

MEETING MINUTES: Langstaff SS Parent Council Meeting

Monday, September 27, 2021

Attendees:

SCHOOL	COMMUNITY		
Sheri Epstein	Rebecca Finlason-Harper	Senni (Anuradha)	Linda Sooknanan
Jay Perri (A-L)	Kim Dresser	Huang Yun	Amit Lekhi
Heather Leatham (M-Z)	Mahshid Azimi	Bnepua Bawmakoba	Maya Lekhi
Fatma Fazal	Nazanin Mohammadi	Caireen Na	Lee Ann Carver

1. Introductory Comments provided by VP Heather Leatham, VP Jay Perri, and Principal Sheri Epstein

Grade 9s: Loot bag, Clapped in, Magnets

2. Election of Parent Council CHAIR

Re-election of Dr. Rebecca Finlason-Harper

3. Lee Ann Carver to act as secretary to take notes

4. Principal's Outlook on Parent Council & School Goals

Goals

Primary Goal at Langstaff is to build student enrolment after declining numbers. Parent Council is a forum for families to gain education and build community.

The Parent Council's Chair has a complimentary goal to increase parent engagement

Logistics

Ms. Epstein introduced her philosophy on running council meetings

- Guest speakers
- Example: University entrance, Special education
- Next Meeting in October = Applying to college and university – to be prepared for November
 - o Scholarships as an item of interest
- No meetings in Dec and March; otherwise meetings occur on 3rd Monday of each month

5. Parent Introductions - Parents provided an introduction, describing their children

6. QUESTIONS

- 1) Can we have a school dance?

NO. Currently, no ability to have gatherings.

Thurs Sept 30 is the next focus event: Wear orange for Truth & Reconciliation

Optimistic about the New Year, and second semester for more in-person events.

Following direction from York Region Public Health

2) Can there be a graduation or Prom?

Hopeful to have a graduation in person and a PROM for 2022 graduates.

Unfortunately, once students have graduated, there is a liability issue preventing any event that invites former students. It is possible to organize events privately.

3) Career Day suggestion to have parents come in and talk about their fields → good opportunity to build parent engagement. Senni (Anuradha) is happy to co-ordinate the career day.

+ Grade 9: Take Your Kids to Work Day is happening; but it might be virtual

Co-op in-person opportunities are available in some cases

4) Will there be a Club Fair?

Getting ready to start some in person sports: Soccer, Tennis, Golf, Track (largely outdoor)

Clubs must be virtual; will be collecting proposals shortly

GLOBAL BEARS and PEER MENTORSHIP have started.

The Grade 9 Rep position is open for election, with videos due Thursday. Strong Student Council is in place.

Clubs and Activities will build on Ms. Epstein's goal for students to have interests, hobbies, and part time jobs, social relationships with friends, musical interests and artistic appreciation to develop

INTERESTING AND WELL ROUNDED STUDENTS

Getting there involves School – Parent – Student: Needs to be a 3 way conversation

5) Comment by Jay Perri: KEEP AN EYE on our students

- Difficult times. Sitting in class for 2.5 hours.
- Stay balanced, and alert school if things are falling off the rails
- Students are not the same as they were pre-pandemic.

6) How to combat anxiety over University entrance?

Root cause of the issue dates back to YEAR 2000, when there was a Grade 12 & OAC graduate double cohort, which prompted concerns over competition for University acceptances.

Universities implemented open receipts to compensate.

There is a University place for all students who are choosing realistically according to wants & capabilities. By doing so, all students will be accepted to a post-secondary school.

7) Will we implement the ABC's of mental health?

Plan is in place for content delivery, and will help to alleviate university anxiety, in addition to emphasizing the benefits of a welcoming school staff. Parents also require the confidence to engage and address concerns related to their children.