



Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council

Monday, September 21, 2020

7:15 – 8:15 pm via GoToMeeting

MINUTES

Attendees

Present: Loren Thorburn, Xun Wang, Karl Brumund, Kelly Levson, Sabira Pradhan, Krista Pummell, George Ellinas, Erika Pridie (new VP), Cathy Clarke, Palwashah Ali

Guests: Amanda Shulman, George, Sophie Conrad, Marna Sobel, Angie Cunningham, Tunjay, phone caller

Regrets: Angela Flesariu, Lin Zhu, Ruby Thind, Teresa Ho, Christine LaForge

Absent: Ion Gosman

YRDSB Information

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

Student Report - Palwashah Ali and Sophie Conrad

- student council met over summer virtually
- hosted school reopening Q&A via Instagram @amac.stuco
 - liaison to AMHS admin
- created short videos to welcome incoming Grade 9 students and returning students
- student council elections similar to previous years, but more virtually
 - applications next week, same as normal
 - campaigning via IG
- candidates create videos that can be shown in class

2019/2020 School Council

1. Introductions

- people introduced themselves

2. Treasurer Report - *Xun Wang*

- attached
- 3 accounts
 - school council general account
 - \$2,333
 - \$800 graduation awards to be withdrawn
 - school board account (not until November)
 - PRO Grant
 - dependent upon provincial funding

3. 2019/2020 Accomplishments - *Loren Thorburn*

- Delivered and Reported on Parent Survey
 - online survey done for the last 2 years
- Represented council at various school events:
 - Arts Information Night @ RHCPA, Teacher/Parent Interview Night, IB Information Night, Grade 8 Information Night, Arts and IB Welcome Evening
- Delivered Hour of Code
- Attended Regional School Council Meeting
- Offered January Workshop – ASYR
 - second planned workshop was impacted by COVID
- Joined Guidance and Students to present at Board Leadership workshop
- Updated Administrator's Profile (welcomed new Principal)

4. Recommendations for next years' council

- repeat Parent Survey
 - online survey done for the last 2 years
- workshop ideas, which may be impacted by present situation

5. 2020/2021 School Council elections

- Co-chairs: Karl and Loren
- Treasurer: Xun Wang
- Secretary: Ruby Thind
- Members: Kelly Levson, Sabira Pradhan, Marna Sobel, Amanda Shulman, Christine Laforge, Teresa Ho

6. Teachers' report - *Cathy Clarke*

- full report attached at the end of the minutes

- lots happening in LLC
- virtual library open 24x7, though physical library remains closed
- Google classroom has many curated resources
- virtual wellness room
 - help students manage stress

7. Admin report - Krista Pummell, Erika Pridie, George Ellinas

Krisa Pummell

- started last Feb
- started with ~1400 students
 - 285 students opted for virtual school
 - ~1100 in adaptive/hybrid model
 - ~10 staff went to virtual teaching
 - due to fewer students in the school, 38 courses/course sections were unable to be offered
 - guidance working with students
 - visual arts was able to be supported virtually
 - other arts programs were not able to be supported, as well as IB
 - staff very impressed by student behaviour and rising to the challenges of public health

Erika Pridie

- new VP at AMHS
- health and safety protocols implemented
 - new signage to remind about
 - sanitizing stations throughout the school
 - exit and washroom break schedule per class
 - trying to control hallway traffic
 - if needed, allows for easier contact tracing
 - students embracing this
- Grade 9 day
 - a bit different this year

George Ellinas

- cohorting for block 1 classes
 - some tweaks happening for siblings
- they are presently cohorting subsequent classes
 - bulk of rotation 2 cohort changes complete
- Lana Fisher promoted to VP at ThornLea Secondary School
 - they are updating guidance counselor assignments for students
- guidance presentations to students and parents expected to continue, details TBD
 - honor roll for 2019/2020 school year TBD
 - marks for second semester were impacted

8. Discussion and Questions for Admin

Question: What should my child be doing on a non-attending day?

Answer: Each class may differ, it may involve asynchronous work, a check in time, assigned work. Each teacher may utilize different options to engage their non-attending students.

Question: Can students switch between adaptive/hybrid and virtual?

Answer: This change can only happen at the end of the semester. Virtual school is done separately from AMHS; it is like switching schools.

YRDSB is aware and is collecting a waitlist for secondary school, if there is space and teacher availability.

Question: If my child switches from cohort B to cohort A, when do they start Rotation 2?

Answer: For a new rotation, Cohort A always starts on Monday.

3 parent bulletins sent out as of September 21.

2020-2021 Council Members

Co-chairs: Loren Thorburn & Karl Brumund

Secretary: Ruby Thind

Treasurer: Xun Wang

Parent Reps: Teresa Ho, Christine LaForge,

Kelly Levson, Sabira Pradhan,

Amanda Shulman, Marna Sobel

2020-2021 Meeting Dates

online via gotomeeting @ 7:15pm

Monday September 21, 2020 @ 7:15pm

Monday October 19, 2020 @ 7:15pm

Monday November 16, 2020 @ 7:15pm

Monday January 18, 2021 @ 7:15pm

Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 7:15pm

Monday May 17, 2021 @ 7:15pm



Arts Mackenzie

Arts Mackenzie is excited to welcome back 217 Arts Mackenzie students to our studios. Families are encouraged to follow the successes and studio work through our social media:

Instagram: @artsmackenzie @amhs.music @amhs.studio

Twitter: @AMHSPA @AMHS_Music @amhsvisa

Our application season for the 2021-2020 school year will commence in October. Stayed tuned for details regarding Arts Information Night, auditions and application procedures.

