

**Report on School Council meetings at Huron Heights Secondary School year Sep 2022 – Jun 2023**

**Tim Greenwood, School Council Co-Chair**

In the school year 2022 – 2023 we held five school council meetings – meeting in person in the library this year on Monday, September 19, 2022, Monday, November 21, 2022, Monday, January 23, 2023, Monday, March 20, 2023 and Monday, May 15, 2023

Tim Greenwood and Sandra Thomas were co-chairs and we had no other volunteers for positions so that Tim took the minutes for most of the meetings. All the meeting minutes are online except for our first meeting on September 19.

The meetings did not have a large number of parents in regular attendance. Believe there were about ten parents at the first meeting, twelve at the meeting in November and after that the numbers in attendance ranged from 4 up to 7 – with the average attendance being about 7 parents. Erik Gordon attended all the meetings, Corey McArthur was able to attend some, and Deborah Austring attended and then was assigned to another school. Angie Cowan as VP attended one meeting.

Kanadee Thomas as one of the Student Council Presidents attended a number of the School Council meetings and reported on the activities and planning of the Student Council.

There was no Staff attending outside of the Principal and Vice Principal and this will be a question for this coming year.

Some of the key issues that were discussed and some of them remain as issues to consider this school year:

De-Streaming was a subject because it is happening for some of the school subjects and will impact a number of students.

We discussed the fact that this January was the first time that many students had written exams since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Staff strove to offer support to students in preparation for these exams and there was a discussion of the impact of the weight given to summative projects. After the exams passed Kanadee Thomas of the Student Council and Erik Gordon reported that students on the whole seemed to have made it through their first exam period.

**Fund-raising and support from School Council for student events.**

The School Council did not raise funds this year but Sarah Carter spearheaded efforts among parents to raise funds for the Theatre program that had suffered cutbacks in funding – these efforts included Happy Hippo products as well as Little Cesar fundraising. Erik Gordon noted that fundraising for any projects is required to be submitted to School Generated Funds account and Sarah followed up on that.

We also discussed whether the School Council might help out the School Council with some fundraising around the semi-formal as there was a challenge there but they ended up raising sufficient funds,

getting a reasonably priced venue, etc. School Council members did their part sharing ideas for possible venues.

Erik noted that School Council could choose to raise funds for projects like the improvement of the library space, maybe benches for students in the White Hall and they could also decide to raise funds to bring in speakers or for events supporting students' well-being. In future there will be an Excel document keeping track of funds raised under specific headings.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Erik explained this will be something that the School and the School Council will be working on in the school year 2023 - 204

### **Principal Profile**

A principal profile was created for Huron Heights by reviewing other profiles and creating a profile that was suited to HHSS and this was accepted by the School Council (see attached).

### **School Cafeteria**

Compass Foods was accepted as the provider and operator of food services for the school cafeteria with a tentative start-up date in February/March but this service did not start up in the school year. The question is whether it will happen in school year 2023-2034

### **Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO) and funds made available each year by the province**

Ontario's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being. We receive approximately \$800 for this purpose. For the past couple of years we have pooled together funds with other schools (spearheaded and organized by Shameela Hoosen-Shakeel a parent and someone very engaged in educational issues.) During the pandemic years these presentations were largely online but this year they were all in person. They included: BridgeNorth on human trafficking, Glenn Marais an interactive drums/mindfulness workshop that took place at HHSS, Dreams for PEACE a diversity/equity/inclusion event, Chris Vollum presenting on social media/cyber safety, and finally NACCA presenting on action against racism

### **PEAC events**

**Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC).** The York Region District School Board values parent, family and community engagement in public education and the positive impact it has on student achievement and well-being. The PEAC committee is open to participation by parents with children attending school in the YRDSB. Every year PEAC offers workshops for the school community. In 2023 they had a Regional Symposium offered online called "Parent Voice Matters!" and they had a great keynote address by Dr. Jacqueline Getfield challenging school councils to strive to get school councils that are representative of the diversity of their school population.

### **Status of Yearbook for coming year**

There have not been any HHSS Yearbooks for a couple of years. One of the reasons being that creating a Yearbook is actually a class with a credit attached and there needs to be a teacher willing to teach this class. There was discussion in the School Council about whether students care as much about yearbooks as they are able to keep track of their school year through so many ways using social media. Question whether there will be a Yearbook this year.

