

Unionville High School

School Council MEETING 02/10/2020

10 February 2020 / 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm / UHS Library

ATTENDEES

Felix, Nadine, Suelyn, Candy, Andrew, Patrick, Sara, Rita

Parents: 28

AGENDA

- 6:00-6:30 Guidance - Courses selection (辅导室-有关选课的介绍)
- 6:30-6:45 Administrations update (学校行政人员报告)
Corona Virus community discussions (针对新型冠状病毒, 进行社区讨论)
- 6:45-7:15 Mix and Mingle -Sharing family perspectives and experiences (Refreshments will be provided, and it's time for parents to connect and exchange experiences.) (家长联谊与经验分享时间, 除了与其他家长交流沟通外, 同时享用校方准备的点心)
- 7:15-7:30 Overview of YR Health and YRDSB approach, overall health concerns, and discrimination (概述约克郡教育局在健康方面的政策与方针, 对整体健康的重视以及目前所面对的歧视问题)
- 7:30-8:00 Community collective brainstorming (脑力激荡并集思广益)

Minutes:

- **Presentation by Ms. Riolo on UHS Course Selection:** 2020-2021 School Year
- **Key Information:**
 - Course Selection is from Feb 12-24, students need to do it online This is NOT first come first serve, and so parents and students have no need to rush, it is better to discuss with your child and ask questions if there is anything unclear.
 - The information discussed can be found at the UHS site here
 - Go to UHS web site:
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs/Pages/default.aspx>
 - At the Top, select "Guidance"
 - On the Subsequent Page, go to the list on the left of the page, select "Course Selection" and then pick the proper grade.
Note that mandatory courses are already filled in.
 - If there are issues, students can talk to Guidance (be aware that there are 3 guidance counselors for UHS so the discussion should be kept to this area and be kept short (until course selection time is over).
 - In our meeting today, we went over the Grade 10 Course Selection. Parents can find the PDF here:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs/guidance/Pages/Grade-10-Courses.aspx>

- For details of the following, please refer to the PDF file.
 - Regarding the Literacy Test, if students need help, they can get help. There are two sessions (Monday and Wed, or Tuesday and Thursday). Please contact Guidance for details and registration. If necessary, the student can rewrite the test in subsequent years, or the student can complete the grade 12 literacy course.
 - Regarding the 40 Voluntary hours, students need to get a form from Guidance to fill in and get approved first. This is to ensure that it would count against the 40 hours. Also to ensure liability is covered. - to ensure the students are protected by the board.
 - Regarding SHSM, UHS offers 3 SHSM programs: Busines, Arts and Culture, and Health and Wellness. See details are in the PDF file. Students will earn a red seal on their diplomas upon completion.
SHSM programs provide extra opportunities to learn in specific areas.
 - Regarding Co-Op education – this provides students with outside classroom experience (for example, in a law firm, specific business, or technology). This accounts for 2 credits. Co-op should not be selected as alternates
 - Regarding Course code: Please see PDF.
 - Grade 12 O and W do not count as university credit. For example, physed do not count for University credit.
 - Regarding Post-Secondary Admission Requirments - there will be University or College-specific requirements aside from OSSD. Students should check these against specific programs from Universities
 - Regarding the Co-Op program – the first 3 weeks of the co-op are in class. There are mock interviews, develop practical skills.
 - Regarding Summer School: If you intend to take a certain course in the summer, please do not add the same course to your UHS planner. Note that summer courses are an all-day event (9-3:30) over an entire month. It may not be suitable for certain learning styles. Usually, Summer School will offer mandatory courses, and students can choose to take them from a different school board. It is recommended students talk to guidance before taking summer school.
IMPORTANT NOTE: When you indicate you are intending to enroll in some summer program, that information is for UHS planning. That does NOT enroll the child in a summer program. Summer school enrollment is usually opened in the spring, typically the end of April.
 - Regarding Alternates – students should select two alternates in case they cannot get into the class they would like to join. These should be chosen with care, something the student is interested in.
 - If there is any issue in the online course selection form submission, please talk to Guidance.
 - Once the form is submitted, it needs to be printed, signed by the student and parent, and returned to the homeroom teacher or to Guidance (if there is no homeroom teacher).
IMPORTANT NOTE 1: Once the form is submitted, it cannot be changed online, you will need to talk to Guidance
IMPORTANT NOTE 2: Course assignment is NOT based on a First Come First

Serve basis. So students and parents should take sufficient time to carefully select instead of rushing to get it done.

