

Milliken Mills HS School Council
Meeting #4 – Monday, March 21, 2022
Virtual Meeting, 7:00 - 8:35 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); Erika Pridie (Vice-Principal); Peter Wang (Secretary); Kamla Reid (Teacher Rep); Daisy H. (Student Council Rep); Julia P. (Student Council Rep); Ruth Hong; Jenny Wu; Mandy So; ShanShan Chen; Michelle Zhang; Mina; Nada Kesavan; Jessica Yao; Matt Zheng; Frank Yang; Lingyan Lu; and Natalie White.

- Regrets: Sanjee Sivanesan (Vice-Principal); Nadia Pinelli (Non-Teaching Rep)
- Land Acknowledgement (Peter Wang)
- Approval of tonight's Meeting Agenda and minutes of January School Council meeting
 - ShanShan Chen moved to accept tonight's agenda and Peter seconded.
 - Michelle Zhang moved to approve the January meeting minutes, seconded by Peter.

2. Student Report

- Daisy H. (Secretary) and Julia P. (Visual Publicity) presented for the Student Council.
- February: Valentine booth – temporary tattoo booth, etc. – well received; over 50 SPC cards sold (\$150 profit).
- March: Battle of the Schools for Spirit Week – MMHS won against 4 other high schools.
- Planning for elections for next school year ongoing; interviews in May; looking for events to do in June, e.g. carnival.

3. IB Q&A

- Presented by Natalie White, IB Coordinator
- IB programme: Grades 11 and 12 students are working towards IB diploma; Grades 9 and 10 in IB-preparatory program (Ontario credits but being taught using the approach in the IB programme).
- No third science in IB; summer school for Ontario credits only
- IB students take 6 subjects throughout 2 years – HL English, SL French, HL Economics or HL History, SL Math; HL Chemistry or HL Biology; and SL Arts (or second Science).
- Can't take third science course as part of IB programme – summer school is the only option available (Ontario credit only). Not feasible to take Grade 10 science course in Grade 9.
- Advanced Placement (AP) is not available at MMHS; students can pick and choose AP exams and Ontario courses; IB is a diploma
- Both IB and AP are excellent academic programmes – IB is a diploma and must take all 6 courses; AP can pick and choose. AP is an exam; there is no need to do an AP course in order to do the AP exam

- No CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) hour target currently for IB; it used to be 150 hours; students have to do collaborative project; creative project – students reflect upon experiences as to outcome, experience, challenges, learning from experience. But students encouraged to keep track of hours done in Grade 11 and 12 years – many scholarships ask for volunteer hours.
- Ontario diploma requires 40 volunteer hours by graduation.
- MMHS does not offer HL Math or HL Physics – only 3 HL and 3 SL courses offered by IB.
- HL course is 3 semesters long; SL course is 2 semesters long.
- Students apply to universities using Ontario course marks – no disadvantage to students applying to universities.
- Withdrawing from IB after Grade 10 – no minimal mark requirement to stay in IB programme to enter Grade 11.
- No requirement for personal devices in IB program; lab booked for students if needed.
- FAQs about IB Programme are at school website.
- IB marks are from Level 1 to 7 (6.83 average last year); Ontario secondary diploma has percentage grade, which reflects IB results also.
- Ontario universities look at Ontario grades.
- IBSO chart can be used for converting IB level into percentage range; Google Classroom for each Grade 11 and 12 student has IB policies, including assessment and evaluation.
- IBIS can be checked for student online marks on July 6. Final report card will be entered in July – marks for university admissions purposes are predicted grades (midterm marks, etc).
- Current IB group started about 100 students, now numbering 77. Few drop out from IB programme from 11 to 12; bigger drop between Grades 10 and 11. Only 2 graduating classes since onset of IB programme at MMHS. Students have found pandemic period learning very hard.
- Ms. White can be contacted at natalie.white@yrdsb.ca for any additional questions.

