

# MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2020

Virtual: 7:00-8:30 pm

### MINUTES

#### 1. **Welcome:**

Present: C. Sampson (Principal), C. McArthur (VP), G. Clifford (VP), A. Butler (Teacher), P. Triantafillakis (School Council Chair), R. Malhotra (Vice-Chair), B. Indzevski (Treasurer), N. Christoffer, L. Hubbard-Muir, J. Zérczi, S. Ali, F. Cameron

#### 2. **Student Council Update**

- Ria Sidhu and Amvi Patel attended
  - Trivia Thursdays event going well
  - Looking to expanding to other games to avoid getting boring for students
  - Grade 9 interviews conducted last week; 3 SAC representatives were selected
  - Conducted a 2-day Halloween event for students; there was a lot of participation for the costume contest
  - Spirit events will be taking place next for students; battles of the grades will be the next event

#### 3. **Technology Presentation**

- Conducted by Andrew Butler
  - Google Drive
    - All Google applications are housed under Google drive
    - Google drive contains full suite of applications for students to use such as Excel, Word, etc.
    - Student email is also in Google drive which students need to check daily
    - All subject classrooms are in Google drive for students
    - Google Stream provides students the latest information available including posts from their respective teachers
    - Students can join their virtual classroom via the Meet link
    - Students are encouraged to keep their camera on during virtual class
    - Parents asked to encourage students to use the camera during virtual classes as it benefits teachers and enables a better engagement between the teacher and students
    - Documents are auto saved every few seconds so there is no concern with losing your work
    - Documents can be shared and saved; this also helps enable group work
    - Google Sheets is similar to MS Excel; Google Slides is similar to MS Powerpoint
    - Google Calendar is useful for setting up one on ones with students and teachers
  - EDSBY
    - Is a platform used in Elementary schools in the board
    - For secondary school it is only used for booking parent-teacher interviews at this time

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- Teach Assist
  - Will be used to send mid-terms reports to parents
  - Instructions will be coming out regarding how parents can access the reports
  - Will be able to use your email address which is on file with the school and no password to access the report

#### 4. School Staff Updates

- Mr. Butler representing teachers
  - Parent-Teacher interviews took place last month virtually
  - Teachers enjoyed the interviews and found it was easy to navigate from one meeting to another
  - Parents of course can arrange to meet with any teacher if they require outside of Parent-Teacher interview night
  - Reviewed Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as a follow-up from last School Council meeting
    - Found there has been a 400% increase in students with ASD in past 7 years
    - How ASD is described has also changed to 3 levels:
      1. Requires support
      2. Requires substantial support
      3. Requires even more support
    - A lot of students are very lonely staying at home so much; those with ASD find it even more lonely
  - Pathways options- making sure pathways are open for all students
  - Grade 8 night will be taking place virtually this year on December 3; will include presentation followed by break-out rooms for different classes
  - Underperforming and underserviced students
    - Teachers finding it more of a challenge to connect with students when virtual teaching
    - Balancing curriculum with student mental health and well being is a balancing act
    - Students are encouraged to turn on their cameras for virtual teaching to assist teachers to better connect with them
  - Mid-Terms report cards will be distributed on November 19
  - Graduation for the 2019/20 class will take place on November 25 online

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

- Nothing has changed and still sitting at the same balance of \$1206.69
- Will have more discussions about what we can do to grow the number through fundraising virtually
- Fundraising ideas welcomed

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### 6. School Council Updates

#### A) Meeting Dates

- Next School Council meeting will be a Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday January 19, 2021 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Meeting will be conducted virtually through Zoom; details to follow

#### B) Parent Engagement Events

- Per discussion at last School Council meeting, a Mental Health event will be organized through Sunnybrook Family Navigation Project (FNP) as this was requested as an event by parents
  - Per request of parents focus of presentation will be to provide parents with parenting strategies for how to deal with students being home for school, and to also answer questions parents may have regarding their son/daughter's mental health now that they are home more for both school and in general
  - Parents asked if this covered scope of what they wanted from the event and they confirmed this met what their expectations are

#### C) School Council Award

- School Council is proposing to develop a School Council Award to be awarded to a graduating MDHS student who is recognized for certain characteristics and qualities
- Requires someone making a motion to move this forward as an idea as it would require to be funded from School Council funds
  - Motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Robert
- Principal advised that funding for this award cannot come from monies provided to School Council by the board however can from other sources such as fundraising

#### D) Principal Profile

- Each year the board asks each school to develop and submit a Principal Profile for their school's Principal which reflects the characteristics and qualities they believe is required in a Principal of the school
- Although we were not formally asked for a Principal Profile yet this year, would like to complete and submit one as we have done in the past
- Propose to use last year's Principal Profile as a starting point as there was a lot of work and effort put into this and amend it accordingly
- Anyone interested in participating please email Peter
- Robert and Bill advised they would like to participate in the creation of the 2020/21 Principal Profile

#### E) School Council Safety Initiative

- Nancy - picks up her daughter every other day - noticed students take off their masks as soon as they leave the building but congregate in front without physical distancing
- Recommended students be reminded about keeping their masks on

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- Give students gentle reminder to keep their masks on

### **F) York Region Transit**

- In the process of creating a YRT Youth Engagement proposal that would benefit and apply not only to MDHS students but also others in the region serviced by YRT
- Average fare is expensive for students at \$3 per trip - monthly pass is \$118 - no benefit unless you're taking public transit for other purposes
- Also proposing to work with incoming grade 8 students to promote the benefits of taking public transit and exploring whether YRT can provide them with a free one-month pass when school first starts in September as a means of promoting public transit
- Right now there are very few students taking transit

### **G) PUDO**

- Looking at the creation of a Safety video aimed at educating parents on using the pick-up and drop off loop in the school parking lot as it's the safest means of transporting students to school
  - Can we engage with drama teacher to see if we can get this project going?
- Safety observation days will continue throughout the year to observe and monitor traffic coming to and from the school and in the immediate neighbouring roads
- Safety Blitz Campaign
  - Question on how to conduct a safety blitz with physical distancing requirements
  - Brainstorming taking place to develop hands-off approach through use of signage that could be placed in and around the school

**Next meeting: Sub-Committee meeting is on [Tuesday January 19, 2021](#) as a virtual meeting via Zoom; Zoom detail pending and to be emailed to all parents**