Dance/Theatre

September is off to a creative start in the Dance and Theatre studios with students engaging in the creative and critical thinking processes in both our physically distanced studio spaces and our virtual studios.



Students in Dance and Drama Council lead grade 9 virtual spirit activities through their participation in Presidents' Council. You can see their leadership in action through the inclusion videos posted at @amhs_presco

Music

Mackenzie Musical Theatre is working away at a digital, mini-musical based on a *La La Land* medley set to debut October 2020. The course will still present a full musical production, designed for virtual performance, December 10th and 11th.

Visual Arts

- ACC is continuing online and will be holding virtual meetings and is working on the logistics of holding virtual events and art shows/contests
- the studio courses are progressing well and students are creating online working digital and interactive portfolios
- investigating possible virtual guest artists through Zoom workshops for second semester

English

This year, our classes will be exploring some of our next texts. We are hoping that these texts better represent student voice and current socio-political issues.

DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program)

The DHH department continues to adapt it's regular programming to provide support and resources to teachers to promote student learning through the online model. Students have shown their resilience through these difficult times, and DHH staff continue to work hard to facilitate access both in the classroom and online.

Guidance and Career Education

- Timetable conflicts being resolve for all grades for both hybrid and virtual
- Siblings have been cohorted together for commuting purposes
- Guidance alpha being re-distributed among guidance counsellors and visits will be by appointments only. Student ought to see guidance counsellors by alpha unless there is a circumstance that needs guidance counselor with expertise (example: IB, ESL, language barrier)
- Guidance is planning information sessions for all grades including graduating cohort

International Baccalaureate Programme

In the Diploma Programme:

- 83 students in grade 11 (Anticipation year)
- 59 students in grade 12 (Diploma year)

IB not at Virtual school:

Virtual school does not support IB programme (not enough IB qualified teachers and not enough student enrollment-total of 90 students from 5 IB schools). We have 11 students (8 grade 11 and 2 grade 12) initially transferred to virtual. All came back to hybrid except two grade 11 students who decided to drop out of the program.

IB schools transfers:

Please be advised that Transfers among IB schools in YRDSB are not possible unless there is a special circumstance that is reviewed and decided by the superintendents. IB coordinators do not make the decision.

IB Information evening and intake:

- IB information evening: scheduled for October 22nd, cancelled. Highly likely the session will be held virtually.
- IB intake: will look different this year. Planning among IB schools will begin soon. Prospective students will perhaps be evaluated based on grade 7 and 8 performance and teacher recommendations and not on IB admissions testing (planning will take place at the end of september and october).

Library

While our physical space is not open to students, our virtual library remains open 24/7 and can be accessed from the library home page. A number of resources and support materials have been curated to help support students with their digital literacy needs. On the library home page, students will find all of the Library Learning Commons virtual resources and some new additions:

1. Online Learning Button

Students can submit questions and inquiries using a Google Form. The library team will respond to queries in a timely fashion.

2. LLC Google Classroom

A number of digital resources have been curated in a Google Classroom where students and staff can access information regarding:

- Research Resources
- Citation Resources
- Database/eBook search tips and “how-to” tutorials
- Understanding Primary/Secondary Sources
- Journal Article Sources

3. LLC Virtual Wellness Room - Google Site

To help address health and wellness concerns, a Virtual Wellness Room is available to students. Resources and strategies focus on helping students address and cope with feelings of stress and anxiety:

- Visual Relaxation
- Sounds/Music
- Breathing/Meditation
- Yoga/Movement
- Puzzles/Games
- Colouring Pages
- Wellness Apps
- Additional Resources (YRDSB, Kids Help Phone, Jack.org, School Mental Health Ontario & the Canadian Mental Health Association)

Literacy:

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. All students across the province write this test on the same date. This year's test is scheduled for April 8, 2021. Teachers at Alexander Mackenzie High School use a variety of classroom strategies across subject areas to help students develop their literacy skills. For more details regarding the OSSLT, please visit our website rebrand.ly/osslt. Please note that in order to access the site, you must ask your child to sign into their GAPPS account.

Mathematics:

The Math Department would like to welcome all the students to their first semester Math courses both virtually and in person. We are committed to deliver the Math curriculum in accordance with the Ministry expectations and guidelines through the hybrid model based on the schedule developed by the board. We look forward to having another successful school year with your children.

The Math club will go virtual. The Mackenzie Mathletes google classroom access code has been shared with parents through weekly parent e-bulletin on September 18. The first webinar preparing students for upcoming math contests will be run by the Math club executives at 4:00pm on September 25, 2020. Students will be informed of the event by their Math teachers and the Math Club executives.

The Canadian Open Math Challenge 2020 (COMC 2020) is scheduled to be held on October 29, 2020. This is an on-line math contest for Grade 11 and Grade 12 students.

Registration will be available from September 28 to October 12 through School Cash online.

Special Education:

Our wonderful Special Education department will be supporting our AMHS students with exceptionalities in their face-to-face and online classes. This includes in our Senior Intensive, Junior Intensive and new Autism classrooms! We are still learning from the Board what Resourcing in and out of classrooms will look like this year, but what we do know so far is that our role will include aligning IEPs and accommodations to both face-to-face and online learning environments.

Students with an IEP will continue to be supported with a Special Education Resource Teacher, we will continue to welcome new students into the department through academic testing and educational assessments. If you have any questions about Special Education, you are encouraged to reach out to our new Department Head, John Shep.