

# Pierre Elliott Trudeau

## School Council Meeting, April 16, 2014,

### Minutes

2013-2014 Co-Chairs: Julie Lum, Carline Young (absent)

Admin : Principal: D. Linkewich, G. Tsigaridis., P. Viscomi, S. Cheong (absent)

Staff: T. Harrison, J. Shep, A. Mulchand, S. Johnston

Parents: J. Lum, R. Malhotra , V. Navarat, B. Tharmalingam, T. Cheung, B. Shiriraam, G. Sampanthan, J. Shi, S. Adatia, A. Chiang, J. D'Angelo, , M. Ahmed

#### 1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/REGARDS

- **GUESTSPEAKER:** Lynda Robinson, AP Canada - **Information session on AP (Advanced Placement) courses**
- These courses require an extra exam to be written (extra cost is \$125) and an AP level is assigned. Universities may choose to accept the AP course if their required level is attained and then will give credit for university course. This is decided by each university whether they will give credit.
- Even if credit is not given, student receives the benefit of enrichment so has done similar course material as covered in some first year university/college courses.
- Parent Question: Is there a minimum average that student should have before taking AP courses? Answer: There is no minimum average but AP courses are not for all students as they require extra work and move at faster pace than other high school courses as more material has to be covered.
- Parent Question asked if students can drop the AP courses if they find it too difficult. Answer: Unlikely to be able to make a course change as the courses are so tightly scheduled and full at Trudeau.
- Parent Question: if there is an AP course that is offered at another Markham high school, could student take it (e.g. AP physics which is not offered at Trudeau)? Answer: Student can apply to do that but difficult to travel between 2 high schools and still attend all the classes for all courses chosen
- More info can be found on AP website: [\*\*apcanada.collegeboard.org/\*\*](http://apcanada.collegeboard.org/)

#### 2. Build Project at Trudeau- Susan Johnston

- o J. Lum advised Build team needs funds/contributions for student workwear (work boots/rain gear) and/or Build project materials. Short discussion on how to get parents

involved and to ask for contributions as there may be some in Trudeau parent community who can help. Anyone who is interested to leave their e-mail address.

- Build project will be proceeding once ground thaws so shovels can go into ground.

3. Student Council Update- Gary Li

Student rep shared a variety of information about athletics, past events, and upcoming events.

4. Approval of Minutes

- ✓ Minutes read by all in attendance
- ✓ Motion to approve February 19, 2014 minutes passed by majority.
- ✓ Approved minutes will be posted on PETHS website

5. Report from Stakeholders

a. Staff-Amrita Mulchand and John Shep

Breakfast program continues to be highly used and looking for more donations

Mental health session with Grade 9 students in April

Dragon Boat team in training

York Region Science competition- Trudeau team did well

b. Administration

i. Debbie Linkewich

- March 25 First ever parent field trip to George Brown College and U of T was very well attended (full bus load).
- Second parent field trip to Centennial College scheduled for May 1.
- Just returned from Student exchange in Paris/Brest – 15 students Exchange was open to all who take French. French students will come to Trudeau later this spring.
- First Parent Symposium held April 9 attended by S. Chong, J. Lum, L. Zhou and G. Xin at the Sheraton in Richmond Hill; J. Lum advised symposium was well attended, good speakers and good workshops for parents; suggestion that communication with teens would be a good topic to include for next year's PRO grant

ii. George Tsigaridis

- School Climate survey to be sent home May 30 – June 2 in hardcopy in English and 11 other languages as requested by students
- Every student counts survey for Trudeau will also be sent home in May
- Report card going home April 28; May 5 is last day to drop courses
- Course selection completed in Feb; course selection verification to be sent home in April;

- NEW – Wellness break every second Friday – rotating through different times of the day, classes will take a 15 min break to exercise, laugh, do something other than school work.
- NEW - Wellness day-April 3 – a variety of activities was offered to all students – this is a chance for all students to take a break from school work. 38 choices were offered, 28 buses were used; Well attended and good feedback from participants - 70% participation rate - 541 students chose a full day option, others a half day in or out of the school; hoping word of mouth will increase participation next year
- At the end of May, time table and teachers all be set up for next year; courses with low enrollment have been cancelled;
- Addition of new subdivision = 70-90 new students; estimate 1900 students; capacity is 2400 with the new 14 room addition and 8 portable; 8.5 teachers will be hired for next school year

iii. Pina Viscomi

Blood donor Clinic at Trudeau scheduled for April 22; All welcome

April 24-27 Gr. 9 Music field trip to Washington

May 21 – school council awards night

Scholarships info is posted on school bulletin boards and announcements also made; suggestion was made by J. Lum that parents should also be made aware; parents to check the Trudeau website to see how easily info can be found about scholarships

6. PRO Grant Update (Robert Malhotra)

- Two workshops ( March 27 and April 24) From Student Wellbeing to Lifelong Success.
- Led by Scott Milne from YRDSB
- online registration, simultaneous translation and child care provided; turn out was lower than registration – not clear why the variance
- 4 community partners will also be there with information tables
- simultaneous translation worked well for parents who chose that option so will be offered again for second workshop
- good feedback from parents on the first workshop
- suggestion from parent council and D. Linkewich on possible speakers/topics
- April 22 – PRO grant committee to meet and discuss the topics for next year's PRO grant and Robert to submit the grant as deadline is May 16

-

7. New business

None brought forward.

8. Meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn meeting passed by majority.