

TOMMY DOUGLAS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7PM

& PRESENTATION FROM GUIDANCE

New Council Members:

Co Chairs: Joe Giusto & Amir Bigloo (Amir Chairing today's meeting)

Secretary: Linda Lazarou

Treasurer: Lisa Contino Moran

Shorter meeting today as we are having a presentation on choosing the right courses for next year, to enable the answer of questions. Know that future meetings will likely have special presentations, please look out for information in the newsletter.

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

Reaching out to Tommy Douglas

Lots of ways to reach out. Email tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca is checked multiple times a day and emails are forwarded as necessary to appropriate staff who are quick to respond.

Schedule for the Meeting

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** – available at next meeting
2. **Teacher Report** – Laura Gatti – not available
4. **School Updates -**

Elizabeth Sloan –

- We have reopened the lockers, if a student does not have one, they can ask for a form.
- Selection of courses presentations next week. This is really important that students choose their courses wisely. Everything is based on course selected now. Parents will be asked to sign off.
- If you drive your child to school, Ms Sloan is on east side of school and she reports that it is a dangerous situation. The drop off is at the back of the school, tomorrow a teacher will be on duty to remind parents not to come into front school driveway and direct appropriately.
- **Here are the recommended entrances for different grades:**
 - **Grade 9: South entrance**
 - **Grade 10: East Entrance**
 - **Grade 11: West Entrance**
 - **Grade 12: North Entrance**
- Covid updates – reminder that if your child has symptoms, the guidelines are that they must stay home and isolate for 5 days (including the entire household) if vaccinated and 10 days if not vaccinated, these are the guidance of the Ontario government. All students have been given two rapid tests. Masks have been provided to help students, some issues with sizing and masks are required to be worn at school all day. Make sure students do screening from home, so that if they fail it, they are already at home.

David Cashmore –

- Current enrolment is at 1,665 as of today, of which 1,393 are face to face and 272 virtual. As we are packing in almost 1,400 students every day, checking screening is very important to do it before arrival and go to correct grade door. We are there accepting kids into doors into 8.30am because many students are NOT entering through their designated door and this causes delays.
- Students are not permitted to enter the building before 7.55am and should leave promptly at the end of the day. Remind your children not to congregate outside or in the building and keep masks on.
- **Inclement weather**, we have had a few already. Policy with pandemic has shifted over this year, so moving forward this year, in the event of an inclement day, it will be communicated on media by 6:00am, all schools will be closed to staff and students. Learning will continue asynchronous (self directed learning) and materials will be posted for students to access online. We appreciate parents are looking after family members, so this creates some flexibility for our students and their families.
- **Important Dates for the new term:** week of 22nd March sharing interim reports with parents through TDSS email
- 7th April virtual parents eventing, teachers to share booking through Teachassist
- Week of April 28th – mid term report cards distributed through Board email
- 9th May is 'Mark Maintain date' – not a lot of impact on 9-10 grades, more for 11 and 12 grade when grades cannot be removed from transcript. If a student struggles with a class and wish to remove it from their record, they can do that then. OCAS/OUAC upload before this date, usually a week and a half before 9th. Teachers will make sure the students know what their mark is, and they can make a decision on whether to drop a course before the upload. In reality there are multiple uploads through out the year based on mark dates. We ensure you have this information so they can make their choices.
- Week of June 22nd – 29th – culminating activity days – we will not be having exams at the end of the year. We will confirm the schedule in the same way we did for January.

Tanya Lynn Paul -

- Individual student reports fall test OSSLT – received the results from EQO, cannot share results with Council at this time, but we can say that over the next week and a half, we will share with students who were not successful in the writing, so we can make plans to either rewrite in the Spring or plan for the Ontario Literacy course. Each student will receive an individual report in next two weeks with a letter from EQO explaining the results.
- Spring test, we have not been given the date yet, but it will be between 23rd March to May 18th and once we have it, we will communicate it. It's for kids in grade 10 and anyone wishing to retake the test.
- Photo Day on February 18th
- Grad photos on 22-28th February by appointment only, communication will be sent.
- Preparation for Grade 10 students happening now. The literacy test changed this year, it is a full online test and when they write the test the responses are different, all on EQO website. Please send any questions to the school.
- PRO Grant – We did not meet this deadline, but Ms Sardone is working on submission with the Board and when we have more information, we will share it. We are looking at an artist programme but will share. Thank you to all parents and students for their input. We will be in touch if opportunities arise.

Parent Questions:

Attendance error – (parent) Complained of absences when student was in class. Student attendance is based on the model expected. If they are expected in person and turn up virtual, they will be marked absent. You can reach out to your VP if any queries:

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

Meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Pathway presentation was given by Ms McLarnon and Ms Rowe. It was well received by parents with lots of questions and answers. The presentation and recording will be available on the school website.

Next School Council Meeting

April 6th and May 11th