

May 15, 2023

School Council Meeting

15 May 2023 / 6:30 PM / Library / Online

Attendees

- Parents/Students: Sivajiny Mahadevar, Dilber Bassl, Hirosh Abeywardane, Nada Kesavan, Peter Wang, Kathleen Jade Lappay, Sandy Zhen, Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Arslan Ghani (Secretary)
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer (Principal), Sanjeevan Sivanesan (Vice-Principal), Dawn Imada-Chan (Vice-Principal)
- Teacher Representative: Kamla Reid (Head, Science Department)
- Student Representatives: JJ F., Isabella G.
- Regrets: Baiju Thomas (Treasurer)

Agenda

- Call to order – 6:38 PM
- Welcome – Mr. Hilmer
- Land Acknowledgement - Seema
- Attendance - Arslan
- Approval of the Minutes for Last Meeting – Seema moved; Arslan seconded.

Teacher Report – Dr. Reid

- Five exceptional MMHS students attended an awards ceremony. They won awards in self-advocacy, community involvement, and transitions.
- Drama Factor 2.0 helped raise over \$200 for Kids Help Phone.
- Upcoming collaborative project with Tarragon Theatre and UofT where MMHS students will perform on June 15.
- Library Readathon raised a bursary of \$700 to help students in financial need.
- To celebrate National Indigenous History Month, MMHS will host Melissa Mbarki from Macdonald-Laurier Institute on June. 5.

Feedback on Parent Workshop – Seema

- Parent workshop was held on Masterclass in Stress Management for Parents/Caregivers by Strong Minds Strong Kids, Psychology Canada under the PRO grant.

- It was open to all parent community. 74 people registered, 30 were present during this virtual event.
- The feedback survey results were generally positive. 90% of the respondents felt that participation in the workshop improved their ability to recognize the early signs and symptoms of stress. 70% felt better equipped to manage their own stress. 60% felt better equipped to support others with stress management. All respondents would recommend the workshop to others.

Student Report

- Isabella shared information on SAC Elections and the application process to elect SAC representatives.
- JJ provided updates on upcoming Prom and Carnival.
- Mr. Hilmer advised that Prom will be held on June 1st at Grand Cinnamon Banquet Hall.

PEAC Symposium

- Sunita attended the PEAC Symposium held yearly. The session on School Council Annual Report was of interest.
- School Council members at the meeting discussed how to improve parent engagement during regular council meetings.

Admin Report – Mr. Hilmer, Mr. Sivanesan, Ms. Imada-Chan

- Celebrating Student Success Award. The board recognizes 16-20 outstanding students across the board each year for being an outstanding school citizen. MMHS's student, Quinnton H, was honored at a ceremony about two weeks ago with an award. He was one of 16 students out of more than 125,000 honoured with this award this year.
- MMHS had made a grant proposal for an Indigenous Mound Garden which came through and was dug on May 3rd. The plants will be planted later in Spring. This will help students learn about Indigenous education and science and agriculture.
- An event called Connecting with Land will be held on May 30th. Along with MMHS students, some elementary feeder schools will attend workshops on ecological and environmental topics.
- MMHS is participating in a Professional Learning Community for Identity-Affirming Schools to focus the learning and efforts in improving the experience and achievement outcomes of ELLs (English Language Learners).
- IB Exams are being held in library.
- IB Extended Essay field trip will be on May 26th to Toronto Reference Library to gather research.
- IB upcoming science project integrates Biology, Chemistry, and Physics all in one. The students will visit the Ripley's Aquarium on June 7th to learn about designing an aquarium.
- IB science curriculum is changing. Teachers will attend a training session at the end of the month for 3 days.
- Preparations are underway for the final exams in June. Like the first semester, one exam will be held each day.
- Staff has been working for over 3 weeks to have students complete the Every Student Counts Survey,

spending 20-30 minutes on this task. This survey is very important not just for the school but the entire board as it collects important data that will be used for school and board improvement. MMHS had a 85% response rate – and is trying for 90% -- which is higher than previous years that had been in the mid 70s.

- Some changes were made to the honor rolls. It has been divided into three categories. Certificate of Distinction will be given to students with an average of 80% or more with no failing marks (above 50%) in any course. Students with marks above the provincial standard of 80% in all courses and an average of 80% or more will receive an Honour Roll certificate. High Honors certificates will be issued to students with all marks above 90% and an average above 90%. Students get only one of these three certificates.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: TBD – likely Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

