

Sir William Mulock Secondary School

COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Date: September 18, 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Members Present: Kelly Broome (Chair), Huma Tahir (Treasurer), Alison Moonsie, Sue Durbacz, Sarah Giona, Michelle Kaarto, Amy Jackson, Jennifer Jukema, Susanne Liebeskind, Melissa Lembke, Shannan Horgan, Nick Hill, Allison Hill, Jennifer Mclean Embling, Terri Bell, John Vieira,

Administration Present: Debbie Ziegler, Susan Sopha and Stewart Todd

Teacher Representative: David Heath

Matters Arising: No matters were arising from the previous minutes

Land Acknowledgment & School Council Orientation Video

Mr. Todd presented the Land acknowledgment & School Council orientation video to all the new members.

School Council Fundraising

Ms. Ziegler addressed the issue of fundraising in the school council, emphasizing that it differs from elementary school practices. The Council can, however, support students in their fundraising endeavors. She also reported that the Terry Fox run successfully raised \$1800. The Student Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the library. The Student Council expressed their desire for monthly activities, such as semi-formals, graduation parties, and more.

School Background

Ms. Ziegler provided an overview of the school's history, noting that it is 24 years old and boasts a beautiful facility with an exceptional custodial team. The building is well-maintained and orderly.

Student Enrollment and Class Capacities

Ms. Ziegler discussed the current student enrollment status, highlighting that classes are at full capacity. Next week, new classes will commence, necessitating the hiring of additional teachers. This action will help to reduce the student-to-teacher ratio and balance class sizes.

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School Council Annual Report 2022-2023

Ms. Kelly, Council Chair, provided an overview of the School Council's annual report for the period of 2022 to 2023.

Meeting Schedule and Quorum Requirements

Ms. Kelly announced that there will be four meetings held annually, and a minimum of six members is required for a quorum.

Weekly Newsletter and Communication Policies

It was noted that the school shares a weekly newsletter, which includes information about upcoming events and school activities. Additionally, Ms. Kelly emphasized that communication with parent's changes after a student turns 18, requiring their consent for family communication.

Focus on Mental Health

Ms. Ziegler highlighted that the school's primary focus is on mental health. The schools staff a social worker who is available four days a week. Additionally, there are resources available such as psychologists and addiction service staff who come to the school to engage with students.

School Council Election 2023-2024

The nomination results for the School Council election were announced.

Nomination Results are:

Kelly Broome :	Chair
Alison Moonsie :	Vice Chair
Huma Tahir:	Treasure
Melissa Lembke:	Secretary
Shannan Morgan:	Community Liaison

Teacher Report

Council members raised questions about the school portal, specifically Edsby. Teachers explained that in high school, they primarily use Teach Assist and Google Classroom, not Edsby. Students have their own passwords for Teach Assist, and parents can create their own accounts, accessible at the bottom of the Teach Assist page. The Vice Chair emphasized the importance of parents discussing Teach Assist with their children, including how to access it, check their marks, and utilize communication tools within the portal.

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Attendance Queries

Council members inquired about attendance policies. Teachers clarified that parents receive phone calls and emails if a student is absent from class or school.

School Reports

The Principal explained that there are three reporting periods: interim reports will be available on October 17, 2023, followed by mid-term and final reports. Due to the pandemic, printed reports have been discontinued. Instead, they can be accessed through students' Gapps accounts. Parents will receive a notification email and can use their child's ID and password to view the report.

Accessing the Social Worker

Council members inquired about how students can reach out to the social worker. The Principal clarified that students first speak with the guidance counselor, who then refers them to the social worker. Pauline is the designated social worker who can also connect students to external service providers and community partners.

MOBYSS Bus

The Principal introduced a new service, the Mobile Youth Walk-In Clinic (MOBYSS Bus), which will be available in front of the school. This service will offer counseling, mental health support, medical assistance, and other services every Thursday from 1 to 3.

OSSLT Test

Information about the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was provided. The test, administered electronically, runs from mid-November to December. A total of 400 marks are available, with 300 required to pass. Students who do not achieve this score will have the opportunity to rewrite the test. Additional details are available on the school website, and the school will provide support for test preparation.

International Travel

The Drama Department will be traveling to New York in the spring, while the Art program will be heading to Italy for grades 10 to 12. The Music department's destination will depend on the nationals, and this time they will be going to Toronto. Previously, they visited Niagara Falls and stayed overnight.

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Bathroom Issues

Council members raised questions about managing bathroom use. School staff explained that they have established a protocol, allowing one student at a time from each classroom to use the restroom located near their class. Additionally, there is a teacher on hall duty to monitor students, if in the past students took too long using the restroom (over 5 minutes).

Vaping Concerns

A member asked about how vaping incidents are handled. School staff explained that there is a fine, and parents are notified. The student is sent home. For second offenses, the fine increases, starting at \$390. Subsequent fines will be higher.

Incident Report - September 18, 2023

Parents received an email from the school on September 18, 2023, regarding an incident that took place within the school. The Principal informed the council about concerning allegations made by students, which were subsequently posted on a social media platform. The Principal emphasized that the information circulating is false. The police are currently conducting an investigation. The safety of both staff and students is of utmost importance. Given the sensitive nature of the situation, and the involvement of a minor, the school is strictly following its established protocol.

UP COMING EVENTS

Sept 22	PA Day
Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
Oct 3	Photo Retake Day
Oct 9	Thanksgiving Holiday –no classes
Oct 17	Interim Reports
Oct 20	PA Day
Oct 21 & 22	Ontario Universities Fair (Metro Toronto Convention Centre)
Oct 26	Family Interview Night
Nov 1	Take our Kids to Work Day
Nov 17	PA Day
Nov 20	School Council
Nov 20	Mid-semester Report Card

