



# Alexander Mackenzie High School

## School Council

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Monday, September 16 , 2019

7:00 – 8:30 pm in Room 122

### MINUTES

#### Attendees

**Present: Council:** Loren Thorburn (former and current), Karl Brumund (former and current), Ruby Thind (former and current), Kelly Levson (former and current), Christine LaForge (former and current), David Mountain (former and current), Lin Zha (current), Ian Gosman (current), Angela Flesariu (current), Teresa Ho (current), Otilia Olteanu, George Ellinas, Yula Nouragas, Cathy Clarke, Sarit Abramovich

**Regrets: Council:** Sabira Pradhan (former and current), Xun Wang (current), Gail Harris (former), Andrea Kalmin (former)

**Guests:** Will Husnut, Lana Fisher, Patrick Wong, Jeffrey Holicky Sr., Andy Hampton, Tim Thomson, Marle Peens, Tania Jones

#### Council Decision

1. **May 2019 Minutes Approved** - via email vote in May 2019

#### Introductions and welcome - *Loren Thorburn*

#### Student Report - *Will Husnut*

- Student council events
  - Therapy dogs - last year once, this year three times
  - Organizing many events
    - Semi-formal, winterfest, spirit week, etc.

## 2018/2019 School Council updates

### 1. Treasurer Report - *Karl Brumund*

- school council general account: \$2,211.97
  - was \$3,011.97 in May 2019
  - 4 \* \$200 student graduation gifts in June 2019
- board account: \$0
  - funding provided annually
  - funds made available in November, normally \$1,000 per school year
- PRO Grant account: \$0
  - school council to apply for PRO Grant
  - dependent upon provincial funding for PRO Grants

### 2. Parent Survey

- Lin entered the survey questions into SurveyMonkey
- ready to send out

### 3. Graduation Gifts

- four awards made
- Loren passed around the thank you cards/notes from each recipient

### 4. Chair's introduction of AMHS School Council - *Loren Thorburn*

- Loren talked about how high school council differs from elementary.
  - structure of meetings
  - teacher report
  - admin report
  - sub-committees for various topics/focus areas
    - meet separately and report back to council
  - we try to combine with guidance presentations
- Past council members talking about their experiences (Ruby, Christine, Kelly, David)
  - different than elementary
  - get information about the school
  - have a voice within the school community

### 5. Dates for 2019-2020 meetings

- Generally 3rd monday of the month, matching department head meetings so admin staff are here
- Guidance presentations on Monday Nov 18, Monday Jan 20, Tuesday, April 21
- October 23 is parents night
- Talked about workshop
- Meeting Dates
  - September 16 @ 7:00pm
  - October 7 @ 7:00pm

- November 18 @ 7:30pm
  - school council parent workshop at 7:30pm
  - guidance parent series at 6:30pm
- January 20 @ 7:30pm
  - guidance parent series at 6:30pm
- April 21 @ 7:30pm
  - guidance parent series at 6:30pm
- Tuesday May 19 @ 7:00pm

## 6. School council composition

- Voting members: min 7, max 15
- 3 executive positions: chair, secretary, treasurer
- two parents unable to attend expressed interest via email
- election/nomination of new council

## 7. 2019/2020 Council members

- People introduced themselves and their child's grade/program
  - Chair: Loren Thorburn
  - Secretary: Karl Brumund
  - Treasurer: Xun Wang
  - Parent members: Angela Flesariu, Christine LaForge, David Mountain, Ian Gosman, Kelly Levson, Lin Zha, Ruby Thind, Sabira Pradhan, Teresa Ho

## Teacher's Report - *Cathy Clarke and Sarit Abramovitch*

- full report attached at the end of the minutes
- Eco team, working on AMHS being certified as an eco-school
- Guidance is using google classroom to get info to students
  - 750 students joined out of 1336 total enrollment
  - Grade 9,10,11 for volunteer information (new this year)
  - Grade 12 for grad info and scholarships, like last year
    - 250 grade 12 students joined
- Library learning commons has health/wellness area
- Math info - clubs/contests/extra help
- Info nights coming up
  - Arts - October 16 @ RHCPA
  - IB - October 17 @ AMHS
- around 300 students identified with special needs (IEP, etc.)
  - IEPs to be distributed on October 15

