

Oct 16, 2023

# School Council Meeting

16 Oct 2023 / 7:00 PM / Library

## Attendees

- Parents: Flora Bao, Baiju Thomas, Nada Kesavan, Richard Kuo, Zarqa Chishti, Jenny Fung, Helen Gao, Peter Wang, Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Catherine Chen (Treasurer), Arslan Ghani (Secretary)
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer (Principal), Vanessa Wonnacott (Vice-Principal)
- Student Representatives: Emily D. and Madelyn
- Regrets: Sanjeevan Sivanesan (Vice-Principal). Hirosh Abeywardane

## Agenda

- Call to order – 7:10 PM
- Welcome – Mr. Hilmer
- Land Acknowledgement - Sunita
- Attendance - Arslan
- Approval of the Minutes for Last Meeting – Arslan moved; Baiju seconded.

### Student Report

- Upcoming events include bake sale (October 25). Parent-Teacher interviews are scheduled the same day. The funds will go towards the semi-formal.
- Spirit Week is scheduled for the week of October 30. Monday: Dynamic Duo, Tuesday: Halloween, Wednesday: Barbenheimer, Thursday: Jersey Day, Friday: Cultural Clothing Day.
- Semi-formal is scheduled for November 9 at Crystal Fountain. Theme is Cloud Nine.

### School Council Policy 262

- Mr. Hilmer shared a video from PEAC regarding the School Council Policy 262. A general discussion followed on the lessons learned from that video.
- The Council discussed how to increase parent engagement. The weekly newsletter sent by the school has a Translate button on the webpage that can be used to translate the newsletter in various languages.
- It was discussed how the council can engage in fund-raising efforts to meet tangible school specific goals.

- Sunita shared the School Council goals for the current school year. Some of the goals are to increase parent engagement with the council, fund-raising efforts, awareness for parents to help use tools such as Teach Assist and Edsby, and PRO Grant workshop.
- Vote taken to determine format of January and March School Council meetings. These will be done virtually only to help parents participate when winter weather is not pleasant. The May meeting will be in-person.

### **Admin Report – Mr. Hilmer, Ms. Wonnacott**

- Interim report cards are scheduled for distribution November 17-18.
- OSSLT practice exam will be held October 23-27.
- OSSLT exam is scheduled November 9-28.
- Mid-term report cards will be distributed electronically November 20-22.
- Grade 8 Information Night is on November 29.

#### IB Diploma Programme Evaluation

- Every five years, the IBO does an evaluation of IB schools.
- On September 28 & 29, two IBO evaluators – one from Minnesota and one from BC – visited the school.
- Although we are awaiting their final report, we know MMHS had a very successful evaluation.
- The IB evaluators commented very positively on our outstanding IB teachers, the high-quality IB program, our excellent facility as well as our wonderful students.

#### Grade 8 IB Information Night

- The school held its information night for Grade 8 students and families interested in the IB program on Thursday, October 12.
- The information session was followed by an open house where parents and students could speak to teachers from each department.

#### IB Application and Intake Process

- Grade 8 students/families can apply to the IB program from now until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 6 – there is a \$40 application fee – application is made through Edsby.
- Applicants must be in Grade 8 and living in the part of York Region served by MMHS.
- On Tuesday, November 7, Grade 8 applicants will be sent instructions on completing a personal portfolio that must be submitted by 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14.
- At the time of application, students choose an assessment date – either the evening of Wednesday, November 15 or the morning of Saturday, November 18.
- Offers of acceptance will be available by mid-January or sooner.

#### East School Council Forum

- The East area of YRDSB is hosting its School Council Forum on Thursday, October 19.
- Baiju and Richard are attending.

#### PA Days

- The October 20 PA Day will focus on equitable assessment and supporting MLLs/ELLs.
- The November 17 PA Day will focus on mental well-being and equitable assessment.

#### IB Orals

- IB French oral exams will be held from October 30 to November 6.
- IB English oral exams will be held from November 6 to November 10.

#### Drama Performance

- The Drama department is hosting a drama performance on Thursday, October 26.
- There will be two short murder mystery plays.
- Tickets are \$3.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:05 PM

**Next Meeting:** November 20

