

School Council Annual Report 2023 - 2024

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School and Council Information

School Name	Milliken Mills High School	Survey Completed By	Christopher Hilmer
CEC	E	Your Role on Council	Administrator ▼
Principal's Email Address	christopher.hilmer@yrdsb.ca	Number of times School Council met this year	4 to 6 times

A. Parent, Family and Community Engagement

1. In this past year, did your school council engage in the following activities that supported parent, family and community involvement and/or engagement? (Please select all that apply)

- ☒ a. Workshops - hosted, supported, presented - for information / learning (e.g., mental health campaign presentation, Math strategy presentation, virtual workshops, virtual social events)
- ☐ b. Social events (e.g., cultural celebrations; spring fairs; etc.)
- ☒ c. Out going communications to parents (e.g., flyers, newsletters, e-bulletin, e-mails)
- ☒ d. In coming communications/requesting input from parents (e.g., survey, focus groups)
- ☐ e. Support from parents to the school (e.g., fundraising activities)
- ☐ f. Support for parents from the school (e.g., interpreters in meetings, virtual meetings)
- ☒ g. Actions to support equity and inclusion in the [Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy \(IEES\)](#)
- ☒ h. Specific strategies to improve parent, family and community involvement and engagement, please explain:
SC Executive Team created a social messaging group for interested parents to facilitate communication between SC meetings.
- ☐ i. Other Activities:

2. PRO Grants for School Councils support projects that focus on engaging parents within their school community who may experience barriers in becoming involved in their children's learning. The Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils application was available to school this year (maximum \$800.00).

Did your School Council receive approval for funds through the Parents Reaching Out Grant (\$800.00)

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Since your School Council PRO Grant Application was approved, which of the priorities did your school community focus on improving? (Please select all the options that apply to your PRO Grant focus)

- ☐ a. providing a safe and welcoming school environment

- ☐ b. building and supporting mental health and well-being
- ☐ c. maintaining open communication with teachers
- ☒ d. respecting parents as valued partners within the education system in relation to decisions about their child's education
- ☒ e. Informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum
- ☐ f. Other:

Was your school able to use the approved PRO Grant this school year?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities.

The SC hosted a workshop on "Careers in Space Exploration" specifically aimed at encouraging racialized groups to enter one of the many fields associated with space exploration. Families from this school's elementary feeder schools as well as the area high schools were invited to attend. Over 80 people (parents and students) showed up for this in-person event. The guest speaker was Dr. Bhairavi Shankar, the founder of Indus Space. One of the challenges was finding of guest speaker within our budget. Having to jump through hurdles of the YRDSB to have Dr. Shankar approved was unnecessary. An online feedback survey was offered to participants after the workshop. Although only a few participants completed the survey, the feedback was positive -- participants appreciated the information and could more clearly see a pathway for their children into the many fields of space exploration.

B. Positive School Environment

A positive school environment is an essential component of parent/family engagement and well-being. In this past year, did your School Council engage in the following activities that supported the building of a positive school environment? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ a. Physical environment improvement efforts (e.g., school grounds improvement, signage, carpeting playground)
- ☐ b. Environmental initiatives (e.g., eco-league, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)
- ☒ c. School safety (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, restorative practices, anti-bullying initiatives)
- ☐ d. Community-building and student social events (e.g., lunches, inclusion activities/events, assemblies, collaborative community events, field trips, extracurricular activities)
- ☐ e. Healthy Living and Wellness activities (e.g., athletic programs, healthy school initiative, mental health, healthy snacks, hot lunch programs, lice screening)
- ☐ f. Appreciation events (e.g., student recognition, staff recognition, community recognition events)
- ☐ g. Enhancements to programs(e.g., technology, equipment, arts program, workshops)
- ☒ h. Strategies to better include students (e.g., equity and inclusive learning environment)
- ☐ i. Collaboration with local business and organizations
- ☐ j. Other Activities:

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities

C. Diverse School Community

1. Demographic Representation -to what degree is your School Council representative of the school population:

- ☒ *Highly representative*
- ☐ *Somewhat representative*
- ☐ *Is beginning to be representative*

