

## Markville Secondary School Council Meeting Monday, November 18, 2019

### **Attendees:**

Staff: Patricia Obadia (Principal); Michael Vlachopoulos (Vice-Principal); Jesse Bramer (Staff Rep)

Council Exec: Naline Ali & Amanda Godfroy (Co-Chairs); Heather Patterson (Secretary), and Anim Mohammed (Treasurer)

Susan & Shawn P, Carolyn O, Tom L, Teresa L, Ravi S, Flanna W, Abhinav G, Mike W, Jackie H, Charline R, Juli H, Yamini V, Ellen V

**Approval of Minutes:** approved by school council co-chair, Naline Ali, posted on school website

### **Student Activity Reports: (SAC/MAC/TAC (SMACT))**

**Student activity Council:** Teacher Advisors: Ms. Ye, Ms. Carter, Ms. Delairi

Spirit Days/Activities (1 per month) – Spirit Days, School Buy-ins, Semi-Formal, etc., Carnival  
**MAC (Marville Athletic Council):** Tuesdays 3:10-4:15pm, 25 members gr 9-12, promote MSS athletics. Example of activities organized by MAC include Terry Fox Walk, Dodgeball Buy-in (kids pay \$2 to skip class and participate in Dodgeball tournament) – Dec 6; Relay for Life.

Teacher Advisors: Ms. Chong, Mr. Wiskin

**TAC:** Transitions Activity Council. 50 mentors, meet Tuesdays after school, as needed. Teacher Supervisors: Ms Li & Mr. Mckillop. Organize Gr 9 orientation, Camp Green Acres for gr 9's, Gr 8 day. Next event: Gr. 8 parents' night, Study Skills workshops for MSS students (test taking, time management, study habits, etc.)

**HOSA:** Career Night – give students exposure to different careers (honest information), and different pathways to take (Dec 4 from 6:30-8:00pm). Looking for parent volunteers to come in and talk about their career and how you got there. Open their eyes to different options. Parents can contact school office if they, or someone they know, is willing to participate in Career Night (looking for all fields, different streams/levels of education & training). Teacher advisor: Mrs. Saini

### **Vaping Education:** Mike Vlachopoulos

Identified that most of the parents that MSS has had to call about vaping did not know that their children were vaping

- Tasked with enforcing “No Vaping” in schools
- Oct/19: gov't added vaping to the list of substances requiring age of majority (19)
- Passed around samples of different vapes that had been confiscated from students in the past few weeks
- Watched Substance Misuse Webinar: Vaping → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXzLt8roFWs&t=10s>
- Key Points from above:
  - E-cigarettes & vapes: same thing. Electronic cigarette, filled with juice

- Many youth didn't know if their vape included nicotine
- Majority of e-juice cartridges contain nicotine... 1 Juul pod contains the equivalent of smoking 1 pack of cigarettes
- Students are 3 x more likely to try e-cigarette than smoking
- Can affect: personality, risk of heart attack, worsen asthma, headaches, nausea, etc.
- Alters teen brain development, changes the way synapses are formed, reduces impulse control, can cause mood swings
- Clues that your youth is vaping: smell (e.g. Mango, bubble gum, or mint), finding pods, unexplained nose bleeds, excessive thirst, charges to your credit card
- Teens can get addicted more easily than adults... can lead to smoking addiction & increased smoking rates. Can prime adolescent brain for addiction to other drugs
- Tips for parents: get the facts, avoid criticism, listen with open mind, try to understand why, talk openly about nicotine, setting firm expectations is ok, set a good example (keep home, car, etc. smoke & vape free)
- York Region Public Health provides add'l resources, talk to MSS for add'l resources within the school
- MSS Faculty is monitoring the washrooms every single day during every period at different times as this has been an issue within the school. No evidence found on this particular day while faculty was checking
- Easy to hide – some look like USB keys (they are charged in USB port of a computer), some look like insulin pens
- Pediatrician at the meeting suggested that everyone go to their MP's & MPP's to demand more stringent controls and laws around the sale and distribution of vaping product
- MSS Policy when students are caught vaping @ school: 1<sup>st</sup> time = parents are notified; 2<sup>nd</sup> time = warning letter goes home; 3<sup>rd</sup> time = Witness report shared with e-cigarette council, tickets issued if older, summons to appear in court if younger (2 so far).
- Easy to purchase in vape stores, illegally purchased around the school or other schools, some parents have purchased on behalf of children

**Principal's Profile:** Patricia Obadia

***Priorities:***

- Encourage the development and implementation of instructional programs that meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of young adults, and conduct regular reviews with school community's input
- Develop, articulate and implement a safe, welcoming and orderly learning and work environment

