

**Milliken Mills HS School Council**  
**Meeting #4 – Monday, January 17, 2022**  
**Virtual Meeting, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

- Welcome and Attendance

Present for all or parts of the meeting: Dongxia Wang (Chair); Baiju Thomas (Vice-Chair); Christopher Hilmer (Principal); Dawn Imada Chan (Vice-Principal); Peter Wang (Secretary); Kamla Reid (Teacher Rep); Violet X (Student Council Rep); Rosalyn T (Student Council Rep); Jenny Zheng; Ruth Hong; Elena Arnott; Nada Kesavan; Daniel Chen; Jack Zheng; Chengye Wang; Jamal Reid; Hasnain Saifuddin; Jeffrey Zhao; and Ryan Lee.

Regrets: Sanjeevan Sivanesan (Vice-Principal).

- Land Acknowledgement (Baiju Thomas)
- Approval of tonight's meeting Agenda and Minutes from November Meeting
  - Baiju moved to accept tonight's agenda and Michele seconded.
  - Nada Kesavan moved to approve the November meeting minutes, seconded by Baiju.

**2. Student Report**

- Violet X and Rosalyn T reported
- Recent Student Activity Council publicity events
  - Holiday-grams – students purchased these for friends – raised \$500.
  - Photobooth – revenue yet to be counted.
  - Talent show.
- January: SPC card are being sold on School Cash Online.
- Instagram Q&A on remote learning for students.

**3. Community-Building Activity**

- Led by Vice-Principal Dawn Imada-Chan: “How should the mask on the figure (monster) be worn?”

**4. School Council Goals of the Year**

- Three goals this year.
- Goal 1 (Build and improve communication channels with parents): Dong may be contacted by email at [milliken.mills.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:milliken.mills.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca)
- Goal 2 (Organize workshops): two workshops to be organized:
  - (1) University Application Process: Principal Hilmer to put together workshop with assistance of the MMHS Guidance Department – to take place at end of January – email on details to be distributed; and

- (2) Raising Responsible Teens: Ann Douglas, author, speaker, workshop leader - April 4, 7-8:30 PM – virtual – workshop information to be sent out. This workshop is contingent on receiving PRO grant.
- Goal 3 (Application for PRO grant): amount increased to \$800 – application sent – waiting for final decision.

## 5. Teacher Report

- Dr. Kamla Reid presented.
- No formal exams will take place this semester – they are replaced by “culminating activities” to take place during the last week of January for all students; administration to allow many projects similar to last year.
- HOSA Canada: Health Occupation Students of America – a student-run organization started in 1978.
  - Students are provided with opportunities to learn about specific healthcare careers of interest to them as well as the healthcare industry as a whole by preparing for and competing in one of many unique competitive events.
  - MMHS has a chapter with 290 students currently – all MMHS students can apply for membership.
  - 3-4 students from MMHS finished in the top 10 in their competitions this year.
  - Students get theory and practice; older students mentor younger ones.

## 6. Administration Report

Principal Hilmer

- College/University Application Process workshop for parents – Head of Guidance (Mrs. Saweriss) to organize this workshop.
  - Tentative date: Jan. 25 evening; Zoom meeting; open to all parents.
  - Topics: what’s involved in the application process; considerations in choosing a university/college; how to finance tertiary education; how to apply to US schools; and course selection considerations.
- PRO grant
  - Application submitted; waiting for decision hopefully coming in next few days.
- Exam week before Covid: students come to school just to write exams; 70% coursework and 30% one final summative activity (exam, essay, presentation, etc.)
- This year there will not be any exam in regular courses in York Region District Board Region (“YRDSB”) schools – teachers may have culminating activities in their place.
  - Culminating Activity week to take place from Jan 26 to Feb 2: teachers will complete culminating activities with entire class or with individual students who have yet to finish their culminating activities – teacher may reach out to students to figure out missing work and set up appointment during culminating activity week to complete work.
  - Feb 1 is Lunar New Year, considered a Diamond Day (cultural or religious significance - can’t have assessment – only instructions) by YRDSB – teachers will likely just consolidate coursework over the semester on this day.
  - Feb 3: exam feedback were given to students before Covid times; but this year, feedback on culminating activities and marks will be given to students as a group during shortened classes in the morning.
  - Feb 4: PA Day – no classes due to PA Day
- Second semester of this academic year starts on Feb 7.

- Complete timetables will be sent to students during the week of Jan 31.
- IB students will still have exams as usual – IB will inform us in March about possible May exams; IB oral assessments this week and next for English and French course students.

Vice-Principal Imada Chan

- EQAO Math: Gr.9 – remote learning has resulted in semester one EQAO assessments on pause; Ministry of Education and YRDSB has yet to decide what will happen this year (whether Semester 1 Math students will skip the test this year or take the test during Semester 2 with the Semester 2 Math students) – more information to come.
- This will be the last meeting for Dawn this year as she starts maternity leave in February; interim Vice-Principal in Dawn’s absence will be Lynn Borlack (retired).

## 7. Chair’s Report and Mailbag

- No mail received by Dong.

The following topics were addressed by Principal Hilmer.

- Graduation of Gr 12
  - this is to be determined later – banquet hall in non-Covid years, very expensive to rent and the associated financial commitment of a contract has led to rejection of using a banquet hall for this year’s graduation;
  - the tentative plan is to use gymnasium for the graduation with June 28 as our assigned graduation date; and graduation portraits were taken in December 2021 with further photo dates to come.
- Lunch shifts for grades
  - Students can eat anywhere in the school earlier in this school year; now students can only eat in the cafeteria and atrium (unmasked) – once finished with lunch, they can go to other school areas (masked).
- Switching learning models
  - A large volume of request (500) was received last week to change from face-to-face to remote learning.
  - Of 1250 students in total at MMHS, about 600 students are now learning remotely.
  - YRDSB has mandated that: (1) requests of current remote learners to change to face-to-face learning in time for the start of Semester 2 must be submitted by the week of Jan 31, and (2) students who start Semester 2 as remote learner but want to change to face-to-face should make their request by the week of Feb 21. The same Google form will be used. Board is requesting parents not to flip flop and instead commit to one model of learning for the rest of the school year.
- York Region Public Health: about 89.3% of 12-17 year-olds are vaccinated; the only age groups which have higher participation rates are 40-49 (slightly higher) and 70+ (low 90s%).
- Parents are strongly requested by YRDSB to have their students’ camera turned on during synchronous learning to promote a sense of community and classroom so students can see each other and permit the teachers to receive visual feedback.

## 8. Meeting Adjournment

- Nada Kesavan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elena Arnott.
- Meeting ended at 8:20 PM.