



Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

7:30 – 8:30 pm via GoToMeeting

MINUTES

Attendees

Present: Loren Thorburn, Xun Wang, Karl Brumund, Christine LaForge, Ruby Thind, Teresa Ho, Angela Flesariu, Lin Zhu, Sabira Pradhan, Krista Pummell, George Ellinas, Yula Nouragas, Cathy Clarke, Lana Fisher, Palwashah Ali

Regrets: Kelly Levson

Absent: Ion Gosman

YRDSB Information

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Coronavirus.aspx>

Student Report - Palwashah Ali

- adopt a koala
 - Australian wildfire fundraising
- supporting students virtually via https://www.instagram.com/amac_stuco
 - mental health
 - #mustangstrong

2019/2020 School Council

1. Treasurer Report - Xun Wang

- full report attached at the end
- \$121.36 donations received
- School Council general account: \$2,333.33 as of April 20, 2020

2. Graduation Awards - Loren Thorburn & Lana Fisher

- graduation postponed to the fall due to school closure
- will look to defer awards funding to next school year

3. Pro Grant

- school council asked if we can defer our funding until the fall/next school year
- YRDSB will ask Ministry of Education; awaiting answer
- recommend that next year's School Council keep the same plan: to show Screenagers movies in conjunction with Pleasantville Public School

4. YRDSB Board Meetings

- these are now online with remote participation
 - <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Trustees/Pages/Electronic-Meeting-Resources.aspx>

5. Discussion on video conferencing in YRDSB

- Krista Pummell referenced this article:
<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9957427-york-region-school-board-has-security-equity-concerns-as-video-technology-takes-off-elsewhere/>
- equity, security and privacy concerns
- asynchronous learning is the preferred approach

Teacher's Report - Cathy Clarke

- full report attached at the end
- 10 pages of detailed information from all departments

Guidance Report - Lana Fisher

- registration opened April 20 for summer school via my Pathway planner
- AMHS website has details at
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>
- summer school elearning is not yet available; recommend to sign up for day school
- colleges/university dates to reply with acceptance have not changed
 - May 1 for colleges
 - June 1 for universities
- last date to drop semester 2 course and not have it recorded on transcript: May 8
- graduation requirements
 - everybody who is a potential graduate will be allowed to graduate, as per Ministry of Ed
- US/international schools
 - guidance has not received any new information

Admin Report - Krista Pummell

- Krista introduced herself and shared her background
- teacher led learning
 - scaling back to focus to essential curriculum
 - easier for some subjects
 - some practical aspects shifting to focus more on theory
 - platforms used: Google classroom, Desire to Learn (D2L), Moodle
- will need to make adjustments once students are back in class
- survey to see if families needed technology, like computer or Internet
 - home room teachers followed up
 - AMHS did get some requests; working to fulfill these (e.g. Chromebooks)
 - YRDSB delivering next week to those unable to pick up from school
- mid term marks on YRDSB teachassist
 - students have until May 8 to drop a course if they do not want marks submitted to colleges/universities
- awaiting next steps regarding evaluations and assessments for final report card
- will share once info is known
- had to announce last week to students that graduation has been postponed to the fall
 - prom and other events have been cancelled
 - it was hard for the board and school to have to make this decision
- YRDSB has links for community resources for support and outreach
 - <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Coronavirus.aspx>
- starting to issue refunds for some field trips
 - working on a process to refund cash/cheque as unable to issue cheques presently
 - YRDSB planning to use an e-transfer method
- AMHS was able to donate 8 boxes of PPE

2019-2020 Council Members

Chair: Loren Thorburn

Secretary: Karl Brumund

Treasurer: Xun Wang

Parent Reps: Angela Flesariu, Christine LaForge,

Ion Gosman, Kelly Levson, Lin Zha, Ruby Thind,

Sabira Pradhan, Teresa Ho

2019-2020 Meeting Dates

Meetings in Room 122 of AMHS
now online via gotomeeting

Monday, September 16, 2019 @
7:00pm

~~Monday, October 7, 2019 @ 7:00pm~~

Monday November 18, 2019 @ 7:30pm

Monday January 20, 2020 @ 7:30pm

Monday, April 21, 2020 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday May 19, 2020 @ 7:00pm



Alexandar MacKenzie High School
 School Council Treasurer's Report
 September 1, 2019 to April 16, 2020