2. Leadership Representation - to what degree is your School Council's leadership (e.g., president, secretary, treasurer, formal voting positions) representative of the school population:

- ☒ *Highly representative*
- ☐ *Somewhat representative*
- ☐ *Is beginning to be representative*

3. In this past year, did your school council engage in the following activities that follow the guiding principles ([Policy #261.0, Equity and Inclusivity](#)) in the building of a diverse school community? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ *a. Addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism and other prejudices toward racialized and marginalized groups*
- ☐ *b. Reducing barriers (e.g., culturally responsive pedagogy; language, special needs, socio-economic, funding support)*
- ☒ *c. Respecting faith-based practices in planning events (e.g., observances and practices)*
- ☒ *d. Increasing diverse representation on school council*
- ☐ *e. Providing multi-lingual resources (e.g., newsletters; interpreters; translators)*
- ☐ *f. Holding school council meetings at different times of the day (e.g., alternating mornings after drop-off, afternoon before dismissal of students, and in the evenings- alternating for different families)*
- ☒ *g. Engaging in learning to increase understanding of the Board's Equity and Inclusivity goals (and/or IEES)*
- ☒ *h. Establishing Parent Ambassadors to welcome new families (reflective of the school's demographics)*
- ☐ *i. Inviting Community Partners/Organizations to share the ways in which they can partner with the school and support families with resources, etc.*
- ☐ *j.. Other:*

4. In the past year, how often did your school council engage with local Indigenous communities and families to integrate authentic experiences and content?

- ☒ *Not at all*
- ☐ *1-2 times*
- ☐ *3-5 times*
- ☐ *6 times or more*

5. In the past year, to what degree was your school council involved in providing opportunities for open dialogues with students, families and communities that were culturally responsive and relevant?

- ☐ Greatly involved
☐ Moderately involved
☒ Slightly involved
☐ Not Involved

6. In the past year, to what degree was your school council involved in fostering a school-community collaborative approach to identify and address discriminatory biases and systemic barriers to promote student achievement and well-being?

- ☒ Highly involved
☐ Somewhat involved
☐ Not involved

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities

Our PRO Grant-funded workshop led by Dr. Bhairavi Shankar was focused on encouraging racialized groups to pursue a career in one of the many fields of space exploration. Dr. Shankar spoke of her own experiences working in the space industry and all of the career paths related to it in order to show participants that there is a place for them, too.

D. Fundraising

Was your School Council involved in fundraising activities in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

E. Additional Support and Training

The [YRDSB Director's Action Plan](#) sets out six goals that align with the strategic plan and our Board's Mission, Vision and Values. Please indicate if there is a need for the Board to provide additional support and training to your school in the next school year: (Please check all areas that apply for your school)

- ☒ a. Goal 1: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health (i.e., to build safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments where students and staff feel they matter and belong)
- ☐ b. Goal 2: Champion Equity and Inclusivity (i.e., to build a collective understanding of: the ongoing impact of colonialism on Indigenous Communities, Anti-oppression, and Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy [CRRP])
- ☐ c. Goal 3: Champion Equity and Inclusivity (i.e., to provide comprehensive math programs that reflect students' identities, lived experiences, needs and interests)
- ☒ d. Goal 4: Build Collaborative Relationships (i.e., to build trust and collaborative relationships with students, families and staff through respectful and responsive communication focused on shared solutions)
- ☐ e. Goal 5: Empower Ethical Leadership (i.e., to elevate student voice in learning, assessment and decision-making)

- ☐ f. Goal 6: Empower Ethical Leadership (i.e., to build a collective understanding of ethical leadership)

Please also think about if there any additional support or training that you would like to receive for your school council next school year:

Instruction on how to run a fundraiser (with examples of successful fundraising activities/items) would be beneficial.

F. Any other comments

Please share your school council's achievements and/or suggestions/feedback in the text box below:

We were fortunate that last year's Chair and Vice-Chair continued in their roles this year. This allowed for some continuity with the overall group of parents and allowed the SC Executive to use their experience organizing the PRO Grant workshop again.

Reaching all parents continues to be a challenge. Parent e-mail addresses/phone numbers are not readily available to the parent SC.

Thank you for completing this survey.

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