***Attributes:***

- Be committed and involved in all aspects of school life
- Be enthusiastic, caring and respectful of young people

- Council Groups added ideas that they thought should be added/changed/removed from last year's profile outlined above – Patricia to review with the staff and update

**Principal's Report:** Patricia Obadia

- 23 teacher candidates from York U & Western
- Report Cards: distributed morning of Nov 18
- OSSLT (Literacy Test)
  - Diagnostic – in December based on 3 tasks
  - 3 literacy tasks during Sept, Oct, & Nov grade 10 classes
  - Presentation to be made at future meeting
  - After school literacy program started last Weds to Mid-December (weds & Thursdays after school for 1.5 hours)
- Europe Trip: During Fall break – over 93 students, 9 teachers & 1 admin. Genocide focus, Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Krakow, Auschwitz, Budapest
- Junior Awards Ceremony: recognized last year's Grade 9-11; all honour roll students rec'd a certificate
- Remembrance Day Assembly: Organized by the History, Music and Drama Dept, all students had the opportunity to commemorate the sacrifices made by veterans throughout the wars
- TOKTW: Nov 6 – gr 9's spent the day working with parents/family members
- On Nov 6 Grade 8's from feeder schools experienced a day as a secondary school student. They participated in classes to get a better understanding of the different types of courses available. Students learned about extra-curricular activities offered at MSS. Their teachers were involved in professional development on what transition looks like in various curricular areas
- Math Contest: Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge – all grades to select potential candidates for CMO Canadian Mathematics Olympiad (U of T and other universities). 164 students participated.
- Upcoming Events: Nov 20 – Waterloo Cdn Intermediate and Senior Math Contest,
  - Nov 18-29: Grad photos
  - Nov 25-29: Gr 9 Study Skills class presentations
  - Nov 27: Gr 8 open house
  - Nov 30: DECA, regionals
  - Dec 2-5: Study skills lunch workshops
  - Dec 2: Co-Op Fair
  - Dec 4: HOSA Career Night
  - Dec 9 – Festive Sounds Concert
  - Jan 10 & 11: Music Theatre Prod (Mary Poppins)
  - Jan 16-17: EQAO Gr 9 math
  - Jan 23-29: Final Exams

**Staff Report:** Jesse Bramer

- **FlashPrint:** student run creative design/print store venture

- Running a card shop of Premium Holiday Cards (Holiday, Thank You, Chinese New Year, Thank you). Available for sale starting Gr8 night until Dec 12 (sold in the atrium)
- If you need to produce flyers, notifications, etc – approach MSS to see if FlashPrint could serve your needs. All profits are invested back into the program
- Run by Alternative Education Dept – offers credits @ college level (eg. Entrepreneurship, Marketing, etc). Funds are managed by Budget Secretary and overseen by MSS Principal
- Services are available to students (like a student-run Staples.... Offer colour copies, spiral bound reports, etc)
- Note: MSS partners with other schools in the board for other apprenticeship opportunities
- **How does Average Class Size Funding Work?**

**How does 'average class size' funding work?**

The limit on the number of students that can be placed in a class is determined using a combination of **average class size funding** and **class caps**.

**Average Class Size Funding:** for every 22 students in a school board the government was funding 1 classroom teacher.

That doesn't mean every class had 22 students, it means a whole school board will had an average of 22 students per class.

Does that mean that no high school class exceeded 22 students? **No!**

Some students with more complex learning needs require classes that range from 10-15 students.

The necessary classes below the average require other classes to have more students.

**Class Caps:** local school board class caps negotiated between the union and the board are what guarantee caps on class sizes.

**YRDSB Secondary Class Caps**

Academic	29
Applied	22
College	28
Locally Developed	16
Open	28
University	30
University/College	30
Workplace	20

These class caps were negotiated when the average class size funding was at 22:1.

**The government is proposing changing the average class size funding to 25:1 and removing caps.**

Changing the average class size funding to 25:1 and removing caps will result in **larger classes and fewer course options.**

Explore

### Other Topics:

- Asked about dances: historically, when they ran dances within the school, attendance was very low so now limited to semi-formal (winter) and Prom (Spring)
- CAMH developed survey about vaping and other health related topics (drugs/suicide) – students will have the option to answer the question or not. 1<sup>st</sup> time Markville will be participating. Helps school to understand the culture of the school
- Parents asked what happens to grade 12's university applications will work if strike is prolonged -> response is that the province will provide direction if that happens (there is no precedent to share)
- Next meeting: January 20, 2020 -> if you have topics you want discussed email Patricia or school chair