



Alexander Mackenzie High School School Council

Monday, January 21, 2019

Minutes

Present: Loren Thorburn, David Mountain, Karl Brumund, Kelly Levson, Ruby Thind, Christine LaForge, Gail Harris, Otilia Olteanu, Jay Perri, George Ellinas, Cathy Clarke, Rhonda Wolfe, Jeff Hollicky SR, Karina Gelman, Hagitziv Venugopal, Maria-Theresia Roemmelt

Regrets: Sabira Pradhan, Andrea Kalmin

Guests: Lana Fisher, Sheila Juma, Susan Romeo

Minutes

1. Student Report (Provided by Cathy Clarke)

- Focusing on Wellness initiative, in time for the exams
- Planning a lunch time event on Wednesday to share ideas on how to cope with stress
- Promoting positive environment during exams

2. Teacher Report

- Equity Review (Sheila Juma & Susan Romeo)
 - i. Reviewed presentation highlighting equity (attached)
 - ii. Helping students understand the difference between equity and equality
 - iii. Equity committee set up at the school that meets once a month. Ideas from this committee are submitted to the board.
 - iv. @AMHSEquity twitter account
 - v. Another focus of the board is FNMI (First Nations, Metis & Inuit) – some staff from the board went to reserves to learn about the cultures, impact of policies.
 - vi. Equity survey results were presented at Quest
- Teacher Report (Cathy Clarke)

- i. Getting ready for auditions starting on Thursday
- ii. 200 applications for 128 spots – looking at the trend over the last few years, the number of applicants is increasing. Number of spots do not increase.
- iii. See full report at end of minutes

3. **Administration Report** (*Otilia Olteanu*)

- Student engagement survey – had over 90% completion from students
- Exam week January 24 – January 29th. Results out January 31st
- New semester starts February 4th
- Parent's night – Thursday, April 4th
- School has a new budget coordinator – looking at the budget and think it will be a good idea to have a fund raising plan to communicate to parents what we are raising money for
- Activity fee, which is supposed to be collected from all parents before start of school year is not always paid (521 out of 1250 students have currently pay).
- Lots of parameters around whether the school can ask for this money directly from parents, as board indicates that this is not mandatory
- School does reach out to parents and follow up on non-payments
- Activity fee goes towards certain councils and clubs.
- Suggestion made to show in the newsletter where the money is being spent as an incentive for parents to contribute

4. **School Council Business** (*Loren Thorburn*)

- Treasurer's Report (Karl)
 - October 2018 Balance: \$2729.99
 - Closing balance: \$3011.97
- Parent Survey Report – (*Loren Thorburn on behalf of Andrea*)
 - Poster created and finalized
 - Looking at revising some of the questions and decide when to send out the survey again
 - Council members should send suggestions to the parent survey sub committee
 - Suggestions included – showing where the money is being spent, to entice parents to pay activity fee, highlighting responses from last survey and how they are being addressed
 - For timing – sending it out once a year (September) as parents are more inclined to respond at the beginning of the year rather than the end

- PRO Grant workshop- (*Loren Thorburn*)
 - PRO Grant money was received
 - Will look for the application for next year which normally comes out Spring
 - Any suggestions for topics and/or speakers?
- School Council Forum - (*Ruby Thind*)
 - Attended the school council forum in November. Lots of participation from elementary school and high schools in the central region.
 - Two workshops/sessions that I attended were 1) Principal Profile – the importance of creating the principal profile for each school so that the board understands school environment, culture and other parameters that incoming principal should be aware of; and 2) Parent Engagement – how to increase parent engagement in school. Parents brainstormed ideas such as holding coffee mornings, SC events etc and highlighting the importance of parents involvement in their schools.
- Fundraising- (*Loren Thorburn*)
 - Silent auction was very successful. Everything was done using school cash online which worked very well.
 - All those who want to be part of the fund raising committee please email school council. This committee will work on fundraising plan for next year

