

**AURORA HS SCHOOL COUNCIL  
MINUTES TO NOVEMBER 28, 2016 MEETING**

<b>Present:</b>	Elizabeth LeClaire, Co-Chair Mary Lawlis, Principal Robyn Toffolo, Head of Mathematics Tony Maier Nasim Mirzaei Liiban Sheikhdon Christine Fraser Dennis Bailey Eveline Odisho	Penny Marrett, Co-Chair Michele Davidson, Co-Secretary Debbie Wilmshurst, Co-Secretary Joanne Maier Lee James Courtney Jillian Prins Shelley Xie Elena Parfenov
<b>Regrets:</b>	Laura Marotta, Vice-Principal	Elisa Shiffman, Vice-Principal

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**Call to Order and Welcome; Roundtable of Introductions**

Introductions and a welcome to all present were made, including Administration, Parents, and Student Council.

**Approval of September Minutes**

The Minutes were approved from the September 2016 meeting.

**Student Council Report**

Introductions were made from the Student Council's President and Vice-President. The School Council heard an overview of the current events being run by School Council, including spirit days, giveaways, contests, and dances. The focus for this year's Student Council is to offer school-wide events for all students. Their aim is to increase school spirit. The Student Council encourages their members to engage in leadership roles within the school and promotes personal growth for the students. Several past and future events were highlighted, these included the following:

September - November Student Council Events

Monthly Kahoots – an online quiz that was held in the cafeteria with prizes. Hundreds of students have participated.

Spirit Day – “Grub Day”, students wore pajamas and cozy clothes, popcorn was provided.

Haunted House – proceeds to Terry Fox Foundation, \$90 raised.

Terry Fox Run – a school wide event, which raised \$1600.65

Halloween For Hunger –1200 food items collected.

Halloween Costume Contest – a fun day for all staff and students.

Upcoming Events

Winter Wonderland Dance – 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Twin Day –November 29, plus games for the Twins to play.

Talent Show sign up begin the last week of November; the show is on Dec 23.

A brief overview was provided of the many clubs available for students to join, such as the *Harry Potter Club*, *Ping Pong Club* and *Tuesday Painters*. Clubs allow a wide range of students to meet other students who share similar interests. Also, clubs provide a great opportunity for students to connect with others outside of their grade. AHS has a large variety of clubs and students are encouraged to start their own club. If interested, students should speak to Student Council. Any student may sign up for Student Council. Approximately 50 students are involved in the 2016-17 Student Council.

Discussion arose and the School Council made the following request:

- Post on the Aurora High School website a listing of school clubs, including a brief description and meeting dates.

### **Presentations**

Members of the School Council moved to an adjacent room in the library equipped with a digital projector for the following presentations:

#### **a) School Improvement Plan Presented by M. Lawlis, Principal**

An in-depth presentation was given to the School Council covering the following topics:

Running Effective Meetings – Role of School Councils:

- First year of five year plan
- Invitation to participate
- Coordinate Community Resources
- Min of 4 meetings
- Agendas communicated to school
- Majority of parents must be present
- Agenda
- Code of Ethics/Norms of Operation
- How to contribute effectively in a group – technology aside

A discussion on sample norms to be adopted and a small group discussion arose.

School Council made the following input/suggestions:

- Use name tags at each meeting for all participants
- Sit at a round table or square vs. rectangle table to help facilitate full group discussions
- Include an area for “Other Business/New Agenda” items at the bottom of every agenda
- Include all upcoming meeting dates at the bottom of the agenda

#### **b) YRDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSA) – Presented by Mary Lawlis, Principal**

The BIPSA is a five year online plan and is a living document comprising:

- 3 main foci of Modern Learning, Mental Health, and Mathematics.
- 3 Foundational Practices of Equity, Innovation, and Leadership.
- Its Strategic Actions happen at the system, school and classroom level.
- Components of BIPSA were reviewed. An overview of the Board’s Modern Learning, Mental Health and Mathematics Theory of Action was provided, including the If - Then

statements and the Four Pillars; “Building Knowledge and Capacity”, “Learning, Teaching and Assessment”, “Environment Design”, and “Collaborative Learning Communities”.

