



# Alexander Mackenzie High School School Council

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Monday, January 22, 2018

## MINUTES

**Present:** **2017-2018 Council:** Lisa Wakayama, Karl Brumund, Loren Thorburn, Francine Hudspith, Gail Harris, Kelly Levson, Christine LaForge, Katerina Papas, David Mountain, Sabira Pradhan, Madeleine Harvey-Raymond, Otilia Olteanu, George Ellinas, Cathy Clarke

**Absent:** Lory Maiorano

**Guests:** Kristen Wade, Anna Marie Reed, Mustafa R., Ginny Brod, Theisa Thulasy, Tania Jones, Jeffrey Holicky Sr., Afsoon Shadjaee, Maria Theresia R.

### Minutes:

#### **1. Guidance Presentation- Lana Fisher, Guidance Head**

- 50 minute presentation regarding course selection was delivered via power point (see link in the next bullet) to a very large parent audience
- [http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Documents/Preparing%20for%20course%20selection\\_parents%20presentation%20January.pdf](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Documents/Preparing%20for%20course%20selection_parents%20presentation%20January.pdf)
- Guidance appointments are readily available during the exam time if students need help with course selection
- Volunteer hours (70 hours over 2 weeks) available with “The Summer Institute” (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/summer/si/Pages/Volunteer-Experience-Program.aspx>)
- Ensure that all volunteer activities are pre-approved with the Guidance Department

#### **2. Approval of October and November Minutes and January Agenda – Lisa Wakayama**

- all in favour

#### **3. Constitution review and vote on changes – Lisa Wakayama**

- Discussion regarding the changes suggested on the attached REVISION DOCUMENT (Appendix 1)

- changes to 5.2 and 5.5 will not be made since they are currently consistent with the Ministry guidelines (**School Councils. Ministry of Education. A Guide for Members. 2001. Revised 2002**)
- Motion to approve Constitution Revisions – David Mountain, seconded – Katerina Papas, all in favour

#### **4. Administration Report**

*Otilia Olteanu*

##### EQAO

- First semester Grade 9 math students wrote the first part of the EQAO test today and the second part will be done tomorrow
- New this year – all students are allowed extra time on the EQAO tests
- Teachers mark a portion of the test and that portion counts for 5% of the students' grade 9 math mark
- Remaining questions marked at the Ministry do not count towards the students' mark
- There were typographical errors in 2 questions so students were asked by the Ministry to skip them

##### EDSBY

- New program for attendance, newsletters, marks, scheduling is slowly being introduced into all York Region schools
- Will be introduced to Alexander Mackenzie High School when parents sign up for Parent/Teacher interviews in April
- Will not replace Google Classroom

##### Exams

- January 25-30
- January 31 is the inclement weather day – exams to be written if school transportation is cancelled during any previous exam day
- February 1 – Exam Review Day
- February 2 – P.A. Day
- The Guidance Department has been offering exam preparation workshops as Lunch and Learn sessions

##### Arts Update

- Beauty and the Beast was very successful, > 3000 people saw the play, 3 out of the 5 shows sold out
- 2018/2019 Arts Auditions to be held during exams (grade 8 applicants include: 35 dance, 47 theatre, 47 music, and 58 visual arts); acceptances to take place February 1
- Many showcases took place in December
- Collaborative projects to take place to celebrate Black History month
- Students will be competing in the National Theatre School Ontario Drama Festival (formerly the Sears Drama Festival)

- Enrichment band
- One Act plays to elementary schools
- Quebec music trip (1 bus) March 22-25
- Calgary/Banff music trip (approx. 35 students) April 24-28

#### IB

- entrance exam has been written
- 400 students applied for the 116 spots

#### Numbers

- Currently 1100 students (last year 926)
- School can hold 1400 students
- Common lunch can continue as long as the Fire Department approves

#### *George Ellinas*

#### Literacy Test

- All grade 10 students to write the OSSLT on Tuesday, April 10
- Preparation starting soon with communication going home shortly
- Intensive 2x per week after school sessions offered for identified students (identified by the grade 9/10 teachers)
- Literacy blitz will begin for all grade 10 students soon
- All students are allowed extra time (up to 150 minutes)

#### 5. **Student Report** – *Jenna via Cathy Clarke*

- Semi-formal was very successful
- Student council is focussing on spirit this semester and trying to organize one event per month
- Valentine's day extravaganza will be February's event with various activities being held at lunch
- also gearing up for their Carnival in June

#### 6. **Teacher Wish List review (including library modernization)** - *Otilia Olteanu*

#### Library Modernization

- New LCD projector has been installed
- Carpet will be removed and replaced
- Books that are no longer circulating will be donated
- Teacher offices will be converted into student study spaces (one for quiet study and one conducive to group work)
- Ms. Raia will be the new library resource teacher in the fall

### Career Centre

- To be modernized

### New Student Success Room

- Room 124 has been converted into the Student Success Room
- Renovations have been taking place
- Council members will be able to have a look at what has been done at the upcoming meeting

### Parking Lot

- New fencing erected around the auto shop cars has stopped the illegal dumping of wastes and has opened up new parking spaces and contained the auto shop cars to a reasonable number

## **7. Fundraising ideas /guidelines – *Katerina Papas***

- In past, parents donated \$10 to council in the Welcome Package
- Now donations must be made through School Cash Online in the donation section

