

## **Unionville High School – School Council Meeting**

**Date:** Oct 17, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

School Council Members: Anoosh, Felix, Priscilla (online), Sonya, Wenjiie, William, Mandip, Neely

### **UHS Admin Team**

- Ms. Suelyn Cheong
- Mr. Amol Gheewala
- Mr. Patrick Belmonte
- Ms. Susie Nunes
- Ms. Effie Kyriopoulos

### **Agenda:**

- Welcome to our new 2022-2023 School Council Executive
- Updates from Admin – Staffing, Facilities, Programs
- Subject Department Presentations
- Mental Health Presentation by our Community and Partnership Developer and Hong Fook
- Other

### **Minutes:**

### **Some Misc Info:**

- There are 65 parents registered to attend online and 13 registered to attend in-person for the School Council Meeting. More parents joined in person.
- Effie managed the online chat for questions and participants could also use the “raise-hand” feature for web meetings to raise any questions. For any questions that could not be covered during the meeting will be answered within the week.
- Link for posting questions will be posted in the weekly bulletin.

### **Welcome to our new 2022-2023 School Council Executive**

- Introduced the 2022-23 SC executives:
  - Anoosh - Chair
  - Felix – Secretary
  - William – Treasurer
  - Arts – Sonia and Priscilla
  - STEM -Wenjiie and Neely
  - Mandip
- Anoosh spoke briefly on the role of the School Council:
  - Act as an advisor,
  - Support staff, students, and community
  - A booth will be set up during the Nov 16 grade 8 open house to help welcome and greet students from feeder schools.

### **Updates from Admin Team**

- Ms. Nunes read the Land Acknowledgment
- Ms. Cheong
  - Introduced the new hybrid meeting mode (in person and online together) and protocol
  - Minutes from Sept 19 council meeting (already approved) will be published on the school website.
- Mr. Belmonte
  - Parent/teacher interview is coming up (Oct 26)

- Parents can book appointments with teachers directly online using TeachAssist (details on how to do this is available in a presentation that will be shared on the UHS website)
  - Booking can begin on Oct 20 (Thursday) at 9 am and will close on Oct 25 (Tues) at 3 pm
  - Parents can book appointments with all of their children's teachers (not just the homeroom teacher) or select the ones they wish to talk to.
  - If parents cannot make it on Oct 26, or if no slots are available, they can always contact the teacher directly at <first name of teacher>.<last name of teacher>@yrdsb.com to arrange. Please provide your number and when you can be available for the teacher to reach you by phone.
  - The interviews are 5-10 minutes in length.
  - Interim reports will be handed out this Wed-Thurs (10/19-20). These will have simple levels as indicators, it is too early to have any detailed assessment. Teachers may indicate that they would like to request a meeting with the parents.
  - Other highlights:
    - Timestables for the 1<sup>st</sup> term are settled and the Admin team will start to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Parents can book time with guidance.
    - Parking situation has been working well. Thanks for everyone's patience and cooperation.
    - Student enrollment (1933) and staffing (113) – UHS is no longer open to transfers
    - Breakfast Boost and Snacks (healthy school initiative) should start up by early Nov
  - Nov2 – Take Your Kids to Work (TYKTW) – can be in person or online. Parents will be asked what form it will take for their children. On the same day, there is also Take Your Kids to High School (TYKTHS) – for grade 8 students to come in to spend half a period in various classes they have selected to experience what HS class is like.
  - Nov 18-22 Electronic Distribution of Reports to families.
  - Nov 29 full disclosure deadline – courses dropped before this will not show on the transcript.
  - **Exams** (Student attendance required – students cannot be away) If a student is sick – a medical note will need to be provided.
  - **Exams Schedule**
    - Jan 23 (per. 5),
    - Jan 27 (per. 1)
    - Jan 30 (per. 2)
    - Jan 31 (per. 3)
    - Feb 1 (per. 4)
    - Details will be provided later
  - Feb 2 is mark review day
  - Feb 3 is PA Day
- Ms. Lisa Wong – Department Head of Technology Studies
    - Shared info on <https://sites.google.com/view/uhs-teched-en/home>
    - Shows different Technology courses (grades 9-12) and how they map to different industrial sectors.
    - Shows the contents, topics, and projects of various tech courses
    - Courses with an “M” (for example TEJ4M1) will be counted towards University/College.
    - FAQ includes what courses qualify for the STEM program. Students need one for STEM.
  - Mr. Lazaros Geronikolos – Department Head of Drama
    - Due to some technical difficulties the video could not be played. This will be made available later.

## **Community care social worker and community and partnership developer**

- Ms. Pauline Guo – Community Partnership Developer (CPD)
  - 12 CPDs are working with community partners to address cultural issues and other issues.
  - CPDs are not researchers or social workers but rather they work with the community to provide resources covering such topics as mental health for students, and social programs to support families
- Ms. Charmaine Tong – Community Care Social Worker (CCSW)
  - Her specific role is in supporting Chinese heritage students with issues such as
    - Anti-Asian racism.
    - Support how parents can work with students better. How mental health impact well being of students.
    - How can we promote mental well-being? How to communicate with a child, family dynamics, and how family dynamics impact mental health.
    - Will have some parenting workshops.
  - There are other colleagues/resources to support different communities.
  - For example, if a student has issues with performance, he/she/parent can work with school administrators or teachers, which will then consult and bring in CCSW as needed.
- **Parents feedback**
  - Everyone is equal – some may be shy and others may be more vocal but they are to be treated as equal
  - Each student is unique – and needs to be respected as who they are
  - School is a place where students from different cultural backgrounds and cultures can be integrated into the Canadian school and culture. It should be a place where great memories and experiences are built to strengthen the children.
  - School can be a place where children can become whom they are meant to be – not necessarily what a “system” want them to be.
  - Students have been in online mode for 2 years and have been rather isolated. It would be good for teachers to help facilitate students to have more opportunities to get to know each other.
  - UHS has students from many different backgrounds, inclusion and communication are key factors to help students feel comfortable and grow.
  - Ms. Cheong shared that UHS is also moving out of the online mode and is re-engaging actively. Ideas from parents are welcome.
  - UHS is widely known for its Arts program, however, it should also try to create an image that it is a strong all-around school.
- **Discussion questions for parents to think about**
  - Could you share with us your definition of community?
  - What are some changes you hope to see at UHS?
  - How do you think we could support the mental health and well-being of students at UHS (i.e. any workshops you are interested to attend?)
  - Will share these questions in the parent’s bulletin – to get more feedback.

## **Misc**

- On Oct 26 (the same day as the parent-teacher interview, there will be a Club Fair, and booths available to introduce various UHS clubs. Information about various clubs will also be in the bulletin – as well as whom to contact.
- More details about future events will be found at the end of the weekly bulletins.