

September 19, 2022

# School Council Meeting

19 SEPTEMBER 2022 / 7:00 PM / Library

## Attendees

- Parents: Saeed Atcha, Tharshini Balakumar, Sunita Bhagwat, Zarqa Chishti, Feng Ge, Arslan Ghani, Ruth Hue Hong, Nada Kesavan, Seema Shahjahan, Baiju Thomas, Dong Xia Wang, Sandy Zhen, Feng Lan Zhou
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer, Sanjee Sivanesan, Vera Katyshev
- Student Representatives: Richard L. and Julia P.
- Regrets: Kamla Reid (Teacher Representative) and Nadia Pinelli (Non-Teaching Representative)

## Agenda

### First Meeting of the year (in person)

- Welcome to attendees
- Introductions of School Administration – Chris, Vera, Sanjee
- Introduction of Past Executive: Dong Xia Wang, Baiju Thomas, Peter Wang, Michelle Zhang
- Reading the Land Acknowledgment and connecting it to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Powley Day- celebration of the Métis communities; Chris explains the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision about the identities of Métis peoples. Infinity symbol/flag and the sash symbol
- Sanjee will pass out attendance sheet to keep track of who is here
- Last school council meeting was in May 2022
- Baiju moved to accept the May meeting minutes and Ruth seconded the motion
- **Student Report**
- Richard and Julia shared information about Student Activity Council (SAC) and explained elections. Encouraged students to get into leadership opportunities. Grade 9 Camp Day readies students for elections to Student Council and Athletic Council.
- Application online for SAC, and SAC also has a Google Classroom; only electing one rep per grade.
- Spirit Week (Halloween week) is coming up, and will have prizes and candy. In November, we are planning our first semi-formal which will be open to all students at Milliken, big event for the students. Athletic council will be selling school merchandise; it will be available for purchase on School Cash Online.
- All sport teams are running: debates teams, Robotics teams are running, Medical Occupations club, DECA is coming back, humanitarian clubs.
- Club Fair happened on Grade 9 Day, every day morning announcements about new clubs.
- **Icebreaker Activity**

- Inclusion Activity - 4 Corners activity will be done with parents: Question asked what grade is your student in? How are the first days for them? Is this your first time attending any School Council Meeting? If you had to choose a School Council position to fill this year, which position would it be? How frustrating is traffic at the end of the school day?

- **School Council Elections**

- Meeting norms - taking attendance, meeting notes are taken, please do not record or take pictures, you can take notes. Notes are posted on the website and we review them for the next meeting. Please be respectful of member viewpoints.
- School Council - exists to advise the principal, advice on SIP and services and community partnerships, administrative profile, etc. Outreach activities - developing a sense of community, workshops, seminars etc. Principal takes the advice of the parent council but also has final say in terms of what they would accept.
- Who is part of the School Council: parents, principal, teachers, support staff, staff member, community rep and student.
- School Council Election - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer are executive, other parents are members - we have 6 meeting scheduled
- Dong explained her Chair role. Last year applied for a grant that was used to organize events like workshops. A parenting workshop ran last year, working with the principal to prepare the agenda. Every parent is welcome to send their items to discuss items and add to the agenda. At the end of the year we have a summary of the year to talk about what was done well and what can be done better. Bring about any issues that could be improved. - Week before meeting the chair goes over the agenda and communicates to Chris. Meetings with Chris involve about workshops and how to select the topic and speakers.
- Baiju explained his role as a Vice-Chair - supporting the chair and helping lead the meetings and fill in for the chair when they are not available
- Secretary - takes notes and does attendance, Peter sent meeting notes to Chris Hilmer to check
- Treasurer - tracks finances, last year we applied for \$800 grant which we received and used for a workshop; if we did fundraising then treasurer will be more involved in that
- Everyone else is a member; members participate in meetings and act as eyes and ears of the community. We look for trends and react to those and resolve the situations.
- Nominations for School Council Elections: You can nominate yourself; you have to declare if you are a school board employee, part of legislation. Today we have 4 positions available.
- **New roles this year for School Council: Chair:** Sunita Bhawgwat. **Vice Chair:** Seema Shahjahan. **Secretary:** Arslan Ghani. **Treasurer:** Baiju Thomas.
- School Council handbook is linked on our board website; MMHS School Council constitution on the website as well.

- **Administrators' Reports**

- Covid update and daily assessment
- Student activity fee \$45 for student life and culture (clubs, special events, equipment)

- Subscribe to emails or a commercial nature because it helps you find out about school events. Last year families were told about graduation fee of \$75, parents who subscribed to the commercial email, got emails about paying the fee, there were parents who missed deadline for their child to attend graduation because they were not subscribed
- IB Info Night for Grade 8 Students and Their Parents/Guardians – Thursday, October 13 in person at the school at 7pm
- Question was raised about IB that there is still a waitlists in our school, so students who are not enrolled in it yet, can still have a chance if there is a spot available in subsequent years. For the intake assessment, we do tests and portfolios in this school and look at Grade 7 marks. IB programs in other school boards may have their own ways of enrolling students that are not similar to our school and board.
- IB subjects that are being assessed to get into the MMHS program: personal portfolio, written assessment, and we assess math and French skills.
- IB Five-Year Review happening this year so that committee can look at our policies and assess us
- Reporting timelines for marks, reports, exams and full disclosure and parents nights. All will be written in bulletin
- Grade 8 Open House still finalizing date
- Awards from last year to be acknowledged somehow
- Take Our Kids to Work - students shadow parents or relatives, Grade 8 students visit us here, usually first Wed in November, no classes running that day
- Photo day- sept 28, student dress code board session Sep 22, Safety week this week, OSSLT
- Servery- Cafeteria still not opening until October.
- Parent teacher interview will be booked through EDSBY, will be in person this year
- Parent council wants to possibly stand outside with signs about safety in the parking lot, parents are rushing, this is regarding the incident that happened with the student that got hit. Good idea to discuss the signs and create them possibly in some classes. Suggested that school should have 3 lanes and that worked out really well. May not work in Milliken because we have two-way traffic rather than a 1 way. Check with by law officer, signs are confusing, Idling sign says 3 minutes, fire route says no stopping. By-law officers will come in to do an assessment to tell us what signs we should have. If parents drove to south side they can stop but the challenge is that we have a very large volume of time. Students come in as early as 7-7:30. We have seats for them. Can be here as late as 4:30pm.
- Library technician is not available to supervise at lunch times so Library will be closed at lunch. They are negotiating to see if we can have someone supervise at lunch but currently none existing.
- Sunita is adjourning the meeting, Dong is seconding it, all in favor to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned 8:40PM

## **Action Items**

1. Possibility of parent council creating signs for parking lot
2. Chris is speaking to By-law officer regarding updating new signs

## **Next Meeting Agenda**

- Top 3 things that school council can take on or Agenda items we can address
- October 17 is our next meeting