

## School Council Meeting Minutes – Sept. 18, 2017

- **Welcome/Introductions**
  - Administration introduced themselves
  - Mirella Sanwalka distributed blue folders
- **Review the Agenda**
  - Lisa Needham moved, Martina Maggiacomo seconded
- **Adopt Previous Minutes (April 2017)**
  - Minutes are available on the school website
  - Martina Maggiacomo approves, Angela Hudspeth seconds the motion
- **Student Council Report**
  - Co-chairs not present tonight; Mirella Sanwalka presented the dates below
  - Sept. 25 – PA Day; week of Sept. 25 – Safety Week
  - Oct. 11 – Honours Tea (all students with 80% average get award certificates); in the past, done each semester; moving to one per year in Sept./Oct., as all other schools do
  - Oct. 12 – Homecoming Dance connected to a football game; taking place at the school (maybe Cafeteria); less than \$20 (snacks, DJ)
  - Oct. 19 – Parents’ Night, taking place after Interim Reports distributed (contains levels (1,2,3,4)); make appointment to see teachers
  - Oct. 19 – Picture Retake Day
  - Oct. 23-27 – Spirit Week run by Student Council
  - Question about buying gym clothes on School Cash Online
- **Principal/VP Report – Slideshow Presentation**
  - Inclusion Activity – Summer Holidays; parents paired up, shared something about their summer holidays with each other, and introduced each other
  - What is School Council? We are bound by certain procedures; PEAC Committee at the Board level; building partnerships and engaging parents
  - Role of Education Improvement Commission
  - Responsibilities – support and promote engagement, participate in development of the School Improvement Plan, collaborate with Principal
  - Who makes up School Council? Parents, 1 student rep., 1-4 community reps., Principal, 1 teaching staff rep., 1 support staff rep.
  - Elections – parents may be elected or appointed, voting done by secret ballot
  - Meetings – at least 4/year (we have 6 meetings); decisions made only when there is a quorum (majority of parent members present)
  - Responsibilities of Chair/Co-Chair – call meetings, prepare agenda, communicate with Principal, ensure minutes recorded, review by-laws
  - Resources – parents independently reviewed p. 18-21 of School Council Handbook found in blue folder – “Responsibilities of Members”; other resources found on school website under “School Council” or on the YRDSB website; question about what “student achievement gap” means
  - **Elections** – 4 positions: Chair/Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising; 6 people put names forward, but only Martina Maggiacomo present; Janice Genier described role of Secretary that she has done in the past; Martina Maggiacomo would like to continue as Chair, Lisa Needham motioned and Veronica Petersen seconded; no one wanted to be Co-

- Chair; Janice Genier volunteered for Secretary position; Rob Schuetze volunteered for Fundraising; question about role of Treasurer – Mirella Sanwalka defined responsibilities, Angela Hudspeth volunteered for Treasurer
- **School Council Meeting Dates** – Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Feb. 20, Mar. 19, Apr. 16 – 7:00 p.m. in Library
  - School Council By-Laws – requirement to address key areas; parents reviewed p. 22 in Handbook (“Code of Ethics Bylaws”) with a partner, read sample bylaws, made suggestions/additions on the working copy, handed in working copy to Mirella Sanwalka as feedback at end of meeting; Mirella Sanwalka will review edits, ensure they fall within Board guidelines, type up and present at next meeting
  - Code of Ethics – p. 28 in Handbook; adopted by School Council last year; parents reviewed with partner, made edits if needed on the working copy; handed in at end of meeting if suggestions made on working copy
  - Rules of Order – parents to review on own time
  - **School Plan Overview – Focus on Metacognition, Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental Health**
    - o staff involved in professional learning to refine practice; inquiry groups (Google Classroom), guest speakers, self-directed learning, shared successes/challenges; Mirella Sanwalka shared some of the teacher group Google presentations; purposeful work that’s action-oriented, and impacts students
    - o Mirella Sanwalka shared “HHSS School Focus 2016-17” graphic – we will review with staff, discuss if it still meets student needs, and refine it; what is a Challenge of Practice (CoP) and what data do we use? what is metacognition? Mirella Sanwalka shared current school CoP
  - **Student Well-Being**
    - o Mirella Sanwalka defined the meaning of well-being in our schools and talked briefly about anxiety; parents discussed with a partner what well-being means to them; Ministry Strategy to ensure we create conditions where students feel safe and included in the school; Mirella Sanwalka asked parents to think about the conditions at school and home that promote well-being – will share at next meeting; Mirella Sanwalka reviewed 4 pillars to support student well-being, and asked parents to think about how we will measure if we are successful to share at next meeting
    - o Next Meeting – Mental Health
    - o Mirella Sanwalka asked if any suggestions, send to Martina Maggiacomo
    - o Mirella Sanwalka reviewed school-wide focus areas – topics organized by grade based on identified needs (gr. 9 – bullying, social media, understanding differences, self-esteem; gr. 10 – addictions, positive choices, healthy living; gr. 11 – mental health, healthy relationships, taking care of yourself; gr. 12 – post-secondary transitions, balancing commitments, budgeting); question about if “addictions” can be addressed in every grade – Mirella Sanwalka will bring that suggestion to the school committee
  - **Dress Code** – discussion on what “appropriate” looks like with various clothing items; Mirella Sanwalka will collect written suggestions

- **Emergency Preparedness** – Elissa D’Souza shared information regarding Safety Week, fire drills, lockdown drills, hold-and-secure drills; parents asked questions about procedures in various evacuation scenarios
- **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant** – Martina Maggiacomo and Janice Genier shared what they’re working on (parent and staff workshops - \$5000/school); “Bully-Free Alliance”; will work on getting in speakers this year; referenced “Newmarket Parent Network” website; first meeting is early Oct. – more information will come out in Parent e-Bulletin
- **New Business**
  - Martina Maggiacomo would like to ask Rob Schuetze to run the Poinsettias fundraiser this year; would like to get information out for Parents’ Night; Mirella Sanwalka talked about what kinds of things we can fundraise for; parent question about if we accept book donations
  - Mirella Sanwalka shared plans for new Library design – Maker Spaces, Green Screen Room for creating videos; we might be able to fundraise for some of the items in the Library – Mirella Sanwalka will research which items
  - Parent question about the asbestos in the school and the summer renovations; Mirella Sanwalka described which tiles were replaced on which floor, but no issue with airborne/loose asbestos
  - parent question about students being able to text a Guidance Counsellor to report issues (e.g., fights), or if opportunity to meet with other School Councils; Mirella Sanwalka explained about School Council Forum in the North
- **Adjourn**
  - Tim Greenwood moved to close, Carla Smith seconded