Approval of minutes

2018-2019 Council Members

Chair: Loren Thorburn

Secretary: Ruby Thind

Treasurer: Karl Brumund

Parent Reps: Gail Harris, Andrea Kalmin,

Christine LaForge, Kelly Levson,

David Mountain, Sabira Pradhan

Meeting Dates:

Monday, March 18th

Tuesday, May 21st



Arts Mackenzie

It's audition time for Arts Mackenzie. 200 hundred students will be auditioning for 118 spots in September 2019. Auditions will be held on the following days:

- Dance: January 25 and 28
- Music (Instrumental, Strings and Vocal): January 24, 28, 29
- Theatre: January 24 and 29
- Visual Arts: January 25, 28, 29

Information about the audition process available on our website: www.artsmackenzie.com Offers will be made to successful candidates by February 1, 2019. Successful applicants are invited to an Arts Mackenzie course selection night on February 13, 2019 in the cafetorium at 6:30 p.m.

Dance/Theatre

Dance and Theatre had a series of successful performances in November, December and January, including:

- Quest Performances and Workshop Facilitation
- Winter Showcase January 15th at RHCPA (Theatre Arts/Dance Graduate Showcase)
- Arts Festival January 17th Studio 121 (Showcase of Work From Junior Dance/Open Drama)

In semester two, Dance and Theatre students are looking forward to:

- a series of guest artists in technical theatre, film production, a variety of cultural dance genres, modern dance along with a variety of field trip opportunities
- participation in YRDSB Design Thinking: A Sense of Belonging project
- our first extended arts trip to Ottawa and Montreal in March 21st to March 24th
- representation of Arts Mackenzie/arts education at Town of Richmond Hill Cultural Summit on March 26, 2019 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- spring shows: April 17th (Senior Theatre), May 7 (Dance Expressions), June 13th (Junior Dance/Theatre/Drama/IB Theatre showcase)

Music

Successful performances in November, December, and January:

- All band, choirs, and orchestras performed at RHCPA in November to an audience of 580.
- In December, four sold-out performances of the musical Les Mis at RHCPA to rave reviews (<https://www.yorkregion.com/opinion-story/9079547-alexander-mackenzie-high-school-s-production-of-les-mis-rables-superb/>)
- Senior Arts students performed and hosted a dinner in the CAF in January

Upcoming Festivals:

- Symphonic Band, Chamber Orchestra, trombone quintet perform at Toronto Kiwanis Festival in February
- Choirs perform at UofT Choral Festival in February
- Senior Jazz Band performs at Humber College Jazz Festival

- Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Intermediate Band, Chamber Choir, Beginner Strings, Symphonic Orchestra perform at Music Alive Festival in March and April

Extended Trip:

- 75 students have paid deposits for the Halifax and PEI trip in May. We are still waiting for Board approval (and hope that this will happen by the end of the month).

Visual Arts

Excited about auditions with our record number of auditioners (73 students). Other highlights from the department:

- 10 students going to the York Region Skills Challenge at Seneca College in February to participate in the challenge in the areas of: fashion, photography, graphic design, architecture and film.
- Creating crafts once again for AMAC Fights Back in April.
- Looking forward to our first extended arts trip to Ottawa and Montreal in March 21st to March 24th
- Senior Visual Artists are looking forward to preparing for the May Boynton House Art show
- Semester two will bring volunteer opportunities for murals (Ross Doane P.S. and Mackenzie Health) and the grade 10 arts class will start working on welcome signage for the front foyer

Follow the Arts Mackenzie Departments on Twitter:

Dance/Theatre @AMHSPA

Music @AMHS_Music

Visual Arts @amhsvisa

DECA (Business Leadership www.deca.ca)

We have 7 students who made it to Provincials and competitions will be taking place on Friday February 8, 2019.

EcoSchools

Student leaders from the school's Eco Team were busy promoting sound ecological practices by organizing fun games during the lunch periods. Students who answered questions correctly won prizes such as bags, water bottles, t-shirts, lunch bags, notepads, and pencils. Prizes were generously donated by the Town of Richmond Hill. The games were a fun way to engage students in learning about ways to recycle materials.

