

School Council MEETING 10/28

28 OCTOBER 2019 / 6:30 PM / UHS Library

ATTENDEES

Suelyn Cheong, Mr. Gasaneo, Ms. Riolo, Michelle Farwell, Ron Lynn Jeevan Trehan, Felix Lee, Isabelle Tremblay, Nadine Cyr

AGENDA

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. The school council committee met on Oct 17 to review questions from last school council meeting. We will begin to discuss these questions.

Minutes:

6:30 – 7:00 Walking Tour

- Guidance Counselor room
- Technology Centre
- Student Success Center
- Alternate education room.
- **Questions from the tour** – are students aware of the Student Success Center and other resources. May need to communicate.

Reviewing PADLET Questions (for today the focus is on Guidance related questions)

1. Wellness Update 2019/2020 (Importance of Mental Health by M. Farwell)

- VP for wellness team is always in Gr 11 so will move into President in Gr 12
- Program
 - Sept – Suicide Prevention ◦ May – Healthy meals workshop ◦ Indoor/outdoor vegetable garden (new initiative) ◦ Healthy snacks for movie nights ◦ Breakfast Boost (8-8:30) there is a free breakfast if they want it. ◦ Wolfpack snacks ◦ Study skills and Exam Tip workshop ◦ Grade 9 interview (guidance - new initiative) ◦ Mental Health Week Initiative ◦ Dog therapy
 - Stretch and Strength ◦ Live Well, Take Action program
- Meeting on the last Tuesday of every month.
- **Next meeting** Tues Oct 29, room 240 from 3:15 to 4 pm.
- **If Parents would like to be involved:** email Michelle Farwell if interested. **Guidance – (Ms. Riolo)**

2. Review of the Padlet questions:

- **Question:** If a course my child registered does not suit her, is there a way to change? What's the deadline?
- **Answer:**
 - Speak to instructor to find out. Is there a way to change – Guidance will always listen. It is not always possible. Elective changes can be more challenging. Allocation and planning are based on requests and there may not be room.

- **Question:** Is there a deadline
- **Answer:**
 - If there is still any need to change, it should be done ASAP. There is always exception on a case by case scenario. However the earlier the better.
 - Guidance will provide a lot of communication. And will do their best to accommodate. However there is a limitation on funding and resources. And increasing population adds to the difficulties
- **As an aside/related comment:**
 - Parents are encouraged to work with students. And will need to pay attention in Feb when they are choosing their courses. Should be looking NOW ahead of college applications.
 - Grade 12 students – should join Google classroom, where information on college fairs are posted. There are also other programs and fairs. They should look into available resources, especially for post-secondary.
 - UHS will ask the teachers to limit the number of courses being offered, especially some of the specialized classes. (many of the unique classes may only run once a year). Options will be limited next year so students will, in fact, be able to focus more on what's offered. This is primarily a resource issue.

- **Question:** How do you prepare someone in grade 9
- **Answer:**
 - Grade 9 is probably too early, in grade 10 there is a career course so they can start to think
 - Students need ongoing conversation and be aware of different opportunities.
 - University fairs are useful. Please leverage your counselors, know the opportunities and the best-fit recommendations.
 - Teachers also will talk about employment in their field.

- **Question:** How to find out the critical dates for university application?
- **Answers:**
 - Every year there is a presentation to grade 12, campus tour, scholarship information, US schools information, these will also posted on Google classroom

- **Question:** Will teachers reach out to us when they notice a student is struggling before it's too late?
- **Answer:**
 - Parents are welcome to stay in constant communication with teachers, feel free to reach out to teachers and guidance counselors. Guidance will certainly help to support.

- **Question:** Are Questions about courses addressed by guidance
- **Answer:** Yes, guidance will also work with students and teachers.

- **Question:** My daughter's year here, very critical. Just want to know about what kind of support she will get from the Guidance department in terms of university application

- **Answer:** Yes, step-by-step information available both in paper copy and digital copy.

- **Question:** What resources are available if a child is struggling in his or her studies

- **Answer:**

- The teacher is the first line of support. There is a peer tutoring program.
- Tutors will receive community involvement credits.
- There is also online help for various subjects like Math/Technology (Math Apply).
- If teacher is the perceived issue, please provide this feedback to the school. This feedback is good for the teacher so they can adjust the approach/style.
- Feel free to suggest/contact teachers with suggestions.

- **Question:** Does UHS provides specific Certificates

- **Answers:**

- There are awards certificates for high achievers.
- There is a High Skills program (special block of the program, will need to do a certain number of extensions/extracurricular activities). If they accomplished that – they will get a special certificate when they graduate. Guidance has this information.
- There are certain other certificates if a student has taken a number of courses.
- Universities are looking at all-around students – well-rounded contributors. UHS wants student to understand school is not just academic.

- **Question:** My kid is in G12, she doesn't have class in period 1 so that she doesn't have a homeroom teacher. Is there any idea to avoid missing important information each time?

- **Answer:**

- All morning announcement is on twitter and is posted on the screens around.

- **Question:** What help is available for first-year students to have a fresh start?

- **Answer:**

- There is a transition team. Starts with elementary school – there are events like “visit the high school day”. The first day of school is just about grade 9 so they feel comfortable. There is also an outing for team building

- **As an Aside and Suggestion:**

- How do parents find out more about the school – suggest to create a Guide Book, for new students and new parents with information such as: who to talk to on what topic, clubs, activities. We can consider online in a PDF file (primarily for parents)
- Consider creating Video for students.
- Need parents' input/support to do.
- Can also consider something similar for students leaving UHS
- FAQ – guidance probably has a lot of this information.
- **TODO:** Mr. Gasaneo will take the lead on this, and look to have this published for the 2020 Sept school year.

- **Question:** How to capture input from parents who cannot come to meetings.

- **Answer:** need to look at what can be done. One possibility is to keep the Padlet app opened every Friday for parents to put in questions/comments.

- **Question:** what are opportunities to volunteer to help?

- **Answer:**

- Please contact the main office for Ms. Chong's personal assistance to proceed with process. There is certain amount of paperwork required.

- **Question:** Do Alumni get involved?

- **Answer:**

- Yes, Alumni do contact the school and sometimes do share.
- It may be good to have them share work experiences, and also have parents attend during this sharing (for information, etc).

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

3. For the Nov meeting – heads of department will come and share (5-7 minute sharing).