

MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 13, 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, Y. Tu-Herman, F. Cameron, D. Lee, H. Yu, C. Mitra, H. Bramer, J. Puttick, M. Miceli, A. Muhammed, K. Damerashetti, N. Christoffer, K. Suganthan, A. Li, S. Duppada, D. Barrett, C. Henry, A. Bhatt, G. Perri-Tsingis, S. Ferguson, R. Krumar

2. **Student Council Update**

- Amvi Patel- SAC Co-President attended
 - Grade 9 Day
 - Organized welcome for Grade 9's with greeting at entrance to school, including signage
 - Important day for students
 - Students went to class and had opportunity to watch SAC introductory video
 - Ambassador t-shirts were created for the day
 - Had school activities ready for day including:
 - Tours with staff representatives (library, cafetorium, gym, etc.)
 - M-Gear
 - Early start this year on MDHS M-Gear (school spirit apparel)
 - Students had opportunity to submit a design to be used for M-Gear; deadline is September 15
 - M-Gear will be available through School Cash Online
 - SAC Website
 - Working on making SAC website more secure
 - SAC will also use Instagram for social media purposes
 - School Clubs
 - SAC is helping with the development of clubs at the school
 - Putting together a club charter
 - Working on a club fair which includes virtual clubs
 - Election
 - Process underway
 - Election will be help for Grade 9's interested in joining SAC
 - SBC
 - Reviewing whether to make this available for students
 - Wanted parent feedback on value of SBC cards for students

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3. Overview of School Council

- School councils provide advice on school matters
- Help to strengthen the important relationship between schools, parents/guardians and their communities
- All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings
- Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council
- Getting involved gives you the opportunity to be part of a team working to ensure a high quality of education
- School councils are supported in their work through various resources available online or through the school administrator
- This is just one way families can get involved to support students and schools.

4. School Council Election for 2021/22 Executive positions

- Parents provided overview of how election process will work by Principal
- Parents provided overview of the Executive positions available:
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
- Parents allowed to self-appoint themselves for a position or nominate someone, then case vote if more than one position self-appointed/nominated for an executive position
- Shawn, Ravi, and Peter were self-appointed/nominated for Chair
- Following election for Chair, majority of votes went to Peter for Executive position of Chair
- Shawna elected Vice-Chair
- Treasured position went to Kiran
- Secretary position left vacant

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
- Anti-Black Racism Program
 - Working on program at school (second year)
 - Program aimed at discussing discrimination
 - Realizing that more clarity is required on how to address racism which exists

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SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

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- Parent Interest
 - Inquired about what parents may be interested in learning about
 - Suggestions:
 - Technology Session to review various tech platforms which are in place for students
- Safe School Assemblies
 - Yearly program which takes places
 - Will include review of racism, cyber bullying
- SHSM Program
 - The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized, Ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)
 - There are six paths for SHSM
 - Interested parents can contact Mr. Butler to review and discuss

5. Treasurer's Report

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

6. School Council Updates

A) Meeting Dates

- Admin agreed to have 6 Council meeting dates and 2 sub-committee meeting dates
- Meetings are always from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- All meetings will take place virtually for now
- School Council meeting dates for 2021/22 are:
 - Monday September 13, 2021 (Today) ✓
 - Monday October 18, 2021
 - Monday November 15, 2021
 - Monday January 17, 2022 (Sub-Committee Meeting)
 - Monday February 21, 2022
 - Monday March 21, 2022 (Sub-Committee Meeting)
 - Monday April 18, 2022
 - Monday May 16, 2022

B) Directions/Strategies

- It's up to parents to drive the agenda for School Council
- There are a number of initiatives underway which have carried over from the past, however School Council is always open to review anything new which ultimately makes the school a better place for the students
- The School Council Safety Initiative has been taking place for six years and is multi-faceted

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SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

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- Other topics from the past included:
 - Impact of technology and screens
 - Mental Health presentation
 - Technology presentation for Parents

F) Fundraising ideas

- Worked on fundraising ideas last year however were unable to execute any of the plans due to Covid restrictions in place
- Used the opportunity to better develop three different fundraising ideas that can be kicked off this year

7. Principal's Report

- Great Grade 9 day. No rain !
- Had an online drop-in session for parents/guardians prior to start of school on September 2; approximately 200 parents in attendance
- Reviewed changes with class formats for this year
- Lunch
 - Have several locations including outside
 - Realize outside won't always be available when weather gets colder
 - Cafeteria divided by grade section
 - Will also make Gymnasium available at lunch, and will have tables in the halls
 - Students required to leave classrooms between classes for cleaning purposes
 - Student population this year is approximately 1,340 students; there are approximately 100 students registered for online schooling
- New process for entering school
 - Friday was a bit slower given it was the first day back for all students; students thanked for their patience
 - Today students managed to check into the school in 20 minutes
 - Screening is working efficiently
 - Students being allowed to enter school at 7:50 a.m.
- Student Activities fees are being reviewed for the school year
 - Also reviewing what activities students can participate in this year
- Staff have been working on Mental Health support for students
 - Trying to ensure there is support for students

Next meeting is on [Monday October 18, 2021](#)