

TOMMY DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6TH APRIL 2022

Ms Sandra Sardone (the Principal) performed the land acknowledgement.

Ms Sardone reminded parents that the school team continue to be available for parents for daily communications as follows:

Tanya-Lynn.Paul@yrdsb.ca – VP responsible for students family name starting A-G

Elizabeth.Sloan@yrdsb.ca - VP responsible for students family name starting H-PAS

David.Cashmore@yrdsb.ca - VP responsible for students family name starting PAT-Z

Anything on literacy – reach out to Principal Ms Sardona – Sandra.Sardone@yrdsb.ca

1 Welcome

2. Minutes of last meeting

- Minutes have been posted, one previous to be done. Next meeting is May 11th at 7pm, our final meeting.
- Council members do not need to be listed on the minutes, as long as we have secretary and chairs, there is no need to report all attendees.
- Minutes of November 17th – approved and seconded.
- Minutes of meeting 9th February – approved and seconded

3. Student Report – no report today

4. Teachers Report – Laura Gatti

Want to speak about academic honesty policy and how it originated and what it looks like in practice and success over past 7 years.

The policy is the responsibility of students to be academically honest in all aspects of their schoolwork. We pride ourselves at Tommy that students will do their best work, with integrity and give credit to those whose ideas they use. It covers plagiarism and some of the examples of different forms are included. One form we have noticed is that students digitally share work with one another, particularly students from first semesters to second semesters, thinking they are helping their friends, but they are not. Our roles is to educate students about academic honesty to be proactive and as part of grade 9 program we have students in the grade 9 years come for a lesson on academic honesty and that is integrated in their course work. We completed this with business students and science students before end of April, they have an assignment attached to this. With our policy when teachers discover plagiarism, there are three steps, 1. Contact with parent and teacher via google form and Laura Gatti notified, 2. Ms Gatti meets with students, lesson about plagiarism, assessment for learning, assessment of learning and reflection about plagiarism 3. Opportunity to re-do as soon as submitted zero mark is replaced with new submission mark, they must achieve minimum of level 3 to be successful.

Second offense – contact parent, complete form, administrator meets with student, Ms Gatti meets with students, learning about specific type of plagiarism, reflection and at a level 3, opportunity to re-do, stays a zero.

3rd offense – complete academic honesty form and referral to administration

It is a part active that allows, consistency within the school, students to learn what constitutes plagiarism, students and teachers to be able to work together prior to full submission to ensure they submit their work.

Amir asked if Covid added a new dimension to this. Joe said that some students make mistakes in Grade 9 and are called up about it, but the few in later years that do it, there is almost a disbelief that Ms Gatti does it. It does keep our students honest. This message is shared constantly through the year and keeps the incidents down. It's not necessary the practice in all schools, so we are happy we have this at Tommy, so thank you to Ms Gatti.

5. School Update

Update By David Cashmore –

- EQAO Grade 9 assessment of Math, first session was cancelled, however, tentatively booked for June 14th and 15th
- Written by students currently in grade 9 math class
- Virtual students who wish to write it must write in person at school
- Letters will be sent at the end of April

Update on Inclement weather

- Declared by 6 am on writer, website, tv
- Schools will remain open
- Student transportation is cancelled
- Student who do not attend school on this day can access learning asynchronously

Culminating Days – June 22-29th will be exam days and like semester 1 students will participate in conferences, class tasks, conversations, lab/class tasks and key message is that please do not book vacations during these times, as students are expected to be at school and oral test will be on 28th for oral exam.

S Trip, Grad trip – WARNING!!!: Not a YRDSB or TDSS event, significant safety concerns, S trip is nothing to do with us and in fact we would not recommend students participate in these and they are not chaperoned, we encourage parents to read the article posted..

W/c 28th April mid term report cards distributed

Update by Elizabeth Sloan

Next year, what will it look like and the return to normal. We are returning to a new timetable starting at 8:10 and ending 2:25pm. One of the big changes is that the board will NOT be offering hybrid learning, families have until April 7th to choose SVS (Secondary Virtual School) if wanted. Virtual school

will be on offer, but must indicate by tomorrow. Virtual school is not run at Tommy. After tomorrow night we will have more of an idea of our numbers for next year. 207 students currently online of which 50% are at grade 12 level.

Field trips. Currently on pause but athletics, clubs starting up and some in person events being planned for May and June.

Update by Tanya Lynn-Paul

OSSLT literacy tests – preparations last few weeks, We held afterschool sessions which close end of April, twice a week. May 5th for Grade 10 students and previously eligible students, May 10th students with IEP and English language learners, P

Our school has been chosen for PISA – Program International Student Assessment (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), 1100 schools have been chosen this year and it is a test that looks at students in grade 10 across the province against other students across the world. The chosen kids will be writing the test on May 26th – small sample (approx. 50) of students in grade 10 who are currently 15 years old, randomly selected by PISA. It is a 3.5 hour test and in the area of science.

If anyone has any questions, please reach out to Ms Paul and continue to look on the parent bulletin.

6. Principal update

Covid updates – last two years a popular item. The covid situation at Tommy is pretty much difficult to update parents about because we do not let families know about how many cases we have or classes that are affected but we are responding in the best way as we can and keep data for families reported and there are a number of cases that are regularly reported, but said around 80% of our student body continue to wear masks and physical distancing. Isolation room is available and administrators help students that do not feel well. Tests are provided and we continue to run regular practice of our covid protocols.

Traffic updates – new stop sign coming soon. A little while back a concern closer to the elementary school and to the entrance to the loop, we work closely with staff who come out to see what parents complain about and they are at final stages of getting stop signs to slow things down. It is a busy time.

Bell times change next year- Right now we accommodate a range of transportation etc, but next year change to 8:10am and 2:25pm end of day and lunches go back to full period, this will be shared in the bulletin. Timetable will revert back to normal. Due to our school rapidly growing and parents wanting to get kids into our school and long waitlist, very challenging to timetable a school and ensure space for everyone. We will look to two lunch periods and a five period day, we are only communicating at the moment and not for next year, but possibly the year after. We will share information when we have it.

Enrollment updates – continue to grow, sitting at next year 1650 students, but we realistically know that as families move into the area, there will be nearer to 1700 students, so forces us for more space, so likely another two portables each year.

Prom and graduation – we are having a Prom and met with the committee, we are very excited. We have great staff to supervise. Graduation will be face to face in our school gym to accommodate over 1,000 people. Our grade 12 students will meet soon to go over the plan. Lots of good things coming.

Face to Face Arts Night – could be an opportunity for you to come to the school and sit in our cafeteria, see stage performances, and appreciate the work of our staff and students. Look at bulletin.

Emergency procedures – what steps we take? We called a lockdown. When we communicate to families, it can cause a lot of anxiety, we understand students get anxious to come to school, however, we have to ensure this is the right step to take, we call the police and ensure the threat is taken away and dealt with as quickly as possible. The last lockdown was a threat and we timed the full lockdown and it was 11 mins long. It was brought up today to let parents know that we are taking the proper steps, but also parents want to know what happened and we cannot give this information, particularly the student names. We are working on a detailed communication plan for students to remind them what to do during a lockdown.

Morning absence call through email/call – You will notice that you may be getting after period calls, we noticed that lots of calls, we encourage parents to email us if student will be late or absent.

7. Open forum – We cannot do our meetings face to face and understand this may change soon. It's possible things will change next year.

Adjournment