

Minutes of Markville School Council Meeting
Monday, Nov 16th, 2015
7:15 - 8:45 pm
Markville Library

Meeting Participants

School Representatives

Patricia Obadia - Principal
Diana Smith - Vice Principal

Michael DiLuccio - History
Marty Segal - Math (Head)

Parents

Mahesh Hiremath - Co-chair
Vinaya Mahesh - Co-chair
Michael Closson - Secretary
Steve Liu
Brenda Lau
June Rose Aguas
Jennifer He
Annie Cai
Chenyang Li
Julian Ho
Chen Lin
Shalevia Briscoe
Rui Wu
Thupten Rabgay
Hui Da

Imelda Aquino
John Liu
Balendran Subramaniam
Terrence Wang
Marina L
Ivan Xu
Alex Wei
Lucy Yuan
Latha Amir
Dave Dhingra
Dane Mohammed
Maria Poon
Shek Wan Chow
Sharen Way

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Patricia Obadia.

Welcome and Introductions - Patricia

Patricia introduced the Admin team (Patricia, Diana), the teachers (Michael DiLuccio, Marty Segal) and the school council executive (Mahesh, Vinaya and Michael).

Review of September 21 meeting minutes - Michael

The previous meeting minutes were accepted.

Approval of Agenda - Vinaya and Mahesh

The meeting agenda was accepted.

Group Norms - All

Patricia discussed the group norms for school council meetings. The school council meeting is meant to be a safe place where parents and school staff can openly discuss the improvement of student learning. Individual students are not discussed.

Technological Platforms at MSS - Michael DiLuccio

Mr. DiLuccio presented the three tech platforms used by the school: Teach Assist (TA), Moodle and Google Apps (GAPPS). The school website was also presented.

Refer to Mr. DiLuccio's slide deck for additional details. (TODO)

Teach Assist

- The username and password are the same for all websites.
- Parents can get the username and password from their student.
- The school keeps an email address of the parents on file. Teachers may also collect email addresses on a per-class basis to facilitate communication with parents.
- Each Friday, the Markville E-Bulletin is sent to the email address kept by the school.
- At the beginning of the year a verification sheet is sent out to parents. Use this sheet to verify that the school has the correct email address.
- Not all grades are visible in Teach Assist (TA). Grade availability is up to the teacher.
- Some teachers will block out marks while entering them. The block is usually last for less than 4 days.
- If a parent has a concern about a specific class, discuss it with the teacher on teacher night.
- Marks stay in TA for for the whole year. Marks from previous years are not available.

Moodle

- The Moodle website is used to distribute course materials and assignments from the teacher to the student.
- The course outline can be found in the course Moodle.
- Course work can also be submitted through the course Moodle.

Google Apps

- Google Apps is a collaborative web-based office suite. Including document editing, spreadsheets and presentations.
- Students can work together on GAPPS documents, at school or at home.
- Teachers can know when students access these documents.
- Work can be submitted through GAPPS. No more lost assignments.
- Parents can check on their students in-progress assignments.
- The most common glitch with the website is the website not allowing the user to authenticate. This is the so-called "grey screen, grey text" error. To fix it, remove the grey text and hit enter.

- For large assignments, teachers will create the documents and assign it to students. Teacher created documents cannot be deleted by the student. This helps prevent accidental deletion of student assignments.

School Website

- The school website contains a variety of information about the school, including the school calendar, staff contact information, parent forum and symposium opportunities, links to the Teach Assist, Moodle and GAPPS web applications. Much more information is also available.

MAC/SAC - Patricia

Patricia explained that there is no student council (SAC) this year.

EQAO Math - Marty Segal

- The head of the math department, Mr. Marty Segal, presented information about the grade 9 EQAO province-wide mathematics evaluation.
- Mr. Segal's phone extension, x337. Email address is on the school website.
- The students EQAO test score contributes to 5% of the student's final math grade.
- Exam results are reported as a level rather than a mark. There are 4 levels. Level 1 is the lowest score, level 4 is the highest. Achieving a level 3 on the test means that the student meets the provincial standard for math. Level 4 means that the student exceeds the provincial standard. Level 3 corresponds to about 70%.
- The EQAO math assessment runs twice a year, once per semester. This semester, students will write the test on Jan 19th and 20th.
- Example exam questions and answers are available [on the EQAO website](#).
- The exam consists of 1 booklet of multiple choice questions, and a second booklet of long answer questions. Each booklet is expected to take 1 hour to complete.
- Students are allowed to use a formula sheet during the exam.
- Mr. Segal pointed out that in 2011-2012 99% of the students met or exceeded the provincial math standard. This achievement contributed to a Fraser Report ranking of 4th place for the school.