- AHS’ Challenge of Practice is to develop critical thinking skills; independently and collaboratively. If teachers design and implement process-oriented tasks with a focus on collaborative work and independent critical thinking through experiential and theoretical learning, then students will shift their focus from the end result and become engaged problem-solvers, risk takers, and life-long learners in every pathway.
- Discussion - How is the math component of the BIPSA accessible across the entire curriculum and the whole student body? Math is part of our everyday life, music, cooking, art, as well as specialization in math specific subjects.
- How is this monitored/measurable? Three areas: Implementation, Achievement, and Perceptual.
- What are the key indicators of success? Targets are set by the Board and found on its strategy page.

**c) Math Program Update, presented by R. Toffolo, Head of Mathematics**

Robyn Toffolo provided an engaging and interactive mathematics update:

- A fun math task was distributed and completed by the School Council, followed by a group discussion to the question “How are you feeling? Excited?”
- In the AHS math department emphasis is placed on the process of solving the problems versus the final answers. The Math department encourages risk taking and sharing of ideas which leads to more engaged learners, who learn from their mistakes.
- More marks are allocated to the process of finding the answer vs. the final answer.
- Math EQAO update:
  - o Math EQAO is administered at the end of each semester in grade 9.
  - o EQAO test covers entire grade 9 course.
  - o It is worth 5% of the final math mark.
  - o AHS 2015-16 Applied Results: 58% of students achieved Level 3 or higher.
  - o AHS 2015-16 Academic Results: 91% of students achieved Level 3 or higher.
  - o A cohort tracking overview was provided.
  - o Review of student’s attitudes toward math was presented.
  - o Aim is to support achievement and mental well-being.
  - o Analysis – there is focus on group work, relevant questions and applications, practice and focus on the language of EQAO.
  - o Overall test management techniques are taught and supported in a nurturing environment.
  - o Recommendations are to engage active learning for grade 9 applied math in both semesters.
  - o Next Steps involve Math Adventures-transitions, Mental Health, EQAO analysis, online course, and AEAC Data Collection Tool to track applied results.

**PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant: Next Steps**

School Council members received further details about the PRO Grant. The aim of this PRO Grant is to help parents identify how to most effectively support student achievement and well-being in mathematics through a “reach out” to our parent/guardian community. School Council has been

awarded a \$1000 Pro Grant. It was stated the School Council would now need to incorporate BIPSA to meet the PRO Grant requirements. Discussion arose as to the best way to meet this year's grant requirements. It was determined a subcommittee meeting was required. The following members were invited to join the committee: Robyn Tofflo, Head of Mathematics, Elissa Shiffman, VP, and parent volunteers Evelnie, Shelley, Elizabeth, and Georgy.

### **Administration Report**

Mary Lawlis, Principal presented several topics, which included:

- AHS weekly newsletters
- Successful completion of the Bullying Awareness week which had strong student engagement
- AHS semi-formal, which was well attended
- Successful grade 9 dance
- Business Department's "Aurora Venture Rama", a fund raising activity for charities
- Drama Fest
- Physics Activities

Upcoming events and information were discussed. These included the "*Hour Of Code*" which will be held for all grade 9 classes during period 4 and facilitated by students and staff, plus a multitude of sporting events and teams were noted, and a reminder to all to encourage students to be respectful and remember snow safety rules.

### **Other Business**

A question was posed from a parent member "Is an AP Math program possible at AHS?" Mary Lawlis, Principal, explained AHS has a large French Immersion program and four SHSM programs, in addition to standard math courses, thus adding AP Math courses would put a lot of stress on timetabling. It was noted Dr. G.W. Williams SS offers AP courses, a gifted program, and is an IB candidate school. Mary would further consult with staff to consider possibilities. Other options were presented to meet the needs of students wishing more challenging math work, these including joining the Math Club and accessing online math contests. The Math Club practices a variety of contests available from the University of Waterloo.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.