- Regarding timeline:
 - February 11th
Course Selection Information day. Please see specific subject location list on google classroom:us43vmc
 - February 12th
Submit button is “live”
 - February 12th-24th
“Drop-In” periods 1 to 5 in the Guidance office for students who need help with course selection. Come during your lunch!
 - February 24th
Course selection submitted in My Pathway Planner
Course Request Sign Off Sheet due to homeroom teacher (no later than February 26th).
- Note that students can choose a course, but not what period/term the course will be offered. These will be determined by UHS
- If you would like to have Mandarin language assistance in course selection process/question, please contact Pricilla in the office, or simply send an email to UHS admin with your questions. UHS will get answers out by this Friday.

○ Mobile Pop Up Shop to start the week of Feb 10.

○ **Grade 12 information**

- If a student is entering grade 12 and already has 24 credits, they can choose to have up to 2 spares.
- Registering for courses. Even if students are graduating, **they still need to indicate on the UHS site that they are NOT returning.**
- For graduation, there are 2 guest tickets per student.

• **Admin Updates**

○ Staffing Updates

- Peter Manners LTO family studies
- Lucy Davidson LTO Math
- Francesca Del Bove Nimichuk LTO Math
- Ali Ferguson LTO Physed
- Tex Teixeira LTO Science
- One new teacher to be hired for tech design
- Staffing next year is dependent on student’s course selections
- New community class for students on the Autism Spectrum September

○ Lunar New Year Celebrations

○ DECA results (business /entrepreneur competition provincial) last weekend. UHS has 80 participates, 66 won awards, 15 moving to international, end of April, in Tennessee.

○ Upcoming

- Immunization clinic in UHS library tomorrow
- Feb 20-21 grad photo retakes and new students
- Mar 12 interim reports
- March 31 OSSLT
- April 1 parents symposium
- Wed April 22 midterm report
- Friday, May 1 PD Day

- Monday may 25 school council meeting

Corona Virus Community Discussion (Sara)

- Want to take feedback, suggestions, and questions back to the superintendent, and program directors for YRDSB, especially if there are concerns that do not parallel the current policies of the Board.
- Feedback from the last meeting on Building Community. The following from parents
- **The meaning of a community**
 - Group of people who live together and work together
 - Work towards a common goal
 - Support/communicate with each other
 - Feel a belonging due to similar values, belief or purpose\
 - Resolve problems in the neighborhood
- **Why community building is important**
 - Bring people of diff backgrounds and cultures together
 - Help, support and encourage each other to reach their full potential
 - Share our voices and experiences to build a common understanding
 - Discuss ideas, share resources and find solutions;

Takes a community to raise a child
- **Common Goal and Purpose**
 - For the growth of a better environment that is healthy, peaceful and inclusive for everyone to live in.
 - Community is ultimately how people feel and experience their daily lives in school.
 - Community involves building a RELATIONSHIP. Building a community requires us to think about who we are, our culture, and our experiences.
- **3 Perspectives on Coronavirus**
 - Health concern
 - A genuine concern for yourself and your family's health
 - A desire for more information and precautions.
 - Where am I getting my information from? Who is the source?
 - Is my response reasonable and proportionate to the situation?
 - YRDSB policy
 - Based on direction and guidelines from Ontario and York Region Public Health
 - To reduce the spread of disproportionate fear and panic
 - Currently, per YRDSB communicate mask is not recommended.
 - However, there are concerns that for some this is a cultural practice and prohibiting it is sending a wrong message.
 - On the other hand, it can be a factor that causes misunderstandings as some perceive that wearing a mask means you may be sick (and if so shouldn't be at school).
 - Reduce racism towards Chinese students, or general stereotyping.
 - What does YRDSB need to know and think about to make sure responses are culturally responsive
 - How can YRDSB balance the concerns for health and the racism issues
 - Racism and Xenophobia
 - There have been some incidents probably due to a lack of proper understanding of culture, practices, and different viewpoints.
 - Fear and dislike for different/foreign culture