4. Upcoming Parent Workshop / Pro Grant

- Principal Hilmer organized Univ application process workshop for parents on February 3; presented by Dina Saweriss, Head of Guidance
- PRO Grant has been approved for \$800.
- Parent Workshop “Happy Parents Happy Teens” – teens challenge; how parents should respond and mental health implications.
- Workshop to take place via Zoom on Apr 4, 7-8:30 and presented by Ann Douglas.
- Principal Hilmer will try to find translators for Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tamil.
- Michelle will act as backup translator for Mandarin and Cantonese.

5. Teacher Report

- Presented by Dr. Kamla Reid.
- Library Learning Commons (Library): classes from Grade 9 Geography, Grade 10 History and Grade 11 English classes have been invited to attend a series of progressive lessons to help address specific skill gaps to help students to take notes and how to do proper citations in preparation for university.

- Library has access to eBooks and databases; students can access SORA – at YRDSB enterprise portal– books of all levels can be accessed by students for reading on tablets and laptops.
- School is partnering younger student with more capable learners for research skills learning; Ms. White and Ms. Clark sit with students to help; open to everyone as a community; Ms. Truong is identifying stronger learners to help younger learners.
- Mathematics department: students will write Euclid math contest on Apr 5 and Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia contests on April 12 – open to all interested students.
- Mathematics Society: a new club; preparation for math contests and academic enrichments; weekly meetings virtually on Tuesdays at 4:30 – for all interested; please contact kathariny.nagulesapillai@yrdsb.ca (Head of Math at MMHS)
- Science department: Chemistry, Physics, and Biology subject areas have finished all lab-based work (20% of IB mark); theory-based exam will take place in May (80%); April 4 to complete upload of marks for lab component.
- Dr. Reid can be reached at kamla.reid@yrdsb.ca

6. Administration Report

Principal Hilmer

- Erika Pridie is the new VP for the school until the end of the semester; her second tenure as vice principal at MMHS filling in for Ms. Imada-Chan.
- IB exams to take place from Apr 28-May 20.
- MMHS is selected to participate in PISA assessments (Program for International Student Achievement) run by OECD in France; international assessments for 15-year-olds (Grade 10s). Ms. Pridie will organize – 53 students to be randomly selected from the school to participate – no effect on marks – nothing to study for – measures students’ achievement and progress nationally; Canadian students “compete” provincially. Tests the students’ general literacy (English), scientific literacy, and mathematical literacy.
- In-person graduation: to take place Tuesday, June 28 in the school gym – more information to be sent to Grade 12; a fee will be charged for renting equipment.
- In late-April, Ms. White and Principal Hilmer will host a virtual welcome meeting for Grade 9 IB students and parents who will be starting the program in September.

Vice-Principal Erika Pridie

- Interim report will be distributed on March 30 or 31 through student GAPPS account – students to be given Level 4 to 1 for each course; R for remedial and I for insufficient information.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews – booking window on Edsby opens March 30, closes April 4.
- Actual interviews will start on Apr 7 at 6:30 PM.
- Midterm reports will be sent out between Apr 28 and May 2.
- Upcoming literary test (OSSLT) will take place in period 3 over 2 days; could be writing any time between March 28 and May 5; OSSLT is done online; information to be sent out shortly.

7. Chair’s Report and Mailbag

- No additional report.
- Two newsletters received from Ontario Secondary School Teacher Federation.

8. Additional Items

- EQAO Math: fully online assessment this year – Board decided not to administer Semester 1 (January) assessment; and there is no indication yet whether June assessment will proceed for Grade 9 math students.
- Summer school application date: talk to guidance counsellor for exact date.
- Ontario universities do not look at marks for Grades 9 and 10 for admissions purposes (Grade 11 marks may be used for high level scholarships or early admissions in combination with Grade 12 marks) – but these are sent nonetheless to the universities.

9. Meeting Adjournment

- Nada Kesavan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shanshan Chen.
- Meeting ended at 8:35 PM.