th at 2 pm. Prom is planned for June 26th at the Museum of History. Cascades and Camp Fortune are no longer available for after prom parties. The IB dinner is to be held on June 26th.
5. Round Table –
- a. Potential strike of the OCDSB School Board – the board would provide a contingency plan in the event of a labor disruption. Communication will be provided to parents as needed. Two years ago in Ontario we had a partial withdrawal of services and so we cannot comment on what will happen. In BC during a strike, schools were closed.
6. Closing – The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 21st, 2015.**