English

Spoken Word will be competing in a Board competition on February 7th. The students have been working on their poems all semester and are excited to share their work.

Geography

Students in CGC1D1 (Gr. 9 Academic Geography) completed the newly revamped course, which was 100% project based. The students learned many valuable skills such as; researching, vetting sources, annotating, note taking, and reflecting. The teachers were overly impressed with many of the creative products submitted for evaluation. We're all very much looking forward to continuing to build upon the solid foundation from Semester 1.

Guidance

Course selection opens February 11 closes February 22. The course calendar can be viewed online:

<https://app.myblueprint.ca/public/courses/yrdsb/mackenzie1>

Individual appointments are welcome. Please see AMHS Guidance webpage for booking individual appointments:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

Hospitality

During semester one the Hospitality Classes, with the assistance of the Hospitality Club, had:

- 12 Mackenzie Room Staff lunches, including two grade 12 operated events, parent/guardian night coffee and bake sale
- Halloween Bake Sale (Chocolate, Chili and Cupcake Challenges)
- Wintertime Hot Chocolate and Doughnut Sales for staff and students to provide funds for AMAC Fights Backs
- The Holiday Bakery Drive for staff catering.

During semester two we are planning on operating the Mackenzie Room, celebrating Black History Month and Valentine's Day, helping with AMAC Fights Back and the StuCo Council Carnival.

International Baccalaureate Program (IB)

The IB program is continuing with intake and are filling up our 116 spots. Course selection for grades 9-12 will be done alongside course selection for the rest of the school. Deadline for course selection is Feb 22nd. Instructions to incoming IB parents/guardians to be sent home via e-mail.

Mathematics

The Math Club will organize Euclid Workshop (Waterloo Math Contest for Grade 12 students) in February.

The registration for American Mathematics Competition AMC-12 is open on School Cash Online for grade 11 and 12 students. The deadline is January 24, 2019.

The registration for Waterloo Math Contests (Pascal – Gr.9, Cayley – Gr. 10 and Fermat –Gr.11) is open on School Cash Online for grade 9, 10 and 11 students. The deadline is February 7, 2019.

<u>Math Contests</u>	<u>Math Contest Date</u>
AMC-12	Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Pascal – Gr.9	Tuesday, February 26, 2019
Cayley – Gr. 10	Tuesday, February 26, 2019
Fermat – Gr. 11	Tuesday, February 26, 2019

SHSM

Grade 10s and 11s are invited to apply for one of our Specialist High School Major by as part of course selection for 2019-2020. Arts and Culture, Business, Health and Wellness, Transportation. Interested students should speak to their subject teacher and/or guidance. Application:

<http://bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp>

We have had a number of great events over semester 1 and the SHSM Team continues to work hard to develop programming and explore learning opportunities for all of our SHSM students.

We have implemented a student SHSM Council to help manage and advocate for the student voice this past year. Executive SHSM Council Students are currently volunteering their time to providing hot chocolate and cookies (for a nominal cost or donation) for students who are about to enter exams as a way to say that "SHSM Students care" during this time of high stress.

Other events scheduled to take place next semester are the following (and much more to come):

<i>Toronto Raptors</i>	Business and Health & Wellness	11, 12	Monday, December 3rd
<i>First Aid / CPR (@AMHS)</i>	Arts & Culture, Business, Transportation	11	February 7th-8th, 2019
<i>WHMIS (@AMHS)</i>	Arts & Culture, Business, Transportation	11	February 14th, 2019

ICE Training - Newmarket	Arts & Culture	11, 12	February 20th, 2019
Casa Loma	Business, Arts & Culture	11	May 28th, 2019
Auto Show	Business, Transportation	11	February 21
Nutrition Certification	Health & Wellness	11	March 5th, 2019
Self Defence	ALL SECTORS	11,12 females	March 28th, 2019
MLSE - Toronto Raptors	ALL SECTORS	11, 12	April 1st
Laurier University Reach Ahead	Health & Wellness, Business, Arts & Culture	11, 12	May 2, 2019
YMCA Cedar Glen	ALL SECTORS	11, 12	April 25th, 2019

Special Education

Our community classes IPRCs taking place on February 6, 2019 in the library. Our regular IPRCs are taking place on February 14, 2019 in the library.