Exam Preparation

- Students can prepare for the exam by practicing what they learn in class.
- The school organizes 2 weeks of EQAO preparation before the exam.
- Students are given strategies for answering questions. e.g., Always write something down even if you don't know the answer.
- Teachers will identify difficult problems from previous exams and discuss the solution in class.
- After school numeracy programs are organized by the department. Each session lasts 1.5 hours and run for 10 weeks. The program is only available to grade 9 students.

The school's performance on the 2014-2015 EQAO test was presented and discussed. The result can be seen online [here](#).

The report shows that 93% of the students in the academic stream meet or exceed the provincial standard. Patricia pointed out that the score of 93% doesn't mean that 7% of the students did not pass their math class. More than 93% of the students passed their math class since the EQAO standard is higher than the standard for successful completion of grade 9 math.

The Parents Role

- Parents can encourage their student to come in for extra help.
- Check each night that homework is done. Students get about 30-45 minutes of homework each day.
- Teachers often give time to work on homework during class. If a student completes homework during class hours, they can do the same home over again in the evening to get extra practice.
- Parents can also ask the teacher to provide extra study material.
- Assigned homework is available on the course Moodle.
- The Grade 9 math course content was presented in the meeting. This content is also available on the Moodle.
- Students have math textbooks. Textbooks are a good resource for extra practice.
- Khan Academy is a good online resource.
- Check the resources section of the math department website for additional material.

In some subjects, the Moodle content is shared by different classes, so its possible that the Moodle contains material that students don't need to do.

2014-2015 School Council Report - Patricia

Patricia presented the 2014-2015 School Council report. Markville S.S. excelled in many of the categories.

Principal's Report - Patricia

- Dec 10 - Junior Award Ceremony. In addition to the Dec 10 award ceremony, awards are distributed at the end of year graduation ceremony.
- One of the Board's focuses this year is on Mental Health.
- Diamond Days. To support the variety of religious backgrounds the board will set aside some Diamond Days this school year. Diamond Days coincide with major religious holidays. To help students have more time to celebrate the holiday, tests and major assignments are not due on Diamond Days.
- Patricia presented some of the fundraising activities that the school participates in. For example, Inside Ride (Child Cancer) and the Terry Fox run.

- The school runs a nutrition program. Three times a week nutritious snacks are available to students.
- The school practices a lockdown drill during the school year. Volunteers from the local YRP station work with the staff on this event.
- The school practices fire drills during the school year. Volunteers from the local fire department work with the staff on this event. There are 3 fire drills in a semester.
- The school participates in a teacher candidate program. 21 university students in an education program work with Markville S.S. staff to enhance the student learning experience.
- Report Cards. first interim report card was available on Oct 5th. The first formal report card is available on Nov 17th. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Nov 25th from 6:30 to 8:30. On that same night (Nov 25th) from 5:30 to 6:30 there will be a presentation on the entrance process for University, College and Apprenticeship programs.
- Literacy test. To help identify students who can benefit from extra help all grade 9 students wrote a diagnostic test at the end of last school year. Grade 10 students who are new to the school this year wrote a diagnostic test on Oct 10th.
- The school organized a Europe Trip for 90 students. The trip was held already this school year.
- There was a music show at the Markham Theatre on Oct 29th to raise money for the Markham Stouffville Hospital.
- The school participates in a variety of math contests throughout the year. One will be held next week.
- The school participated in Diwali this year. Many students and staff dressed up for the celebration.
- The school held a remembrance day celebration this year. The school trustee Billy Pang was in attendance.
- This week is bully prevention week. (Nov 15-21)

Upcoming Events - Check the School calendar for more details.

- Nov 23-24 Grad Photos. Students needs to make an appointment on the 16th or 17th.
- Nov 27th. P.A. Day
- Dec 7. Concert.
- Dec 16th. Diner for ESL.
- Jan 22-28 Exams. Students will get a schedule. Not all classes have a written exam.
- The tutoring club provides free tutoring after school (only some days). Talk to Marty, Patricia or Diana for details.

Next Meeting: Monday Feb. 22 @ 7:15 - 8:45 in the School Library

Links

School Website: <http://www.markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>

School Councils Home Page @ YRDSB:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/SchoolCouncils/Pages/default.aspx>

Markville Secondary School Board Trustee: Billy Pang <billy.pang@yrdsb.ca>