## Admin Report - *Otilia Olteanu, George Ellinas, Yula Nouragas*

- Yula Nouragas is our new VP, replacing Jay Perri who moved to Langstaff
- enrollment increased

- 1336 this year
  - physical space challenges; almost full
  - may have to move to multiple lunches next year
    - trying to project next year's enrollment
    - looking to see if specialized classrooms can be converted into dual-purpose to use also as general classrooms
    - a dance studio has already been repurposed
- quiet room created in back office to be used for prayer/meditation
- safety week
  - Lockdown drill, and hold and secure drill
  - September 24-27 (Monday is a PA day, safety training for staff)
    - guest speakers during the week
  - First fire drill last week Thursday - was successful
    - 6 drills per semester
- a coyote like animal has been seen in the forest behind the school

## Fundraising

- questions and discussion about fundraising and donations, and what is allowed
- suggestion to send out a report showing what donations paid for
  - Kelly to produce a one page PDF

## Parking

- Question on parking.
  - Mackenzie Health Hospital has 44 spots off Trench on loan until summer 2020. Existing parking lot will be expanded eastward by hospital. Hospital will monitor parking lots.

## Student activity fee

- supports activities that build and strengthen the sense of community in our schools
- subsidizes such things as school spirit events, team transportation, dances and guest speakers for the school community
- less families paying this fee

***In order to conserve paper, hard copies of the minutes and agenda will not be provided at the meeting.***

### 2019-2020 Council Members

Chair: Loren Thorburn

Secretary: Karl Brumund

Treasurer: Xun Wang

Parent Reps: Angela Flesariu, Christine LaForge,

David Mountain, Ian Gosman, Kelly Levson, Lin

Zha, Ruby Thind, Sabira Pradhan, Teresa Ho

### 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

Meetings in Room 122 of AMHS

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



## **AMHS School Council Departmental Report**

**September 16, 2019**

**7 p.m.**

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### **Arts Mackenzie**

It is application season at Arts Mackenzie. We are inviting all interested applicants to the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, October 16th at 7 p.m. for Arts Information Night. Applications for Arts Mackenzie **will open on October 16th and close on November 29th at 4 p.m.** Students who submit an application within this window will be guaranteed an audition in January.

Arts Mackenzie is delighted to be working with the Stratford Festival for our annual Arts Trip and Workshop to see Billy Elliot on October 29th. Students will engage in workshops before and after the performance to connect their learning to their specific disciplines.

Follow the Arts Departments on Social Media:

Twitter: @AMHSPA @amhsvisa @AMHS\_Music

Instagram: @artsmackenzie @amhs.studio @AMHS\_Music

### *Dance/Theatre*

Students in Dance Arts Mackenzie and Theatre Arts Mackenzie are enjoying the start-up to the 2019-2020 school year. Already working with a variety of guest artists, students are gearing up for a memorable Arts Night and End of Semester Performances in January.

### *Music*

#### **Concerts**

All music groups are hard at work in after school ensembles preparing for our concert on November 25 at RHCPA. We will have over 300 students performing at that concert.

#### **Music Council**

-held a very successful "Welcome BBQ" for grade 9 music students last Tuesday. Over 100 students attended.

-planning a Halloween-themed movie night in October.

#### **Central Area Enrichment Band and York Region Children's Chorus Partnership**

Two elementary school-aged ensembles rehearse at AMHS on Tuesday nights with AMHS music students and staff as coaches and tutors. The choir starts auditions tomorrow and the band starts in January.

### **Extended Trip**

We have applied to the School Board for the opportunity to travel to Vancouver from April 29-May 3. The approximate cost will be \$2100. We will let all students and parents know if and when it is approved.

