

# MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 19, 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 (5 names unaccounted for)

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

- Ria Sidhu and Lily Young attended
  - Lily – Trivia Thursday update – for grade 9 and 10 and take place every 2 weeks; teachers approve questions, questions are general trivia. Amazon Gift card ranging from \$10-\$20. 60 people at grade 9 and 50 people at grade 10.
  - Talk about meeting re: purple shirt day and opportunities that SPC cards provide
  - Grade 9 Elections and applications sent out
  - Grade 10-12 elected by student body so it stays appropriate and equitable
  - Halloween – Virtual Costume contest and students can tag SAC Instagram and repost on story- see peers costume and share their own, play Halloween music during announcements
  - Idea of having another style of contest; give students the opportunity to get into the school spirit
  - SAC posted a post on Instagram – day to acknowledge hardships and learn the proper pronunciation
  - All clubs officially allowed to run and at this point an information meeting and a Google form has been sent to teachers
  - Kahoot championship to allow people to come play and keep students up to date and reposted on the SAC Instagram
  - Feedback from Nancy (parent) – daughter in grade 9 loved the trivia contest; it was well run and lots of fun
  - Student Council hopes that all grade 9s are feeling connected
  - Question from Robert (parent)– what Social media tools are being used to reach out to all students?
    - Big following on MDHS SAC Instagram page and also in the grade rep presentation sent to all students to learn more and get connected with the student media. Other than announcements and emails that is about it. Will try to use Twitter; looking at the numbers they are pretty levelled although not sure if they are reaching everyone; looking at the number of students participating- 50 students for grade 10
  - Question from Robert (parent)- What is SAC trying to do to improve participation?
    - Trying to broaden reach to students- not just trivia but things that will engage everyone
  - Robert advised may have some ideas and maybe something that can be raised at another meeting

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- Increasing membership is something that we can think about going forward
- Maybe a way to increase reach and have students participate-asked members to send information and will funnel it through to SAC

### 3. 2020/21 School Council Team Members

- 2020/21 School Council team named from the information received for the nominations submitted to the Principal during the first school council meeting in September.
- Council members:
  - Chair Peter Triantafillakis
  - Vice-Chair Robert Malhotra
  - Treasurer Bill Indzevski
  - Secretary < Vacant >
  - Voting Members:
    - Kami Gill
    - Nancy Christoffer
- Everyone was officially welcomed to the team
- Opening in Secretary position for anyone interested. Secretary can serve as an active voice and to help in some administrative function such as minute taking, distributing minutes and posting on MDHS website. Time commitment is not too much for this position- 1/2 hour to transcribe and send them out.
- Please email Peter or the Principal if you can take on this position

### 4. School Staff Updates

- Mr. Butler representing teachers
  - Part of what we do, provide update about what is happening at school
  - Biggest piece of information is that Interim marks will be going out
  - Explained the grades and good indication that parents might have and can contact their child's teacher. Teacher's [firstname.lastname@yrdsb.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@yrdsb.ca) for contact.
  - Mid-term marks-real percentages that go with it. Marks are due around November 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parent/teacher interview coming up at the end of October; to be booked on Edsby and held on Zoom, a more private platform. To be 1 on 1 meeting with parents-information will be coming out shortly.
  - Virtual link to be sent to parents for parent/teacher interview
  - Heads Meeting – looking Boards MYSP-Create inclusive and welcoming environment-Anti-Racist and oppression lenses that can reduce barriers and create equitable environment for all
  - Indigenous Learning – affiliation with school-Land Acknowledgement-trip to Georgina Island-personal connection and how we can engage First Nations young people into the trades
  - Will be happy to speak with other Departments about what they will be working on

