



Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council

Monday, September 23rd, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 pm

MINUTES

Attendees

Present: Krista Luks, Themistocles Drekolias, Marissa Diceman, Karen Wu, Violet Zang, Emily Chen, Ruby Thind

Student Reps: Katie & Victoria

Land Acknowledgement - Krista Luks

Student Report - *Katie/Victoria*

- Club Fair will be held in the foyer/cafeteria on Tuesday, September 24th (period 2,3,4)
- School has over 60 clubs (15 new for this year) - meeting in the mornings or after school
 - Use google classroom for communication and collaboration as well as social media accounts
- Spirit days presented include colour days for each grade to encourage collaboration, costume contest for Halloween and Pyjama days
- Semi-formal will be held on November 14th (all grades)
- Student Council will be putting together a website where all activities will be listed

Admin & Teacher Report - *Krista*

- Guidance completed course changes - lots of requests for changes
- Student population currently at 1440
- Hired 2 more teachers in September to support increasing student population

School Council Nominations - *Krista*

- Chairs - Violet, Karen and Shakufe
- Treasurer - Emily Chen
- Secretary - Ruby Thind

School Council activities - Violet

- Kirspy Kreme fundraiser - two scheduled for this year
- Mother's Day fundraiser
- Other suggestions include Father's day fundraiser, Donations, Multicultural night, Cookie dough sale
- Discussion on identifying areas to spend the funds raised and communicating to parents
- School Council Survey handed out during meeting

2024/2025 School Council

2023-2024 Council Members

Chair: Karen Wu, Violet Zeng, Shufake Virani
Secretary: Ruby Thind
Treasurer: Emily Chen

2024-2025 Meeting Dates (@ 7:00 p.m.)

****Note Monday, March 18th, we will start at 7.00pm***

Monday, September 23, 2024
Monday, November 18, 2024

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Tuesday, May 20, 2025



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Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council 2024-2025

Administration

Krista Luks

Principal



@janedoe

krista.luks@yrdsb.ca

Themis Drekolias

Vice Principal (A - L)



@janedoe

themistocles.drekolias

@yrdsb.ca

Helen Ho

Vice Principal (M - Z)



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Land Acknowledgement



Helping the world
live better
every day

Agenda

Student Report

Teacher Report

Administration Report

School Council Report

Election of Executive

Student Report



Student Council



- Staff Advisor: Marissa Diceman
- Co-Pres: Victoria and Katie
- Co-Vice Pres: Adele and Cece

Upcoming Events

Club Fair–Tomorrow

Fall Fest–End of October

Semi Formal–November 14th

Teacher Report



Teacher Report



- Timetable Update
 - 350 students submitted timetable change requests
 - many were for switching electives
 - importance of course selection process in the spring - choose once, choose wisely

Teacher Report



- Sept 27 PD Day
 - morning workshops focus on compliance training: Health and Safety
 - afternoon allows for department time to focus on School Improvement Planning

Teacher Report



- Upcoming Dates
 - Interim Reports will be distributed electronically Oct 15 or Oct 16
 - early snapshot with a focus on learning skills
- Interview Night - October 24

Administration Report



Administration Report



- Enrolment Update
 - current student population is 1440
 - 93 teaching staff, 7 office staff, 22 support staff, 9 caretakers
 - school received additional staffing in September due to increase in enrolment

School Updates



- New Courses 2024-2025
 - tech requirement for students entering grade 9 - TAS10 (Skilled Trades)
 - Business - BEM10 (Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset); BEP20 (Launching and Leading a Business)
 - Geography - CGC1W - destreamed

School Updates



- New Program - PALM (Program for Accelerated Literacy and Math)
 - designed to support English Language Learners who have significant gaps in their education due to limited or interrupted education, who have arrived in Canada within the last 3 years
 - programming is targeted to bridge formal learning opportunity-gaps quickly

Administration Report



- School Improvement Goals
 - school goals are aligned with Board Improvement Goals and Trustee Multi-Year Strategic Plan
 - review of data and needs assessment helped determine school priorities
 - last year - focus was on developing action plans to achieve school goals
 - focus this year is to collect data, monitor and adjust action plans as needed

Mental Health and Wellbeing



If we, AMHS staff, continue learning about student mental health and well-being, and implement the strategies to support wellness through intentional programming and practices while fostering positive relationships, **then** we can expect to see an improvement in student agency* and resiliency. We also expect to advance student mental health by:

- dismantling of stigma and barriers
- increasing student advocacy for mental health supports
- inspiring belonging, championing equity, fostering, inclusion and building community

Equity



If we recognize and deepen our understanding of critical consciousness* and increase our identity-affirming classroom and non-classroom spaces in our school community, **then** we can expect to dismantle and disrupt barriers created by the colonial education system. We can also expect to see a/an:

- increase in student, staff, family and community engagement (with a specific focus on marginalized identities)
- increase of racial literacy for all stakeholders
- reflection of identities affirmed in the school's learning and working environments

Equity



If we acknowledge, name, deepen and implement our learning about dismantling antiBlack racism in Black Affirming Environments and Community Engagement through the 7 priorities/actions of the strategy, **then** we expect to see an increase in racial equity in our school for Black students and staff . We also expect that more Black students, Black staff and families will report that they feel that their identities are reflected in the learning and working environments .

Equitable Instruction and Assessment



If we deepen our understanding and implementation of varied and flexible assessments for all learners, including the key characteristics of Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy, **then** we expect to see increased achievement in our students, particularly our underserved and underperforming students through varied and flexible assessments. We also expect that students will report an increase in their ability to fully demonstrate and express their learning and understanding through:

- student voice and choice
- observations and conversations in assessment *of* learning
- differentiated opportunities

Role Of School Council



Purpose and Role of School Council



School councils are advisory bodies that can make recommendations to the principal or the Board on matters as stated in Board Policy and procedure. Specifically, school councils are responsible for:

- **promoting** parent, family and community **engagement** in support of student achievement and wellbeing in an equitable and inclusive manner
- **participating** in the development and implementation of the **school improvement plan**
- **communicating with, and providing ongoing advice** to the principal on school-related matters
- **collaborating** with the principal to **coordinate community resources** that support student learning, achievement and well-being
- **understanding and communicating with members of the community** about the roles and responsibilities of school councils as outlined in the School Councils policy and procedure and appropriate guidelines and legislation, as required

Election of School Council Executive



School Council Executive Roles



Chair:

Co Chair:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

School Council Report



School Council Report



- 2023-2024 Year in Review
- Goals for 2024-2025
- Ideas/topics for future meetings
- [parent engagement survey](#)
- Parents Reaching Out Grant
- Fundraising - Natasha
- [Krispy Kreme fundraiser](#)
- [freshfromfarm.ca](#)

Future Meeting Dates



Monday November 18, 2024

Monday January 20, 2025

Tuesday February 18, 2025

Tuesday May 20, 2025