

MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 22, 2021

Virtual: 7:00-8:30 pm

MINUTES

1. **Welcome:**

Present: K. Ganeseshilinghan (Principal), G. Clifford (VP), G. Ellinas (VP), A. Butler (Teacher), P. Triantafillakis, S. Ferguson, Y. Tu-Herman, P. Hill, D. Lee, A. Bhatt, J. Puttick, A. Lawson, M. Micieli, J. Schiralli, Q. Chen, M. Rehman, R. Dyal, S. Govani, K. Kumar, P. Hill, Y. Rameswa, J. Rea, Colsie, N. Lawson,

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Read by VP G. Ellinas

3. **Previous Minutes**

- Not received by Jeff; Peter to send
- Minutes approved by Peter and seconded by Dean

4. **Student Council Update**

- Maya Naidoo- SAC
 - M-Gear
 - Order just arrived
 - SBC Cards
 - School cash online- to promote activity fee
 - Spirit Initiatives
 - Tropical Tuesday, Jersey Wednesday, Friday Battle of Grades, etc. organized for students
 - Battle of Grades is big event in Gymnasium
 - Reviewing having spirit days in December
 - Friday Dec 17 cozy pajama day
 - Activity: Gingerbread making activity
 - Will limit numbers to follow Covid protocols
 - Holiday video: clubs will be asked to create a video clip which will be shown on Dec 17th
 - Want to decorate Blue zone for holidays; will use existing and replace some decorations
 - School wide email send for events to ensure those not on social media are aware

4. **School Staff Updates**

- Mr. Butler representing teachers
 - Encouraged parent participation at meetings as that's what drives changes that make the school a better place; let your voice be heard
 - Parent conferences held; if parents didn't have chance to meet with teacher can reach out to arrange meeting; Teachers receptive to meeting requests
 - Teacher email address is first name.last name@yrdsb.ca

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- Nov 23: Take kids to work took place; offered alternatives
 - Grade 8's were at school that day
- Student improvement plan reviewed on PA day on Nov 15
 - Two items: Mental health and well being
 - Looking for perspective from departments
- OSSLT
 - Test coming up on Thursday
 - Students had chance to practice in advance online
 - System worked well
- Grade 8 night Dec 8th
 - All the departments heads will be there
 - Guidance will prepare video for graduation
- Exam
 - No exams this year
 - 70% term work/ 30% final assignment
 - Parents encouraged to track these assignments with deadlines

5. Treasurer's Report

- Nothing has changed since last meeting
- Starting balance of \$706.69

6. School Council Updates

A) Mental Health Presentation

- Mental Health is a big focus
- Working with Sunnybrook for dates on a presentation
- Would like to share this presentation with other schools
- Intent to book prior to Christmas break
 - Would like to add impact Social media has on children, how we can learn about social media, and how we can help manage it
 - Maybe someone at YRP through outreach who has information on social media with respect to issues (Jasmin)
 - External consultant presentation on Danger of Social Media presented at Legal (Kiran); possibly can arrange meeting for students as well
 - Kiran to look into who presenter was at Legal
 - Mental Health- harassment, other social media health concerns exist (Muhammad)

B) YRT Youth Engagement Proposal

- Initiative started last year
- Goal is to target students prior to starting high school which in Grade 8 to promote use of public transit for travelling to and from school

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- Initiative positively received by YRT
- Working with YRDSB on initiative which can be used across York region
- Waiting for YRDSB to re-schedule next meeting with YRT

C) Safety Initiative

- Blitz Day to be planned
- Volunteers: Nancy Lawson, Patrick Hill
- Request for additional communications regarding drop off/pick-up
- Principal proactive at trying to educate parents based on traffic in PUDO
 - Parents encouraged to park in the rows of the parking lot

7. Administration Update

- Mental Health
 - Admin will circle back with School Council to review and discuss presentations
- Picture Day
 - Grade 9 and 11 students pictures taken today for yearbook and ID card
 - Tomorrow Grade 10 and 12 student pictures
 - No make-up dates
 - Grad photos to be taken in January
- Community involvement month
 - Noticing students completing volunteer work but not submitting forms for volunteer hours
- Peer mentors
 - During lunch and after school
 - Will create holiday cards
 - Looking to give cards to Markhaven or MSH
- Grade 8 Open House- Dec 2nd
 - Videos to be viewed by students and parents
 - Q&A sessions via Zoom
- OSSLT
 - Approximately 314 students that wrote test (Grade 11's)
 - Grade 10's will be writing in Spring
 - New system which is online
 - Students finished quicker than anticipated
 - Students cannot cheat; every screen is different; questions in different sequence
 - Administration of test easier now that it's online

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- Mid-Term Report Cards
 - Marks provided on Teach Assist
 - Nov 25-30th- Marks to be updated and reported on transcript
 - Students can write this test more than once; mark is not shared; just a checkmark shows on their transcript as a requirement for their OSSD
- YRDSB Ministry Announcements
 - Students coming to school expected to self-screen
 - Potential model change for Semester 2; board is working with public health; expect announcement soon regarding a full-period day
 - Could start prior to next semester
- Exams
 - Won't have traditional exams for Semester 1 but instead will have a summative
- School Activities
 - Lots of clubs and activities
 - Volleball, basketball, hockey, volleyball, many clubs
 - Students must be vaccinated to participate
- Inclement weather day
 - Track announcements on board website
 - Will be asynchronous day if declare inclement weather day

7. Q&A

- Is there something School Council can do to recognize the teachers and their efforts over the past 2 years given the challenging environment
- Is there something that can be done to appreciate the teachers
- There are over 100 staff + caretaking= 120-30
- Per Principal, need to be mindful about spending money for Teachers; in past notes from parents have been shared with staff
- School Council will review if there are any restrictions with using School Council funding
- Perhaps sign a banner

Next meeting is on [Monday January 17, 2022- Sub-Committee Meeting](#)