School Council General Account

Beginning Balance as of May 31, 2019		\$	3,011.97
Add Source of Income:			
Donation (Feb 11, 2020)	\$	121.36	
Total Revenue			121.36
Less Expenditures:			
Graduation gifts in June 2019 (4x\$200)	\$	800.00	
Total Expenditures			800.00
Current School Council Account balance as of April 16, 2020		\$	2,333.33

PRO Grant Account

Beginning Balance as of September 1, 2019		\$	-
Add Source of Income:			
School Council to apply for PRO Grant	\$	-	
Total Revenue			-
Less Expenditures:			
Total Expenditures			-
Current PRO Grant Account balance as of January 9, 2020		\$	-

School Board Account

Other Expenditures (Survey Monkey)	\$	99.00
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School Council Department Report
April 21, 2020

The AMHS staff has collaborated on a motivational website and video for our AMHS community.

Link to video: <https://bit.ly/AMHSPositivity>

Link to website: <https://bit.ly/AMHSMessages>

Note on the April 21st Report:

Departments were invited to share highlights of the beginning of semester two and the first couple of weeks of the Learning and Caring Plan.

Arts Mackenzie

Arts Mackenzie is delighted to welcome 101 students to the program after a successful audition period in January 2020. Arts Mackenzie was delighted to welcome our incoming families and students at our Regional Programs Information Night on February 12 with a series of interactive activities and workshops. The faculty thanks all of the Arts Mackenzie student leaders who helped facilitate a successful audition and transition activities for our incoming families and students. Please follow us on Instagram @artsmackenzie or Twitter @AMHSPA for updates and celebration of students' learning.

Dance/Theatre Arts

Beginning of Semester Two:

At the beginning of the semester, students in Dance and Theatre Arts participated in a variety of inspiring performances including our Black History Month Celebration (Dance Arts) and the National Theatre School of Canada District Theatre Festival (Theatre Arts). In addition to these performances, students from the department were chosen to represent youth voices and celebrate art in Richmond Hill at the annual Town of Richmond Hill's Cultural Summit.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan:

Students in Dance Arts Mackenzie are using the inquiry process to develop remote learning choreographies. Using a variety of feedback methods, students are learning how to collaborate in digital spaces while upholding wellness during their choreography sessions.

Students in Theatre Arts Mackenzie are focusing on creating digital, remote theatrical pieces around themes of positivity and wellness. Students are using online collaboration tools such as FlipGrid and Google Docs to build theatrical pieces to be performed the week of April 27th.



[Families are welcome to check-out a sample week of creative prompts in theatre arts by visiting one of our weekly outlines.](#)

Drama Council proud to present a weekly guide to wellness. Stayed tuned for more details.

Music

Music has been facilitating the Learning and Caring Plan through a series of interactive theory and practice activities. Click on the links on the next page to see some sample practice sessions from the ensembles:



- [Band Performance Sample](#)
- [Strings Performance Sample](#)
- [Vocal Performance Sample](#)

Visual Arts

Beginning of the Semester

Visual Arts was pleased to host Bob Ross Paint night and the Arts and Cultural Council Art contest. Winners were announced via ACC's Instagram after March break.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan:

- the traditional art classes all have a Community Positivity Artwork project where they are to create a piece that can be seen by passers-by
- in the 3 weeks prior to remote learning, we posted works by students that were creating art for fun

Business

Beginning of the Semester

Prior to the March break the Marketing class had the opportunity to attend the Auto Show in Toronto which provided students with an opportunity to engage with industry professionals, witness the organization of a large scale marketing event.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan

As we continue with online learning, the Business department is providing engaging learning opportunities online for students to further develop their digital literacy skills for Business purposes. Some of which include developing a Business Plan, using Google

Sheets to manage and represent data, creating websites and exploring current news/trends on the stock market.

Students are investigating, problem solving and applying business concepts to current news and events taking part in our world through inquiry based learning.

Students in the Computer Science courses are using programming software and learning python through videos developed by teachers.

English

Beginning of the Semester:

Four students competed in the Poetry in Voice competition at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts hosted by the Richmond Hill Public Library. While AMHS did not move on in the competition, the students did an amazing job reciting their poems and highlighting diverse authors through their choice of poems.

