

AURORA HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TO JANUARY 23, 2017 MEETING

Present:	Elizabeth LeClaire, Co-Chair Elisa Shiffman, Vice-Principal Joan Lash Tom Schoenhofer Jillian Prins Carol Nerling Mackenzie Cameron Elena Parfenor	Eveline Odisho Laura Marotta, Vice-Principal Tony Maier Clifford Chuang Liiban Sheikhdon Hunter Bailey Nadine Abd Elmalak Michele Davidson, Co-Secretary
Regrets:	Mary Lawlis, Principal Debbie Wilmshurst, Co-Secretary	Penny Marrott, Co-Chair

Call to Order and Welcome: Roundtable of Introductions

Introductions were made of all present including the administration, student council, parents and students.

Approval of November Minutes

Minutes from the November 28, 2016 meeting were approved.

Student Council Report

The Student Council's President and Vice-President presented updates on recent and upcoming events at the school. They included the success of the talent show, and the initiatives taken to assist students in preparing for exams. There are student success and peer mentors for Grades 9 and 10. All students were given de-stress bags. The bags can be used to house exam supplies to be brought into the students' exams.

February Events:

Frost week - which will have different Spirit Days, for example pajama and movie days

Coffee House event – to be hosted by the Music Council

Students with Global Issues (SGI) – Every Tuesday, tuques will be sold at a cost of \$10, hats and mittens for \$20. They are also available on-line. Proceeds will go to a scholarship for a child at 360 Kids, a youth shelter in Aurora.

Guidance and Cooperative Education

Laura Marotta provided information on the Cooperative Education and Guidance.

The Career showcase and co-op nights were very successful.

Thirty-eight percent of students are involved in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program, which covers four sectors: health and wellness, construction, business and arts and culture.

The co-op courses are part of the SHSM bundle, although students are able to take co-op courses without being part of the SHSM program.

Question: Can students do both SHSM and French Immersion?

Response: Yes, SHSM is also available to French Immersion students. Approximately fifty percent of Grade 9 students are French Immersion.

Question: Did any of the cooperative education students discover they were not in the correct placement?

Response: Yes. Students are asked to give the placement six weeks.

Question: Do students ask to switch to another placement?

Response: Yes. Administration is mindful of the placement before the students begin.

The co-op courses aim to give students real world experience to allow them to set tangible and attainable goals. The cooperative education program at AHS has a wide range of choices and strong connections with employers.

Student Presentations on Cooperative Education Experiences

Students reported on their past cooperative education experiences. The students actively participated in responsibilities that were true to actual roles. The cooperative placement is 220 hours, the equivalent of two credits.

Course Selection and Pathways to Opportunity

There is a need to understand that early decisions are not final, as pathways change with maturity. It is important to use language which values all pathways. Students must conduct research and can access the career planning pathways on-line. The parent page of the YRDSB's

website supports student course selection, while the student page shares graduation and requirement information.

Reminders:

February 9 – course selection day

February 13 – career cruising opens for course submissions

February 24 – signed copy of course selection page to be submitted to the homeroom teacher

March 2 – career cruising closed

March 8 – imported data is sent to Trillium

Course verification will be done in April and timetables emailed in the summer. Timetables are also emailed to student email addresses.

School Improvement Plan (Mental Health)

The aim is to create an equitable and inclusive learning environment. Currently, work is being done to determine the criteria for success. Work thus far has included the formation of joint committees and inclusive schools classroom support and community. The plan will address:

- How to appropriately address student behaviour
- Equity club
- Empowering student partnership
- Differentiating support for students
- Leadership opportunities
- Tapping into resources

If bias or hate related acts take place the authorities must be contacted, but consequences are determined by the superintendent.

Question: Is there parent representation on any of the groups involved in the school improvement plan?

Response: Currently no, as the plan is now being taken care of at the school level first.

Question: Will there be a draft this year of the school implementation plan?

Response: In May panels will speak to students (Youth Speak).

Pro Grant Update

Elizabeth LeClaire gave an update on the grant. There is \$1, 000 that can be used to for a project. The math department and in particular Robyn Toffolo (Math department head) and Professor Tina Rapke have joined forces to create a math initiative. Further details will be provided at a later date.

No other business**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

Next meeting March 20, 2017