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- SHSM – training components-for Grades 11 and 12s-there are a lot of unknowns regarding virtual training and created Google Classrooms and connect with Mr. Weinstein and connect directly with the SHSM liaison. Something that has been on their minds and mandatory for the program.
- Potential barriers – parent raised question of Identity Affirming Approach-reviewing policies and programs and spending a lot of time on trauma-students do not see themselves within the curriculum-what considerations are taken into consideration when affirming the identities of the students-focus a lot on barriers and very much about supporting kids and pathways and where they are headed in life. Typically a big intake on where kids have to have resumes.
- Taking a look at barriers and how we can approach them with different lenses-specifically taking closer look at the Identity Affirming Approach
- Mr. Butler to further review and research Identify Affirming Approach prior to next meeting

### 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

### 6. School Council Updates

#### A) Meeting Dates

- Reviewed school council meeting and sub-committee dates for 2020/2; Admin agreed to have 6 Council meeting dates and 2 subcommittee meeting dates.
- Meetings are always from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- All meetings will take place virtually unless otherwise advised via Go-To-Meeting

#### B) Directions/Strategies

- Reference that information from the previous School Council handbook; handbook available on line
- Sec 3-Policy and Procedures
- Safety initiative and dealing with Mental Health and includes quite an array of topics
- Discussion around substance abuse and technology
- Fundraising and money helps in supporting some of the students and ensure that they are included

#### C) Anything Else That Needs to Be Reviewed and Discussed?

- Opened up to Council members
- Virtue of nothing coming forward Council seems on the right direction in terms of strategy and what we are doing in the 2020/21 school year

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### D) Presentation/Forum Ideas

- In the past topics were: impact of technology and screens, cannabis presentation was being planned however Covid preventing this from coming to fruition, informational movie conducted in cafeteria on the topic of the impact screen time has on the development of kids previously organized
- Mental Health-presentation from this perspective-more in the area of mental health that would help parents
- Perhaps find someone that can help provide insight and deal with the current environment and being at school less-the impact of the mental health aspect of your whole world turning upside down. Perhaps someone at the Board can help provide this information.
- Robert – some form of mental health presentation-opportunity to share their Mental Health perspectives. Helps to know that everyone is in the same boat and at the same time looking at numbers steadily increasing.
- In years past had a tech presentation to familiarize with some of the tools-Edsby, Teachassist-if you want to know how your son or daughter is doing
  - Parents asked if interested in a tech presentations
  - Mr. Butler – Google Apps-moving towards Moodle and Google Classroom and then maybe gauge interests and get info
- Right now EDSBY is being used in Secondary only for teacher bookings and the complexity and the coding made it not as functional as originally planned. Until we hear otherwise use EDSBY to book Parent/Teacher interviews.
- Nancy – session on Google Apps would be good
- Andrew Butler – will put something together; Peter to follow-up with Mr. Butler

### E) Parking Lot Update/Safety Initiatives

- Couple of changes in the main parking lot-Bus loop exits
- About 54% of the buses are exiting
- Data based on 41% of students on any given date-traffic and the longest left turning line on Church St was 8
- In addition we have 4 YRT buses coming and an average of 14 students taking the bus on a given day
- Anticipating similar volume until Sept 2020/21 when presumed may be the next time school attendance is at capacity
- Can email the data to anyone who wants the data
- Can email Peter for the information
- Robert and Peter to meet with Councillor Karen Rea regarding concerns with U-turns on Captain Rolph where parents are picking up and dropping off behind the school
- Driver behaviour-always dealt with education in written form and videos on how to drop students off correctly to school- 2 Stop signs in the parking lot and can go straight or left and the option to turn right and what we are seeing are vehicles just going through or not really stopping.
- It is not a huge issue and the challenge is how do we communicate that more effectively?
- Maybe it is time to think about how we communicate that

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- Doing safety blitzes and organized to have 4 a year and purpose was to raise awareness on how to safely bring your son or daughter to school and promote a safe and healthy active lifestyle

### **F) Fundraising ideas**

- At a point where we need to figure out fundraising activities
- Does anyone have any ideas on what they can do to raise money as a School Council?
- Raise money to support activities as a School Council
- Banners-put them in the front of someone's lawn. Encourage students to walk to school or do something different than being dropped off.
- Like to see what we can do to give back

**Next meeting is on [Monday November 16, 2020](#) as a virtual meeting**