



Aurora High School Council

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Minutes to September 28, 2017 Meeting

AHS Library, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Call to Order & Welcome; Roundtable of Introductions

The meeting was called to order by the 2016-2017 Co-Chair and welcomed everyone. There was a roundtable of introductions.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved, as circulated.

Student Council Report

There have been lots of activities that have taken place. The Student Council elections for Grade 9 representatives will take place in a few days. The Student Council has also organized a Hallowe'en event for the school. There will be a talent show in December and the Grade 12 class will be considering a legacy project.

On October 6th, it will be "grub day" at the school and on October 18th, there will be a bake sale to support the Canadian Red Cross.

Presentation: AHS Math Department

"How to Thrive in High School Mathematics"

Robyn Toffolo, AHS Math Department Head provided a presentation on the Math Program at AHS. This included understanding the mat pathways and course selection options; the importance of attendance and homework; in-class engagement; partnership/teamwork between teacher/parent/student. Ms. Toffolo also outlined the 4 categories for marking: Knowledge/Understanding, Thinking, Communication, application. Mark calculations/weightings include 70% term mark and 30% final summative(s), including the exam. Ms. Toffolo also provided an overview of the Grade 9 EQAO, which is worth 5% of the final mark. The school is working hard to address anxiety/mental health concerns and issues.

Ms. Toffolo encouraged parents to contact their child's math teacher or Ms. Toffolo if there were any questions or concerns.



General Overview of School Council and its Role

There was a high level overview of School Council and its role. Unlike in elementary school, school council in high schools does not do any fundraising. The role of the school council is to provide advice to the school administration, is encouraged to provide input into Board policies, and support the school and its activities.

School Council Elections

Kelly Ozols and Penny Marrett were elected as Co-Chairs for the 2017-2018 school year. Liz Holtby was elected Secretary for the 2017-2018 school year.

Administration Report

It was reported that there had not been enough lockers for all of the students this year. As a result, it took longer for each student to be assigned a locker.

Some of the science classes did not have enough textbooks. Mr. Voumvakis informed School Council that more textbooks have been ordered with the goal that every science student, especially in Grad 9, will have a textbook.

Grade 9 transition day started with an assembly in the morning including parents and students and then each group went their separate ways. Parents had an opportunity to attend each of their child's class for a few minutes to learn about the curriculum and meet the teacher. It was a successful day overall.

On September 19th, the Grade 9 students went to Green Acres for the day. This is an event that is organized to help Grade 9 students become more comfortable with each other and with entering high school. Student leaders from the other grades attend this event to support the students.

September 25th was the first P.A. day. Teachers and administration spent the day planning.

In September, YRDSB has Safety Week. There were assemblies as part of Safety Week as well as a practice lock down. There was also a fire drill and we learned that there was a new challenge with having portables. This is now worked out.

School forms have gone home to parents; at least one of which must be returned to the school. The information on this form helps to keep the school informed of any changes in contact information and is critical to keep up-to-date. Parents are asked to complete it as soon as possible and have their child return it to the school.



Photo Day is in October and students will receive their school year student card with their photo at that time. It was noted that some students played “name switching”, which created some challenges.

A new attendance system has been established. If a child is absent from a class, parents will receive an e-mail as well as a phone call. Attendance is taken approximately 15 minutes after a class has started and is then taken down to the office.

Mental Health is one of the key areas of focus for the school board. Activities to promote positive mental health are being planned. A number of staff members have been trained in Mindfulness and the school is looking at different ways to support students’ mental health.

To support students’ mental and physical health, the school is having the basketball court in the back re-paved. Administration is considering setting up a games room and a mindfulness class is being considered.

Announcements in the morning include the clubs that have meetings and there is a sign-up sheet for clubs in the hallway between the library and the office. TVs throughout the school also promote the various clubs. It was suggested that clubs could be listed in the school newsletter and could be uploaded onto the website.

The gym is now fully functional. As a result of the accident last spring, the gym was re-surfaced.

Confirmation of Meeting Dates

The following dates for School Council meetings were confirmed:

- Monday, November 13, 2017
- Thursday, January 25, 2018
- Thursday, February 22, 2018
- Thursday, May 3, 2018
- Thursday, June 21, 2018

Council meetings will start at 6:30pm and will generally last 1.5-2 hours. Minutes will be posted on the AHS website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/aurora.hs/>

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 13 at 6:30pm