

Unionville High School – School Council Meeting

Date: Nov 29, 2021

Council Members: Anoosh, Dongmei, Felix, Gloria, Mandip, Mimi, Priscilla, Lily, Ray

UHS Staff

- Andrew Gazaneo VP (Students A-L)
- Patrick Belmonte (Students M-Z)
- Shane Clodd – Visual Arts
- Effie Kyriopoulos – Head of Office
- Amanda Boughtflower - Life Skills teacher
- Jeff Chan – STEM (Science)
- Elaine Howard - Science

Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement - Ms. Amanda Boughtflower
- USAC updates - Yifei Wang
- School Council Forum Update - Anoosh Sharif
- Admin updates - OSSLT; EQAO; Safety issues - parking lot
- Community Corner - Ms. Amanda Boughtflower
- Program and Subject-Specific Presentations:
 - STEM - Mr. Jeff Chan
 - Science - Ms. Elaine Howard
 - Visual Arts - Mr. Shane Clodd

Minutes:

- The link provided for questions:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7LFgg-HYHLgcS0GJHLxa6XR2kJccx8DiSHBw9luSVbFqXtQ/viewform>
Parents are encouraged to raise questions there as the chat does not work well with scrolling panels.
- Ms. Amanda Boughtflower gave the Land Acknowledgment.
- Yifei Wang gave an update to USAC
 - Events (fall season events – scavenger hunt, costume design)
 - Clubs Relations (virtual club fare 12/7 – 12/13 3:30 pm for club information)
 - All students are encouraged to participate.
 - Communication team – official Instagram page launched
 - Student voice team – learning how to gather info through various venues – where students can safely share their issues/concerns
 - Focus on providing an inclusive environment
- Anoosh gave an update from School Council
 - UHS School Council in conjunction with others provided feedback for moving things back to a conventional model
 - Nov 18 – notified by the Ministry of Education to return to Conventional Semester Model (4 classes per day)

- Anoosh attended a conference from the School Council Forum
 - Help address issues on social inclusion, racism, anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous discrimination, and bias
 - Planning on activities – more will be shared in the new year.
- Admin Update from, Mr. Gazaneo
 - Timetable change Dec 6, 2021 (4 periods with common lunch).
An email will be sent to students this Thurs/Fri for their timetable. Parents can check in with their children about their schedule for next week.
 - New staff announced
 - Annalisa Sisti (Visual Arts and English)
 - Maggie Ho (Music and Math)
 - OSSLT
 - Non-grad students wrote the Literacy Test on Nov 18, ~400 students. This was done electronically.
 - There will be a spring administration for Grade 10 students.
 - Online practice test is available.
 - Passing this is a graduation requirement.
 - EQAO
 - Grade 9 Math EQAO upcoming – January for Sem 1 and June for Sem 2.
 - Two tentative days: (test is broken into 2 sections) Jan 21 and 24, 2022.
 - The school will provide set up (chrome book, login information).
 - Typically the test is worth 5% of the Math mark.
 - Safety Issues – parking lot
 - Some students are being dropped off early. With winter coming, students will be allowed in before 8:15. They can sit in the main foyer or cafeteria. Students will need to leave school by 3 pm.
 - Traffic and parking updates
 - Lines have been re-painted in the front driveway for better clarity.
 - Anywhere along the curve on Town Center Blvd is a quick drop-off zone. Car parking there can be ticketed by the City of Markham.
 - Community Class staff put out pylons to allow drop off/pick up of Special Education students. We ask parents to help ensure safety for students.
 - Suggest that parents drop off or pick up children a little further from the school property to avoid congestion.
 - Please observe the one-way traffic direction to ensure safety.
 - Supporting Shoe Drive for BCSS
 - Supporting initiative at Bill Crother's Secondary School – collect gently used athletic shoes for children in Nigeria. There is a drop-off station in the front foyer of the school.
 - Community Corner – by Ms. Boughtflower
 - One of the goals is to rebuild the community.
 - Ms. Boughtflower shared several initiatives/projects:
 - Orange shirt day, wolves portraits, cleaning around the school.
 - Remembrance Day celebration.
 - STEM – by Mr. Jeff Chan
 - A teacher-led voluntary program emphasizing STEM subjects

- Non-regional program – support from community and parents is important.
 - Preparing students for technological change and societal transformation, for a STEM dominated future.
 - The goal is to train students to be leaders and to innovate.
 - Skills development on creativity, critical thinking, initiative, self-direction, communication, collaboration, and literacy.
 - STEM – there are course requirements – participate in 1 STEP learning event hosted by different departments at UHS per grade per year, and a final reflection on their experience in the STEM program.
 - Clubs and Activities
 - Contests, Clubs, Guest speakers, Webinars, Mentoring, Training, Community outreach
 - Different grades have their own focus. Grade 9/robotics, Grade 10/sensor program & automated water system, Grade 11/data management, Grade 12/real-world design.
 - Future plans – students to be more involved in the project – on things that excite them and that they are passionate about.
- Science - by Ms. Elaine Howard
 - Hands on, content-driven program
 - Past programs include visits to Markham Stouffville Hospital to see science in action
 - Extra Help – virtual individual/group help during lunch or free time
 - Science projects
 - Science club – doing well – 80+ students
 - Science contests – various contests in 2022 related to Math, Science, etc.
 - STEM Opportunities – virtual opportunities last year
- Visual Art – by Mr. Shane Clodd
 - Covered various art projects, and art programs
 - A Cultural Gem – Markham Theatre, museum, etc.
 - Art kits are prepared for students
 - Upgrade of school gallery space (new lighting)
 - A new Visual Arts virtual selection process in 2020 due to pandemic – looking at the creative process, artwork, and reflection (5 questions)
 - Community projects – over several years to create/carve statues
 - Showcased various art projects (for example, a mural) by UHS with community partners
 - Work with Unionville BIA to create mural (now at Unionville Main Street)
 - Community projects – during the pandemic
 - Banners – digital rendering on fabric (seen on Main Street as well)
 - Anthology – *A Snapshot in Time*
 - Upcoming – new mural at Warden entrance, upgrade computer lab and continue to work with Indigenous artists, develop an anti-racist framework
- Upcoming School Council Meeting in 2022
 - Jan 24
 - Feb 28
 - April 30