

March 20, 2023

School Council Meeting

20 March 2023 / 6:30 PM / Library and Online (Hybrid)

Attendees

- Parents: Mustafa Ahmed, Saeed Atcha, Sabah Behiri, Winnie Chen, Mason Cheung, Thomas J. Cheung, Zarqa Chishti, Susan Ci, Jenny Fung, Helen Gao, Li Gao, Rawan H, CiCi Jiang, Esther Wen, Evelyn Wang, Peter Wang, Zhijie Wang, Frank Yang, Jin Zhang, Yufeng Zhang, Sandy Zhen
- Executive: Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Baiju Thomas (Treasurer), Arslan Ghani (Secretary)
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer (Principal), Sanjeevan Sivanesan (Vice-Principal)
- Student Representatives: JJ, Arjun
- Regrets: Vera Katyshev (Vice-Principal), Dr. Kamla Reid (Head Science Department)

Agenda

- Call to order – 6:40 PM
- Welcome – Sunita
- Land Acknowledgement - Seema
- Attendance - Arslan
- Approval of the Minutes for Last Meeting – Seema moved; Nada seconded.
- Amendment to the Agenda for the Trustee and the Superintendent to Join the Meeting – Seema Moved, Nada Seconded

Student Report

- JJ shared information on Spirit Week held before March Break. Instagram takeover by SAC members to post daily introductions.
- Arjun shared information on upcoming merchandise sale of tote bags to raise funds for SAC. Planning is ongoing for the upcoming carnival offering food items and games. Info sessions on elections will be held for the 2023-24 session for the student body.

Superintendent Introduction

- Laura Leesti joined the meeting and introduced herself. She oversees three high schools and seventeen elementary schools within the board.
- Part of the role is to help school administration with budgeting, staffing, administrative issues, implement school policies and procedures.
- Currently, school improvement planning is ongoing. Laura visits the schools to look at the data around report cards, attendance, and various other success indicators then discuss with the administration about their needs and plans for improvement.
- Laura also works with the trustee who is an elected representative of the constituents.
- As a senior management member of the board, Laura advises trustees on school budget. The elected trustees and the chair of board work together to submit the budget to the Ministry of Education.
- Look at staffing priorities if more admin staff is required at schools, rebuilding schools. Some items of the budget are fixed such as salaries and staffing which is based upon collective agreements. Some other items are a little more flexible.
- Involved in VP recruitment process.
- Look at the geographical needs of the areas to ensure there are enough schools available for new construction or students moving from other boards.
- Laura works as a field superintendent. The board also employs coordinating superintendents who oversee departments like curriculum. That superintendent ensures the teachers are properly trained based on

Board expectations and the curriculum from the Ministry of Education, and the board is being compliant with ministry directives.

- Another coordinating superintendent oversees special education and well-being. She oversees the social workers, psychologists, mental health workers.
- All superintendents report to 3 associate directors. Top senior manager is the director.
- Board of trustees are responsible for hiring the director. They are currently working with an executive search firm to look for a suitable candidate to replace the interim director.
- IB is considered a regional program. One superintendent has regional responsibilities for the IB program within the entire school board.
- Grants for Student Needs is the funding allocated by the Ministry of Education to the Board based on student enrollment.

Teacher Report – Mr. Hilmer

- Spring Music Concert is scheduled for April 26. At 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Canadian Geographic trivia challenge will be attended by 2 students from MMHS. They will attend the national championship in May for the 4th straight year.
- 1 UP (Urban Planning) Club presented a safety plan to the City of Markham to make cycling and walking safer for the community. They won a \$500 prize to help implement the plan. They're looking for community sponsors to help raise more money towards this initiative.
- In the Canada Computing Contest, 9 juniors and 5 seniors from MMHS were placed in the top 25 percentile.

Admin Report – Mr. Hilmer, Mr. Sivanesan

- OSSLT Spring 2023 will be from April 3-5 for remaining students.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on March 29 in person.
- Mid-term assessments will take place between April 10-21.
- Mid-term reports will be distributed from May 3-5.
- For Grade 11-12, full disclosure will be May 12. With certain conditions, students will have the option to either keep the mark or drop the course, so it doesn't reflect on the transcript.
- Grad fees of \$75 for Grade 12 are due by March 31. Last chance for Grad photos will be March 21-23.
- Math contests on April 4-5.
- Immunization clinic will be held on April 12.
- All IB schools in the world go through a review every 5 years to ensure they remain authorized to operate as an IB school. Documents were submitted in April, science teacher training will be at the end of May, inspection will be held in September.
- IB final exams will be held May 2-19. The marks will be received from IB by MMHS on July 5.
- PEAC (Parent Engagement Advisory Council) Regional Symposium will be held on May 3 at 7:00 p.m.
- The board has submitted a proposed calendar for the year 2023-24 and awaiting approval from the Ministry.
- Indigenous Mound Garden is awaiting approval from the board. Potential start at the end of April.
- Grade 12 prom will be June 1.
- Students have already finished the course selection for next year. Elective courses run based on the number of students that signed up for them. If a course isn't running, the students will be enrolled in one of the alternate courses selected by them during course selection.
- Vera Katyshev has been at MMHS as an interim VP. Dawn Imada-Chan is returning from maternity leave on April 3.

PRO Grant – Seema & Sunita

- Parents Reaching Out Grant application was placed in March. It was approved for \$800.
- The application was based on a parent survey conducted by the parent council on topics of interest. It was decided to hold a workshop by Strong Minds – Strong Kids. The workshop will be a master class for the parents and caregivers on managing stress and supporting their teens.

- The topic was selected to align with board strategy on supporting mental health and collaboration between parents, students, and teachers.
- The time and date are still being finalized for this workshop.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM – Sunita motioned, Baiju seconded.

Next Meeting: May 15, 2023