### Suggestions:

1. Used Book Sale (offered in the past – good activity to get students interested in reading but not very successful in terms of raising funds, required a lot of work)
  2. Food sales – not able to interfere with the cafeteria and must adhere to the provincial guidelines regarding healthy eating (students tend to run these events)
  3. Spirit Wear – Student Athletic Association sells Spirit Wear in their store
  4. Entertainment Books
  5. Greeting Cards
  6. Silent Auction – Board guidelines will need to be checked
  7. September – parent mixer with food trucks and donation table
  8. Silent Auction/Donation Table at Parent/Teacher Interview nights
  9. Balloon Burst
- Discussion to be held at the February meeting regarding possible fundraising activities at the upcoming April parent/teacher interview night including but not limited to a Silent Auction and/or Student volunteers showcasing sponsorship opportunities

**8. Treasurer Report**– *Karl Brumund via email*

Board account: \$1000. Allocation for 2017/2018 school year. In the past 2 years, this funded graduation awards.

General account: \$3,022.40, an increase of \$383.48 this school year from donations. This amount can be carried over if desired. No expenses so far this school year.

The breakdown and deposit dates are:

\$ 58.25	Sep 6
\$ 9.70	Nov 7
\$150.48	Dec 13
\$165.05	Jan 11 (December donations)

**Date for next meeting:** *Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00*

## Appendix 1: REVISION DOCUMENT

October 2017:

5.1 – Parent Members change from minimum of 10 to minimum of 7.

5.2 Community Representatives – Change from will be to may be

5.5 Support staff members – change from will be to may be

6.1 Acclamations: change from “the number of candidates is equal to, or less than the number of parents” to “the number of candidates is within the range set out in article 5.1, including the minimum and maximum number”.

6.2 election procedures:

Revise to include 14 days notice given for school election:

- Voting will only occur if the number of interested parents/guardians exceeds membership capacity outlined in Section 5.1 above.
- Then, a maximum of one parent/guardian in attendance at the election meeting of one or more students enrolled at the school shall have one vote for each of the candidate positions available.
- The election committee, composed of the previous year’s council members, shall:
  - Provide nomination forms •
  - Ensure that the school community is notified of election procedures and election date(s), location, and time, at least fourteen days in advance of election •
  - Conduct the election, if needed, by secret ballot •
  - Count the ballots in the presence of the school principal • Help the principal notify all candidates of the results •
  - Keep all the ballot counts and related information confidential •
  - Only release the names of successful candidates. A list of candidates and the vote results will be kept on file for use in the event of a vacancy on the Council. •
- Notify all individuals standing for election of the results before the results are released to the school community

7.2 to add Fundraising chair if necessary.

Section 9.1 Conflict of Interest

- If individual Council members perceive themselves to be in conflict of interest, they are honour bound to declare their conflict at the earliest possible opportunity and at the time of the meeting, so the minutes may reflect this declaration.
- Council members cannot receive any remuneration for their work as a member of council. Reimbursement for expenses incurred as members or officers of school Council shall be in accordance with relevant procedures as outlined in Article X below
- ) If a School Council member finds him- or herself in a conflict of interest position in terms of some issue under consideration by the council, the member should declare such and either leave the room or refrain from participating in the discussion relating to that subject. The member should not vote on any decision made on the issue

## Section 9.2 Conflict Resolution

- The council will undertake to resolve all internal conflicts within its mandate in a timely manner. The council will abide by any conflict resolution policy issued by the Board.
- The Council believes that its operation can be conducted based on mutual respect in the interest of students and the school community.
- ) All members are encouraged to follow the Code of Ethics as listed in Appendix A.
- All members are expected to exercise their role with positive attitude in a democratic manner to minimize conflict.
- ) From time to time a dispute may arise amongst the members of the Council. It is expected that the members of the Council will make every effort to resolve it themselves. It is the responsibility of the Chair/Co-chairs to facilitate the resolution of conflict.
- Should an internal dispute require outside intervention to achieve resolution, the Chair/Co-chairs in consultation with the principal shall agree on a mediator. The mediator can be the school trustee or a community representative who is not a member of the Council.
- In the event of unsuccessful mediation, the matter will be taken to the Superintendent of Education who will assess the situation and determine an appropriate approach. In the event that a dispute is between a parent member and a staff member, the Superintendent may ask other Board executives to get involved

## APPENDIX A - CODE OF ETHICS

- A member shall consider the best interests of all students.
- A member shall be guided by the school's and the school board's mission statements.
- A member shall act within the limits of the roles and responsibilities of a School Council, as identified by the school's operating guidelines, the school board, and the Ontario Ministry of Education
- A member shall become familiar with the school's policies and operating practices and act in accordance with them.
- A member shall maintain the highest standards of integrity.
- A member shall recognize and respect the personal integrity of each member of the school community.
- A member shall treat all other members with respect and allow for diverse opinions to be shared without interruption.
- A member shall encourage a positive environment in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued.
- A member shall acknowledge democratic principles and accept the consensus of the council
- .A member shall respect the confidential nature of some school business and respect limitations this may place on the operation of the School Council
- A member shall not disclose confidential information
- A member shall limit discussions at School Council meetings to matters of concern to the school community as a whole
- A member shall use established communication channels when questions or concerns arise
- A member shall promote high standards of ethical practice within the school community.
- A member shall declare any conflict of interest
- A member shall not accept any payment or benefit financially through school council involvement