### **Annual Mackenzie Music Musical**

Mackenzie Music is proud to present *The Wizard of Oz* on December 12th and 13th at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Join the cast of 65, accompanied by a live AMHS orchestra as they follow the yellow brick road in this classic musical tale. Tickets are on sale now at [rhcentre.ca](http://rhcentre.ca)

### *Visual Arts*

- Visual Arts will be working on the Wizard of Oz with the gr. 11 class
- guest artist Melanie Siegel is coming into work with the gr. 9 Arts Mack visual arts students next week
- ACC is holding a Bob Ross paint event late Sept./early Oct.
- Sean Cisterna is coming in to speak to film students Oct. 9th
- Halloween events (ACC)

### **Business**

The department is looking forward to our 60+ students who will be preparing to compete in DECA's Regional online testing and competitions taking place on October 30th and November 15th.

### **EcoTeam/Healthy Snacks Program**

The Eco Team is once again working on being certified as an Ontario Eco School. Students will engage in meaningful activities to support sound ecological practices. All students are welcome to join the Eco Team. They can speak with Ms Romeo in room 148 about upcoming meetings.

The school is pleased to announce that we will once again provide students with fresh fruit in order to promote healthy eating habits. These will be supplied once per week and can be found outside room 147. Students are always welcomed to help themselves

### **Guidance**

Guidance have connected with all students in the building to ensure a complete timetable for semesters 1 and 2

New: AMHS Volunteer Google Classroom Code

- To join type in code: tdbujo
- Classroom will connect students to many volunteer opportunities happening across GTA

In late September/early October, Guidance will connect with all Gr. 9 Physical education classes to deliver lessons that promote mental health and wellness.

Gr. 12 Graduation google Classroom:

- All Gr. 12 students have been asked to join; code to join 57yg7zj
- Many Scholarship Opportunities have been posted there

Nov. 5: Pathway Nights 7:00 - 9:00 pm

- over 60 colleges and universities

Nov. 6: Gr. 12 Post-Secondary visits to 6 different colleges & universities

- students need to sign up on Cash Online; \$5.00

### **History**

Student Vote will be organizing a mock school election for the upcoming federal election. More details to follow.

### **International Baccalaureate**

Upcoming dates in the International Baccalaureate Program:

- IB Information Evening: Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Application Opens: Friday, October 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
- Application Closes: Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

#### *Assessment Dates:*

The assessment dates for the International Baccalaureate Program are as follows:

- Thursday, November 21st, 2019 (6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m)
- Saturday, November 23rd, 2019 (9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)

### **Library Learning Commons**

We have incorporated a health and wellness area in our library. In this space, students will have access to a variety of tools and resources (print and online) to help support their mental health and well-being. Our goal is to address issues related to resiliency, reducing anxiety, healthy eating and nutrition, stress management, physical activity, and understanding the importance of sleep.

### **Math**

#### **1) Math Extra Help**

The Math Department will provide Math extra help for all students in Room 183 from 3 to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The extra help will start this Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

#### **2) Math Club**

The Math Club promotes students' engagement and interest in the learning of mathematics. It also provides a platform for club members to develop their problem-solving skills and student leaders to develop their leadership skills. Sign up of new members took place last Friday,

September 13, 2019, during the Club Fair. The Math Club will meet in Room 187 on Wednesdays from 3 to 4 pm starting this Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

3) **Math Contests**

Canadian Open Math Challenge (Grade 11 & 12) will take place on November 7, 2019 and Canadian Senior & Intermediate Math Contests (Grade 9 to 12) on November 20, 2019. Registration will be available from October 15 to 26, 2019 through School Cash Online.

**Special Education**

Our Special Education Resource Teachers are currently meeting with students and distributing Department letters and Parent Consultation Forms. Please review the information and complete forms with your child. Completed forms to be returned to Rm 148. SEA laptops are also being distributed to the appropriate students.

IEPs will be distributed on September 15, 2019.

Please contact sarit.abramovich@yrdsb if you have any questions.

Please follow us at: AlexMackSpecEd@SpecMack

**SHSM (Specialist High School Major)**

Inviting all interested students to sign up for one of our SHSM programs by October 30, 2019. AMHS offers the following SHSM programs: Arts and Culture, Business, Hospitality and Wellness and Transportation. More information can be found on our website:

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