Earlier in February, Summer Martin had her poem "dear woman" chosen to be part of the Polar Expressions 2019/2020 edition. This National Competition selects student work to be part of an annual anthology.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan:

Teachers have worked collaboratively to ensure students get opportunities to practice core skills in each class. Work has been adapted to an online format and streamlined to best meet student needs. Many teachers are sharing pre-recorded Screencastifies with students and using a variety of tools to allow for online engagement including using Google Docs for an online version of Book Club. The department is open to feedback in regards to programming. Please contact Katherine Gross (katherine.gross@yrdsb.ca) or Eleni Koliviras (eleni.koliviras@yrdsb.ca) with any suggestions.

Eco Team

Beginning of the Semester

The Eco Team continues to maintain the school's Eco Station. This is for both staff and students to use where they can drop off old batteries, cell phone and ink cartridges so that they can be recycled in a manner that is not harmful to the environment. Writing instruments are also collected and these are delivered to Staples who run a program where all items are recycled. Old eyeglasses are also collected and delivered to Doctors Without Borders. These are cleaned and repaired and forwarded to needy individuals. We also continue to collect milk bags and these are used by the students in the

Community Classes who cut and weave them into mats for the homeless. Finished mats are delivered to the LOFT organization in Newmarket.

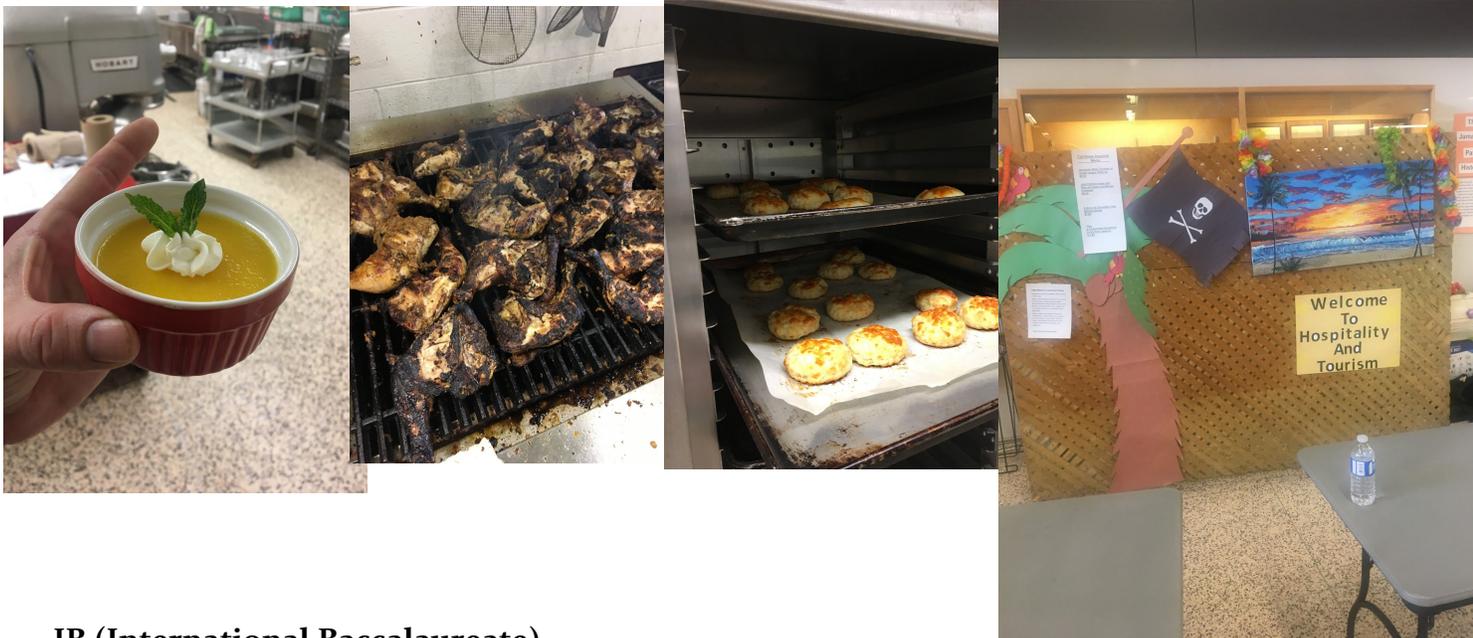
Equity

Please see attached PDF for Ramadan Greetings from the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students.

Hospitality

Special highlights at the beginning of Semester include Incredibly successful Valentines day bake sale featuring churros and Hot Chocolate. And producing hundreds of the best Jamaican beef patties to help promote black history month.

