



Alexander Mackenzie High School School Council

Monday January 16, 2017
7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Library

Minutes

Present: *Christine LaForge, Lisa Wakayama, Francine Hudspith, Jeffrey Holicky Sr, Otilia Olteanu, Cathy Clarke,*

Absent: *Rhonda Wolfe, Lory Maiorano, Tali Smith, Francis Bromet, Katerina Papas, Gail Harris, Jay Perri, George Ellinas*

Visitors: *Camille Persaud*

Minutes:

1. Student Report –*Stephanie and Jana*

- Semi formal was great.
- Food drive collected 800 items
- Warm clothing drive was successful
- Winterfest holiday assembly held last day of classes in December. \$160 was raised in 1 minute for World Vision.
- Student council sweaters are on order
- Student council wants to make a Valentine's themed annual event, perhaps a fundraiser, not just a spirit day. There will be games in the foyer for an optional donation.
- Parent council suggested that all student councils get together to discuss what social ideas are being suggested by everyone so that there are no duplications.

2. ARTS Update - *Cathy Clarke*

- Auditions will be held starting January 26th for 4 days, there are 128 applications across all streams (47 visual arts, 38 music, 30 theatre, 16 dance)
- -expectation is for 28 students per class
- Theatre arts graduate showcase is this Thursday
- Crazy for You was in December and was a great success
- 122 students in the music program (or taking music) are going to Disney World. Rehearsals will be starting soon.
- Silent Auction/coffee house schedule for March 1st

3. Admin Update – *Otilia Olteanu*

- Exams start Thursday January 26th and ends with exam review day/pathways discussions on February 1st
- Course selection assemblies January 20th. Choose once; choose wisely – due mid February.
- EQAO for Grade 9 first semester math students – January 23-24.
- Report cards out February 10th
- Brief discussion around smokers area outside of the school near Trench and negative impact of high visibility. No ideas for change noted at this time.

4. IB Update - *Otilia Olteanu*

- Offers of acceptance have been sent to about 1500 students over 5 York Region IB sites (approx 116 per site)
- Consultant visit happened recently, as well as intensive teacher training. Will receive confirmation as an authorized IB school by mid-April.
- Starting AMHS pre-IB grade 9/10 in September 2017
- **Question: how can we welcome our new IB students? There will be an information meeting for new IB parents in February.**

5. Promoting Alexander Mackenzie to Feeder Schools – *everyone*

- Discussion around increasing participation at school council – skype or having different topics discussed that will bring in more parents.
- How can we promote the school to younger children and their parents as Grade 7 and 8s are already identified through the transition to high school process.
- What about having a booth at any feeder school community events to advertise what Alexander Mackenzie has to offer?
- Give away Frisbees?
- **Lisa will draft an email to the feeder schools to see if a council member can attend one of our next meetings to discuss.**
- Feeder schools: Pleasantville, Ross Doan/Roselawn, Walter Scott, Crosby Heights, Mackillop, Herbert Carnegie, Sixteenth Avenue

6. Teacher Wish List - *Otilia Olteanu*

- Performing Arts requesting \$600 for graduate showcase
- \$600 requested for costume storage unit
- Any amount would be appreciated towards the cost of modular sets used by the musical/theatre arts department. They have already spent \$4000 this year

- \$359+tax each for two speakers (total \$810) to be installed in the main hall to improve acoustics for the physed/music and drama departments to perform/practice
- One time donation letter discussion – would have to explain to parents why we are asking for money – explain where the funds would be directed. – **to be discussed further at February meeting.**

7. **Foyer/Front Lobby Revitalization** – *Otilia Olteanu*

- Otilia discussed the revitalization initiatives being considered for the front lobby/foyer. First was the digital clock erected on the wall. There are now 2 others that will be placed somewhere in the school.
- They are looking to install 4 TVs on the far wall that will show video announcements, performances, and students involved in various curricular and extra curricular activities
- Also they will be considering installing interactive artwork that will allow the viewing of a video by downloading a special app.
- The grade 12 tech class is looking at ways to redesign the cafeteria into a more welcoming space, perhaps calling it a student lounge and having better seating areas by the window etc.
- These initiatives may also be ways that the council can support with fundraised dollars.

Date for next meeting

Tuesday February 21, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Library