Congratulations to our students who have been hired for part time employment at Freshco through our work experience program/accepted to PEAK for the Fall. We are all very proud of their great success!

Special Education is in the process of designing a new mental health space in room 148. This is in collaboration with staff and students.

Follow our Special Education Department on Twitter @AlexMackSpecEd

Alexander Mackenzie High School Twitter @AlexMackHS

York Region District School Board Twitter @YRDSB

AMHS EQUITY REVIEW



Sheila Juma
Susan Romeo

EQUITY vs EQUALITY

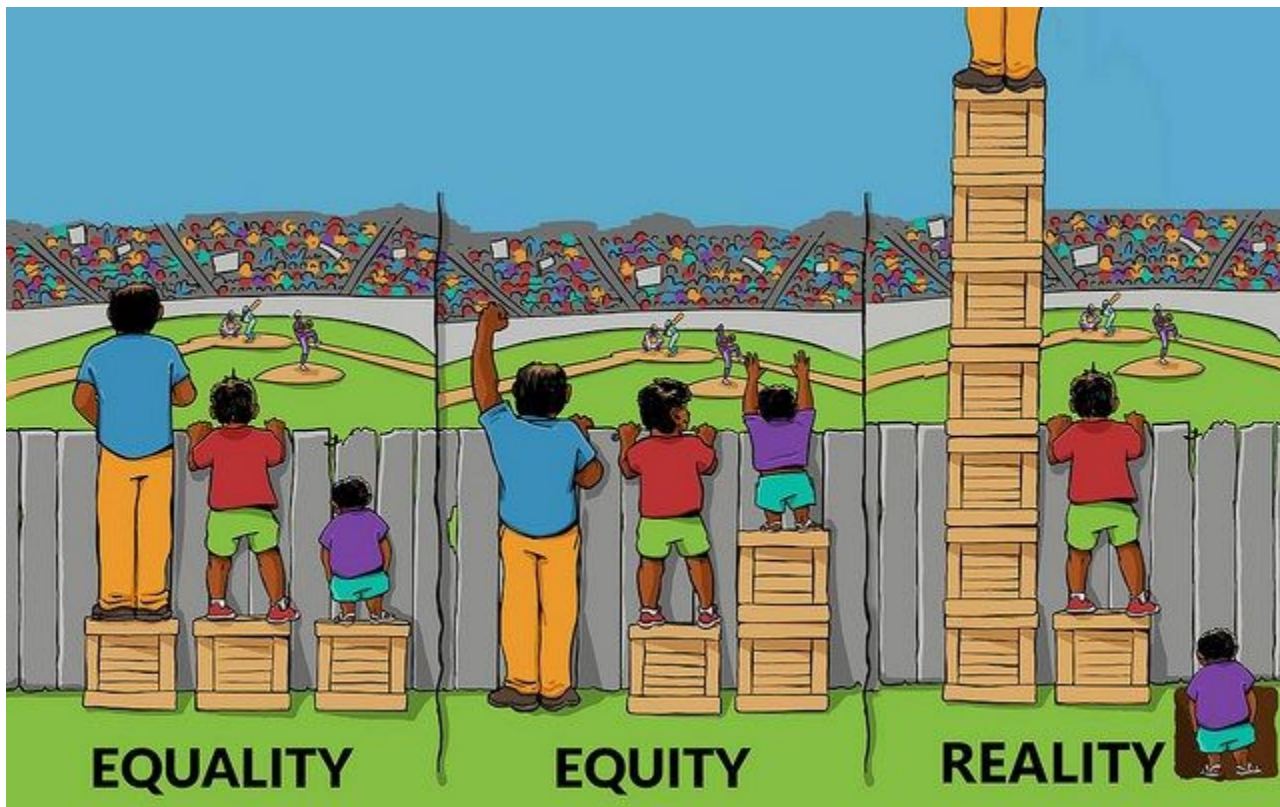
EQUALITY



EQUITY



EQUITY vs EQUALITY



EQUITY COMMITTEE

- Equity Committee meets once a month to discuss and bring forth equity issues within the school community
- Equity Committee consists of 12 members - departments are well represented
- Equity Committee has set up a twitter account where we share information on equity issues - @AmhsEquity
- Resources on equity are shared with staff on Moodle
- Staff is advised weekly on upcoming equity awareness days
- Equity committee secured an equity grant from the board and brought in Michael Rowe, Supervisor, Diversity and Outreach at York Region Children's Aid Society, as a notable speaker on equity issues

EQUITY COMMITTEE continued..



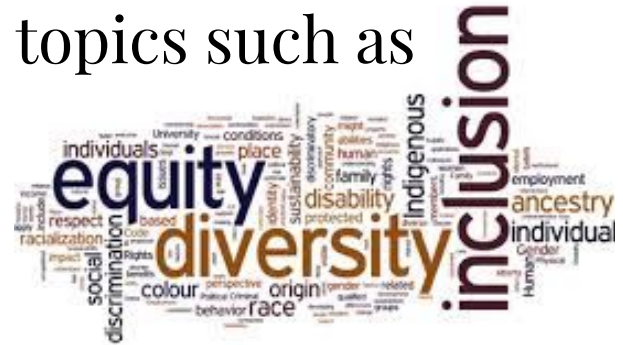
- Staff learning around ways to connect curriculum content to student voice
- Staff examined various case profiles around equity issues to continue learning ways to best meet the needs of our learners
- Leadership team engaged in learning on Ethical Leadership and part of this involved providing strategies to further support student voice in the classroom

FNMI - FIRST NATIONS, METIS, INUIT

- Teachers have been engaging in Cultural Competency learning on FNMI culture
- FNMI is a board focus and teachers are beginning to embed their learning into lesson planning
- Cultural Festival took place on Friday, January 11th at lunch on FNMI culture
