

**Milliken Mills HS School Council  
Meeting #5 – Monday, May 16, 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); Christopher Hilmer (Principal); Sanjee Sivanesan (Vice-Principal); Michelle Zhang (Treasurer); Peter Wang (Secretary); Kamla Reid (Teacher Rep); Karen Chung (Teacher); Jess H. (Student Council Rep); Evelina Z. (Student Council Rep); ShanShan Chen; Nada Kesavan; Minnie Chow; Ruby Wang; Fernand Boudreau; Jenny Zhou; and Lotus Li.

Regrets: Baiju Thomas (Vice-Chair), Erika Pridie (Vice-Principal)

- Land Acknowledgement (Michele Zhang): Treaty 13 – Toronto Purchase (50,200 acres in return for 10 shillings and fishing rights)
- Approval of tonight’s Meeting Agenda and Minutes of March School Council Meeting
  - Michelle Zhang moved to accept tonight’s agenda and Shanshan Chen seconded.
  - Michelle Zhang moved to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Shanshan Chen.

**2. Student Report**

- Jess H. and Evelina Z. presented for the student council.
- Preparation for SAC Election for next year is underway.
- Deadline is May 20 for applications submissions, followed by interviews, speeches on June 2, and campaign; and around early June will have new council members for next year decided.

**3. Parent Workshop and PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant**

Parent Workshop

- Parent Workshop organized by School Council, facilitated by Principal Hilmer: Happy Parents, Happy Teens – help parents to understand adolescent developments in teen years and beyond (held on April 4); presented by Ann Douglas; interpreters for Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tamil; flyers sent to Middlefield Collegiate and Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School.
- About 60 attendees.
- Parents very engaged; lots of questions for the guest speaker afterwards – meeting was very smooth and informative.

PRO Grant

- PRO Grant: to support projects such as Happy Parents, Happy Teens.
- Applied for and approved for \$800; funds allocated for School Council covered any expenses over \$800.

- Vice Principals Ms. Pridie and Mr. Sivanesan helped with technical aspects.
- Feedback is sought from those who attended; or ideas, suggestions, etc. for next year.
- Michelle Zhang shared her thoughts: similar issues are experienced by many other parents, not just herself; Ann Douglas' kids had issues also – shared strategies to be used depending on circumstances.

#### 4. Symposium

- Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) hosted Annual Regional Symposium on May 4 virtually – keynote session “Keeping Them Safe While Helping Them Grow: Supporting Children’s Emotional Growth in Challenging Times” by Dr. Alex Russell – helpful for children to deal with anxiety; help kids to learn from small failures (not catastrophic failures)
- Parents’ role is not to teach but provide kids support on how to deal with problems themselves.
- Recording online at PEAC page of YRDSB website: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/school-councils/peac-regional-symposium>.
- Another workshop at the symposium: “Fear-less for Parents of Child/Teens with Anxiety” helpful for those with kids who experience anxiety
- Also available online: [https://www.triplep.net/files/9515/9477/2089/ENG\\_Fear-Less\\_Triple\\_P\\_LTR.pdf](https://www.triplep.net/files/9515/9477/2089/ENG_Fear-Less_Triple_P_LTR.pdf)
- Michelle Zhang also shared Dr. Alex Russell’s workshop on supporting teens’ emotional growth in challenging times.
- Advice: don’t be afraid to get professional help if necessary. There is help available.

#### 5. Teacher Report

Presented by Dr. Kamla Reid.

Dr. Denbok (Head of Library Learning Commons)

- (1) More resources have arrived paid in part from a grant from FNMI (First Nations Métis and Inuit) Teacher Team; to be placed on permanent display and for signing out.
- (2) June is National Indigenous History Month: June 2 former First Nations Chief Isadore Day to address students;
- (3) Paddy Leung, an artist, will be presenting on June 8 to help students honour and celebrate June Pride Month at MMHS; and
- (4) Library Learning Commons has partnered with feeder schools to help incoming Grade 8s through a transition program to allow for learning gaps to be filled.

Drama Department (Mr. Keval) – Mystery theatre presented by Drama Club on May 13 – over 40 students helped with production.

Music Department: Ms. Batson reminds us about the first in-person spring concert since Covid “Spring Renaissance”, 7 PM on May 25 at MMHS in Atrium.

Science Department:

- Physics department held SIN Physics exam on May 12 – 11 students wrote.
- Avogadro Chemistry contest to be held on May 19 – 14 students will write.

- Future Health Professionals (previously known as HOSA): one student (Michelle Zhu) who placed first in Pharmacology will represent MMHS at international level – one of three finalists in North America.
  - Dr. Reid signed school up for Asia Pacific climate hackathon – access to many resources.
  - New de-streamed Grade 9 Science curriculum is coming out – Asia Pacific hackathon resources will help, esp. with teachers new to this curriculum.
  - Ms. Chung, Ms. Tu, and Dr. Reid: working to incorporate indigenous education into science curriculum and incorporate ideas about equity/inclusion in addition to sharing diverse ways of knowing.
  - Ms. Tu and Ms. Chung trying to get indigenous garden on school property; also working on planters; need more support (votes) from community and parents re. Youtube video created to obtain top OTIP grant.
- Sweet grass donated by Mr. McConnell as partnership with indigenous community.
  - Feedback is requested from all on curriculum, teachers, etc.
  - IB students are writing exams currently.

## 6. Administration Report

Vice-Principal Sanjee Sivanesan

- Culminating period starts June 22.
- Awaiting final timelines from Board re. monthly timetable of schedules, events such as locker cleanup, textbook returns, etc.
- Grad is coming – in-person this year, timeline to be shared shortly.
- No exams this year – mostly summative assignments.
- Just wrapped up Grade 10 literacy tests (OOSLT): 13 classes participated.
- Next year will resume with only one test window in March (for Grade 10s).
- MMHS has been selected to take part in PISA: to take place on May 17 and 18.
- Grade 9s to complete EQAO Math test during the week of June 13.

Principal Christopher Hilmer

- This year literacy test will have taken place over 4 weeks – thanks to Mr. Sivanesan.
  - Student results to be sent out at the end of June.
  - Students can rewrite literacy test next year
- Culminating activity week: all Grade 12s must submit work in time for graduation on June 28
  - Graduation will take place in the double gymnasium of the school.
- Results came in for Euclid math contest for Grade 12 students: 1 medal winner and 9 certificates of distinction; placed 68th in Ontario and 128th in Canada.
- OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) competition: 2 students competed in provincial badminton championships in Chatham.
- Lots of exams going on; IB exams results arrive beginning of July.
- Prom: on June 6 – use 2020 contract with banquet hall; 150 Grade 12 students.
- Thanks to School Council executive, and vice principals for their support.
- Thank and invite parents to return and participate next year in School Council.
- Last 7 weeks of the school year remaining are most hectic for everyone.

## **7. Chair's Report and Mailbag**

- Year-end report: three goals and accomplishments are summarized.
- No additional mail.

## **8. Additional Items**

- Work is not ended yet until end of June – questions from parents are solicited.
- Nada Kesavan: parking at school – ticket issued. Principal Hilmer responded that this was a fire route – no standing or parking.
- Nesting pair of geese – please avoid dropping students at front entrance due to aggressiveness – federally protected animals – cannot be disturbed.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

- Nada moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michelle Zhang.
- Meeting ended at 8:35 PM.