



MINUTES to SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME: ROUNDTABLE OF INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed. There was a roundtable of introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - SEPTEMBER

Approved. They will be posted on the AHS website.

4. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Student Council President provided an update on the activities of the School Council. They have implemented some fun activities for the students during lunch time, i.e. Kahoot (with prizes). The Community Class is raising funds for the Sick Kids Telethon. Other events include: a Talent Show and an Ugly Sweater Contest. Student Council want to target grade 9s and get them more involved, meeting friends with a fun activity is scheduled for in January. SGI is donating money for prostate cancer research by having a photo booth for Movember. Music Monday “top 50 hits” is being held first Monday of each month. Aurora High is hosting the first Debate Club competition. Semi-Formal will take place on November 23rd.

5. SCIENCE PROGRAM AT AHS

By: Nikolas Tsigaridis, Head, Science Dept.

Mr. Tsigaridis reviewed the pathway for Science. Grade 9 – 4 units (Biology, Physics, Chem, Earth & Science). In Grade 9, there is Academic, Applied and LOCC. In grade 12, Applied = college, Academic = university. In grade 12 for the first time ever, they are offering an earth/science course with 100% enrollment. Science Continuum – because there are so many different science courses, they continue what they learned two years prior (up to grade 10). Also, in Science, every time they finish a section, they basically hit the re-set button with completely new material. They are always learning something different. Students are highly encouraged to use time efficiently in class and are also encouraged to review at home for reinforcement. Learning skills are super important. There is a correlation between learning skills and academic marks. Science teachers are pushing a “growth mind set” (believe in yourself) which means the importance of students wanting to learn. Science in class – student engagement is not a huge issue because they are always “doing” vs. theory. Generally, they are excited to learn. Inquiry based activity helps with engagement. Outside of class, students need to learn time management to avoid stress, but the Science teachers are trying to be flexible. Getting help – first line of defence is to approach the teacher for extra help. Senior students are paired with junior students as another “help” option. “Khan Academy” is an on-line tool with many great resources.



There was a memo that went out in 2012 & 2015 about returning marked material. This means that questions and marked material must go back to the student to be used as a future reference material. Grade 11 & 12 academic - 70% in class work (prior to the exam), 30% exam. Grade 9 and 10 academic – 80% class 20% exam; applied – 85% class 15% exam. Science work ethic is declining. In the Science department, they are trying to address this. “Academic Honesty and Timely Completion” was also discussed. There was a document to support this. Mental Health Concerns are also a priority and as a result, there is lots of flexibility to help the kids.

6. YRDSB PLANNING DEPARTMENT – AHS FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

FI stats: October 2017 – Grade 9 – 160, Grade 10 – 128, Grade 11 – 112, Grade 12 – 113 = 513. The program is expected to grow to over 800. FI is growing and AHS is out of space. As a result, there will be an additional Secondary School will be added to house a FI program.

The Planning Department reviewed the 2018 Capital Strategy map. We were shown the Proposed Secondary FI Boundary. Potentially there would be a FI program at King City Secondary School in September 2019. Current FI students that will likely experience an impact on this decision are: Grade 7s who will be in Grade 9, September 2019.

Projected Enrollment for AHS – over capacity 2017, 2018 with a small decline in 2019 (because only Grade 9s housing FI). In 2022, at AHS, there will only be FI students coming from Lester B. Pearson P.S. because the other FI elementary schools will feed into King City S.S. Projected enrollment for King City SS – below capacity until 2019 and then over capacity (but acceptable) through to 2022.

This PPT document shown by the Planning Committee will be uploaded to the board website later this week. Implementation of the new FI Secondary Program is due to take place September 2019.

7. EDSBY UPDATE

By: Liz Holtby and George Vounvakis

EDSBY – is a more inclusive Teacher/Student/Parent sharing website compared to current tools like Teach Assist. Additional features such as reporting absences, signing up for interviews, School Council communication, etc. EDSBY is being rolled out as a pilot project over a 4-year period. It will be rolled out to AHS in the next few months. More information will be available in the near future.

Workshops:

Fundraising Plan

This really wasn't pertinent for us since at AHS, we do not fundraise (high schools in general). BUT, in general, we learned about how to create a Fundraising Plan and that it needs to align with the School Improvement Plan created at the beginning of the school year. Money raised must be spent in the year it was raised. We reviewed also what the funds can be used for.



Importance of Inclusivity

Discussed the value of fostering parent engagement – make the school environment welcoming, respectful, valued and aim to eliminate barriers. Some examples to promote this are: Multicultural Festivities. This celebrates diversity. At this event, parents and students shared cultural information, food traditions about their country. School Council should represent the diversity of the school population.

School Council Governance

We reviewed:

School Council Handbook (on-line)

School Council Policy and Procedures

These resources outline info such as: Composition of the School Council, Election of a Parent Member, Term of Office, Election of Officers, Meetings, By-Laws, Consultation by the Board, Policy and Procedure Review.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

By: George Vounvakis - Principal Report

Mr. Vounvakis gave an update to School Council:

- Prep Rally – Senior Boys Volleyball and Senior Female Basketball
- Remembrance Day Service was terrific
- Take Your Kid to Work Day for the current Grade 9s has just happened. These students are being exposed to a “day out in various industries”. During this day, Grade 8 students come to AHS to learn about Grade 9.
- Grad photos are happening this week.
- PA day taking place next Friday, November 24th.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that came forward at the School Council meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 25th at 6:30pm.