- February PA Day, students will have the opportunity to present to staff on FNMI

EQUITY SYMPOSIUM

- The school was represented at the board's annual Equity Symposium in May 2018
- A resource was presented to teachers and will be published at the board level
- The resource contains valuable lessons for educators to use to embed in the classrooms on key topics such as racism, classism, ableism etc.



STUDENT SURVEYS

- Students conducted surveys to learn from parents, students and staff at AMHS on various equity topics
- Students surveyed a few other schools to determine trends and key areas of interest
- This information was presented in the classroom but equally to the school and to board community

LUNCH N' LEARN and DEBATE CLUB on EQUITY TOPICS

- One group of students analyzed data and presented challenges and solutions to equity issues based on the data collected in the surveys
- Students developed a Lunch N' Learn to bring awareness and encourage student community to be more engaged in developing an inclusive environment
- Another group of students developed a Debate Club on equity topics to engage students to explore issues of concern in society

THE QUEST

- Students were chosen to represent AMHS twice at The Quest conference in 2017 and 2018
- In 2017, students from French classes presented slam poems on discrimination and marginalization, Arts Mackenzie students presented their interpretation of learning through the arts
- In 2018, students for French classes presented results from survey data and next steps

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Naila Varawalla represents Alexander Mackenzie High School at the student equity roundtable with other schools
- Naila was chosen out of many applications because of her sensitization to equity issues and her involvement at the board level to promote equity learning
- Naila Varawalla and Vasily Shugaev have also had the opportunity to be involved at the board level on equity training over the past few years in supporting racialized students