### **School Council Forums sponsored by YRDSB:**

There are usually two School Council Forums each year – one in the fall and one in the winter - sponsored by YRDSB and open to members of School Council and possibly other interested parents at member schools. There was a School Council Forum in February 2023 that focused on developing and building school councils and included a presentation on YRDSB commitment and approach to promoting mental wellness for students and several members of the School Council and Corey McArthur attended.

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### **Principal Profile for Huron Heights Secondary School 2022/2023**

The Principal at Huron Heights Secondary School will demonstrate the following Leadership qualities:

- Honesty and integrity
- Ability to delegate, to recognize own limitations and encourage and promote talents within team
- Confidence
- Good communication skills
- Commitment to the position and to maintaining high standards
- Creativity and resourcefulness in dealing with challenges
- Approachable

### **In order to successfully achieve the six objectives listed below**

#### **1. SET DIRECTIONS:**

by collaborating with staff, students, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders to:

- Establish an overall sense of purpose or vision for HHSS
- Develop the school plan for continuous improvement and incorporate special consideration for the unique programs offered at HHSS, such as the Arts or the Technology programs
- Encourage staff to assume responsibility for achieving the school's vision and goals for all students including those who have traditionally struggled to be successful at school; and
- Develop and support a safe, creative, challenging and supportive environment that nurtures students and staff.

#### **2. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND DEVELOP PEOPLE:**

by being readily available to:

- Listen to the ideas of staff, students, parents/guardians and other stakeholders, and be open to those ideas and genuinely consider their value;
- Encourage respect, care and personal regard for one another by promoting a positive attitude

and respectful communications among staff, students, parents, and the community, as well as, recognizing the diversity of the school community and ensuring inclusivity for all;

- Work collaboratively with community partners including the Town of Newmarket, relevant Community Agencies, the York Regional Police and others;
- Work collaboratively with feeder schools and community partners to encourage a successful transition to high school;
- Develop/cultivate leadership by offering opportunities for growth;
- Cultivate a positive relationship with the Arts and Technology administrators from other schools in York

Region and with other educational experts;

- Adopt policies and expectations about discipline and behaviour that are clear, fair, and easy to understand; and
- Expect teachers to model good citizenship and positive behaviour.

### **3. DEVELOP THE ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT DESIRED PRACTICES**

by working to:

- Create a school environment in which parents/guardians are welcomed, respected and valued in their children's learning;
- Develop a timetable that supports student learning and at the same time fosters the continuation of the unique programs/practices at HHSS;
- Support, promote, and encourage the development of academic, social, and extra-curricular opportunities to support the unique programs at HHSS;
- Distribute resources in ways that are closely aligned with the school's improvement priorities;
- Create and maintain a school environment that is focused on student achievement and well-being;
- Ensure that the physical facility is maintained in a safe, healthy and attractive condition; and
- Ensure that issues such as bullying, vaping, drugs, racism are discouraged and dealt with appropriately and immediately.
- Ensure that student and staff safety and well-being is a top priority. The administrator should be up to date on appropriate safety procedures and protocols and ensure this information is shared and understood amongst staff and students. There should also be a focus on resources and interventions related to Mental Health and Wellness and staff should receive up to date education in this area.

### **4. ENSURE THE QUALITY OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

by endeavouring to:

- Recruit and select teachers who will further the school's vision and goals and support the programs unique to HHSS;
- Recruit and select teachers who will support the development of healthy student programs and the appropriate use of technology;
- Build and maintain a strong and outstanding Arts program and Technology program while fully supporting all other curriculum-based programs (eg. Specialist High Skills Major, Co-operative education, academic/applied courses);
- Support experiential learning such as field trips; and
- Conduct systematic reviews of all programs with input from staff, students, the school council, and parents.

### **5. MANAGE THE FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE SCHOOL**

by having the ability to:

- Understand the budget and the staffing process;
- Involve appropriate stakeholders in decision making (staff, school council, students, and the community); and
- Organize and administer the school budget process, in consultation with the staff, school council, students and the community where appropriate.

#### **6. SECURE ACCOUNTABILITY**

by examining feedback and trends in student data to:

- Assess their own contributions;
- Measure and monitor progress in student learning and school improvement as well as implement strategies/supports to improve and enhance student success;
- Identify a need for change and conduct a gap analysis;
- Take appropriate risks and deal with emerging issues proactively;
- Identify problems, key personnel and generate possible solutions; and
- Provide an accurate, timely, and transparent account of the school's performance to the staff, students, parents/guardians, community, Board and Ministry.