Here are some pictures of the activities:



IB (International Baccalaureate)

Beginning of the Semester

- February 2020: We were getting ready for the IB exams in May-As per IB instructions and new regulations, school purchased a safe to be placed inside the school vault. The safe would only be used as a secure place for IB exams.
- March 2020: IB exams were shipped beginning of March. Arrival date was right after March break.
- School closure started and got extended.

- IB cancelled all IB HL and SL exams and that impacted 200,000 students around the globe.
- IB reversed back the deadlines of Subjects' Internal Assessments to April 20th. Our teachers worked very hard to meet the tight timelines.
- We were able to upload all subjects and groups except one subject in Group 6 for which we were granted an extension by IB.
- All IA's will be marked by IB external examiners and marks will be released on July 6th on IBIS
- The marks will be for:
Grade 11 students: two SL subjects for grade 11 students (Math SL and Drama SL/Music SL/Biology SL/Physics SL) and
Grade 12 students: One SL (French SL) and three HL (English HL, History HL, Chemistry HL) subjects as well as Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
- All our Grade 11 and 12 IB students have been provided with IB Personal Codes and PINs so that they can check their results in July.
- IB exams are still in a local warehouse waiting to be shipped back to IB.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan

- Grade 11 and 12 students are still in school and are doing work from home. The IB coordinator and the administration team have share the following with students and teachers:
Here are a few suggestions based on my conversation with our Administration team as well as other IB schools:
- We can work with students around any outstanding curriculum pieces.
- If, however, the students have completed the course or are near completion, we may provide them with online course related enrichment opportunities.
- This may take many forms such as:
 - o deepening content knowledge
 - o exploring related content or skills
 - o providing new application opportunities for the learning already achieved
- Grade 11 students are working on Extended Essay and CAS (online activities)
- Grade 12 students are involved in enrichment opportunities. OUAC will receive their updated IB Transcripts by end of April.
- Junior grades get updates from IB Coordinator about expectations of IBDP, CAS, EE, and ToK. They are working on their pre-IB courses from home
- Our numbers:
 - o Incoming grade 9's: 111 (we will stop intake at this point as per instruction from Admin)
 - o Incoming grade 10's: 98

- o Incoming grade 11's: 89
- o Incoming grade 12's: 58
- o First IB Graduating class: 17

Library Learning Commons

Beginning of the Semester:

Student Book Club continued to promote the love of reading and a student-focused model of literacy. Members chose a new book and met weekly to discuss their thoughts and ideas about character development, plots, themes, passages, settings, writing style and the author.

The LLC and Geography Department hosted guest speaker John Steckley, a Canadian Indigenous scholar and author. Mr. Steckley spoke to students about Indigenous history, culture and languages.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan

The LLC updated its webpage to include a button titled "Contact Us - Distance Learning Support". Students can reach out and ask for support on accessing resources, book recommendations, citation styles and research inquires. To date, students have made good use of this online support tool.

The LLC continues to curate resources which will help students and teachers navigate various online learning platforms and access online content that will support curriculum goals and expectations.

Math

Beginning of the Semester:

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mathematics Department was focused on bridging the gap for the at-risk students through the after-school numeracy program. In addition, we were also busy in preparing students for all levels of Waterloo Math Contests. Our senior students were diligently working on the preparation for the IB Math SL exam, which was scheduled to take place in May, 2020. The Math Hotspot for afterschool on Tuesdays, which was intended to support the IB and IB preparatory students, was also well-attended. Students were also encouraged to take part in the after-school peer tutoring and mentorship program.

Beginning of Learning and Caring Plan:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, learning and teaching have been switched to the on-line format. The members of the Mathematics Department are working in collaboration to

develop and deliver the Ontario Mathematics curriculum for all grade levels on line. Teachers are available at different time slots so students' inquiries can be addressed on the same day by the teachers. Students are expected to keep up with their learning at home through the lessons and materials provided by the teachers on line. They are expected to review the course materials and complete the course assignments. Students should ask questions and post their inquiries through the Math Q & A section in the Google Classroom. The Mathematics Department will continue to deliver the curriculum on line based on the Ministry expectations. It is our intention to maintain the integrity of all the Mathematics courses at Alexander Mackenzie High School despite the pandemic.