- Blaming an entire group of people (such as naming it Wuhan Virus)
 - Blaming different cultural practices
 - Food
 - Masks
 - Exclusion of others based on disproportionate fear
 - Some questions to ponder:
 - What is the impact of my words? Do they add to or disrupt racism and xenophobia?
 - What do I know about or assume about Chinese culture? How did I come to know or believe this?
 - Are my actions reasonable? Are they based on information sources or misinformed fear?
- How can UHS respond to concerns about Novel Coronavirus that considers the different perspectives and experiences of its members?
- What are some perspectives and information that the board and UHS should be aware of?
- **Community Brainstorming** The parents split into different groups for discussion.
- **Various Questions**
 - My child is currently in the G9 Visual art program. She would like to choose other elective courses than Arts; however, the restrictions of being at Arts programs made her choice become limited. My child doesn't want to give up on the Arts program, but what can she do to resolve this issue?
Answer: Please have your child meet with their alpha Guidance counselor to help plan for future grades. Summer school can be considered, but it would be best to speak with the counselor regarding the course your child may be considering.
 - Can my child fast track and choose the G11 course on G10? What are the prerequisites for fast-tracking?
Answer: Fast tracking is an option, but is not best for all. Expectations for grade 11 are 12 are very different from grade 9 and 10. If considering fast-tracking, it is best to consult with the subject teacher and the alpha counselor.
 - Because the STEM program requires to take a broad range of courses. Can my child take G10 technology courses in G11?
Answer: Yes, it is possible for grade a grade 10 course while in grade 11. Students can work on their high school plan with their Guidance counselor or ensure they will have all STEM requirements.
 - When can my child request to switch or change courses?
Answer: Students are encouraged to 'choose once, choose wisely'. Electives changes will not be completed. Changes to courses occur for students who are looking for a pathway change (e.g., applied to academic or vice versa) or for grade 12 students missing a pre-requisite for a post-secondary program or to graduate. Students are encouraged to speak with departments to learn more about

courses before course selection are complete.

- How many summer courses can a student take?
- **Building Community discussions:**
 - Most of us agree with the school board that we don't need to wear masks but we all need to wash hands frequently.
 - When participating in a social medial group, be very careful to only discuss facts and not hearsays.
 - It is useful to educate the student bodies on the different meanings or reasons why someone wears a mask. It can be due to certain condition that is sensitive to pollutant, or protection (versus being sick), or a family/cultural practice.
 - Provide the medical facts on benefits and/or issues with wearing a mask so there is a common understanding.
 - Family can assist in helping to educate children in good hygiene such as hand washing, being responsible as a good citizen to each other.
 - We would suggest that the school board should encourage the students to quarantine themselves if they or their parents have traveled back from the affected areas.
 - Some incidents with stereotyping/racism
 - Incident 1: The clinic refused patients who have been to China since the end of 2019.
 - Incident 2: The Tim Hortons employee refused to have any direct contact with Chinese ethnic customers.
 - If there is any confirmed case of infection, does the school has a protocol to deal with it?
Answer: Yes there is protocol in place. The school has protocol from the ministry of Education/Health when there any suspected case.
 - Suggest that the school should install hand washing or hygiene equipment in front of the front entrance.
Answer: There are 6 hand dispensers installed throughout the school and they are filled with a board-approved hand sanitizer product. Students can bring their own if they wish to.
 - If the students quarantine themselves, what kind of support that the school will provide for them to catch up after 14 days? Such as deferred tests and projects, will these be allowed?
Answer: If a student has to be away due to any sickness, the school will make an allowance (such as letting the student take a test/exam) later, likewise for projects. For students that are in quarantine, class material should all be posted to google classroom and so students can go there to find out what is being taught. Homework

can be handed in online.

- Parents concerned about the news that there were International students who came from Wuhan and attended the UHS recently. Parents were also wondering if the school had any screen precaution done prior to those students' departure.

Answer: This is not handled by the school but by Ontario Health. International students are screened when they arrive per Ontario Health protocol (include the necessary immunization etc).