Science

Beginning of the Semester:

- Students and teachers were preparing to compete in the board-wide Science Olympics
- Science club was in full force with various activities, labs and science related fun
- HOSA club was meeting regularly and students were preparing to compete at HOSA
- Peer tutoring was going strong and we were running tutoring for students who are struggling with the concepts and also matching students that spoke the same language to help the ELL kids as well
- We were ready for our Ontario Science centre field-trip for our IB students
- Dissections were taking place and students were learning by observing the organ systems in real-life
- We were building circuits for our electricity unit

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan:

- Course partners are continuing to meet regularly and collaboration to ensure consistency and delivery of meaningful and effective lessons
- We have been discussing curriculum to reach the overall expectations and the enduring understanding via online learning
- Teachers are creating online video lessons for students and regularly corresponding with students to support their learning
- We are collecting feedback from students and analyzing data to support our pacing, level of difficulty, level of content taught weekly and to structure our teaching week by week
- We are using variety of formative assessment pieces and checks for understanding to inform our practice and better reach students

SHSM (Specialist High School Major)

Beginning of the Semester;

1. All SHSM sectors engaged in Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship Workshops with a focus on solving a real challenge from one of our community partners -> creative artist and automobile service company. Grade 11 students mostly involved in a full day workshop.
2. Business and Transportation SHSM attended the Auto Show to uncover the complexities and the new technology behind this evolving industry.
3. Numerous elective and mandatory workshops in all sectors were planned over the months March, April and May that have not been cancelled or postponed due to the school closures.
4. Reach-Ahead trips that the SHSM Student Council was collaborating on with the SHSM Teacher Team have also been cancelled, including trips to Centennial College for Aerospace technology, Trent University for Psychology and Business, and University of Guelph for Business and Arts/Culture.

Beginning of the Learning and Caring Plan:

1. No courses are being delivered online at this time, as the priority has been to complete regular course work within the prescribed time limits set by the Ministry. Adding elective workshops at this time could be stressful and too burdensome for students engaged in this new platform.
2. We are also awaiting further information from the Ministry and the Board regarding grade 12 students who are missing certifications and reach ahead university trips.
3. We are hoping for speedy resolution to this crisis so that we can resume regular SHSM activities in the near future.

Special Education

Special education staff, including SERTS and support staff are doing what they can to support students with IEPs. They are communicating with teachers, students and parents as needed. SEA technology has also been provided to students and will continue to be distributed to students as the need arise.

Please follow our Twitter @AlexMacHS for updates throughout the semester and celebrations of learning



Ramadan Greetings from AEMS



[The Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students](#) (AEMS) would like to take this opportunity to extend Ramadan Greetings! The Muslim observance of Ramadan is scheduled to commence during the week of April 20, 2020, upon the sighting of a new moon.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. This is a blessed month for Muslims as it is the month during which the teachings of the Qur'an were revealed. This is considered a time for Muslims to cultivate spiritual renewal through fasting, and an increased focus on prayer and contemplation, as well as a time to recommit themselves to practicing compassion and generosity for others. ([al-Jeeran](#))

Ramadan in Our Current Context

Ramadan is also a time where students and staff traditionally turn to one another and their faith communities to reinvigorate well-being and mental health. We recognize the current COVID-19 isolation and social-distancing requirements will pose challenges to this restoration of well-being that traditionally comes from Ramadan activities.

Staff who see that students are experiencing an exacerbated sense of isolation are encouraged to communicate with parents and students as they would if they noticed similar impacts during a typical school year. Staff should continue to make use Board-recommended supports for well-being, including dialoguing with administration. [Culturally relevant supports](#) are also available.

Students observing Ramadan will appreciate the flexibility for [asynchronous distance learning](#) that the YRDSB has implemented, and that is supported by ETFO, and OSSTF. Educator flexibility around office hours, etc., will support students in their ability to fulfill faith practices while maintaining academic success. For example, students participating in faith observances that occur late into the night and early in the mornings may find office hours that begin at 8am challenging, and may benefit from office hours scheduled later in the day.

Ramadan Resources

- ❑ [AEMS Ramadan Resources](#) includes Classroom Activities and Bulletin Kits
- ❑ [TDSB Islamic Heritage Month Resource Guidebook for Educators](#) includes a wealth of information to be used throughout the year
- ❑ [Ramadan Allyship for Schools \(Source: al-Jeeran - Faith Foundations Project\)](#)
- ❑ [Responding to COVID-19 Needs with Culturally Relevant Resources \(Source: AEMS\)](#)
- ❑ [Supporting Students during the Month of Ramadan Memo \(Source: BWW\)](#)
- ❑ ['School day' Expectations While 'Working from Home' \(No. 040720_1\) \(Source: BWW\)](#)

