

# UHS School Council Meeting

Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025/7:00 PM

## **Agenda:**

- Welcome
- USAC updates
- Subject Department Presentations - Guidance
- School Council Updates
- ADMIN Updates

## **Location**

- Unionville HS Library

## **Minutes**

- **Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Land acknowledgement video was shared at the beginning of the meeting.

- **USAC Updates**

Student representatives from the Events Committee, Anna, Olivia and Mia, presented updates on:

- **Spring Dance**

- It's Unionville's first annual spring dance. Theme options were presented, with "Under the Blossoms" (Cherry Blossoms) winning. The dance will take place on March 6th in the large gym. Booths will be set up to sell snacks and drinks.

- **Hoodie Update**

- Suggestions from parents at the meeting for future merchandise included: Commemorative t-shirt for the school's 40th anniversary celebration/Student-designed items/Stationery/Socks with logos/Baseball caps/Reusable shopping bags/Phone cases and pop sockets.
- Ideas for expanding merchandise sales to alumni/the wider community and potential brand collaborations were suggested.

- **Subject Department Presentations: Guidance**

Guidance, Ms. Riolo, provided a comprehensive overview of course selection processes, including changes to diploma requirements, course pathway types, post-secondary admission requirements, and the use of My Pathway Planner for course selection, with a deadline of February 21st at 4 p.m.

## **Diploma Requirements**

- Current requirements (for students who started high school before September 2024):
  - 18 compulsory credits
  - 12 elective credits
  - Literacy test
  - 40 hours of community involvement
  - Two online learning credits

- New requirements (for students starting high school from September 2024):
  - 17 compulsory credits
  - 13 elective credits
  - Literacy test
  - Financial literacy module
  - 40 hours community involvement
  - Two online learning credits
  
- Online Learning Requirements
  - Students can opt out during course selection period via pathway planner or paper forms available in the Guidance office. Opt-out process requires student and parent/guardian signatures.
  - Online courses cannot be accessed outside of Canada, including during summer travel.
  
- Community Involvement Hours
  - 40 hours of community involvement required for graduation.
  - Students encouraged to have activities pre-approved for eligibility and liability reasons.
  - Forms available in the Guidance office and digitally on the Board website.
  - Completed forms should be returned to Guidance for recording in the system.
  - Students encouraged to complete hours by the end of grade 11.
  - Volunteering opportunities posted in a Google Classroom for students.
  - Deadline for graduating students to submit hours is June 2nd.

#### **Post-secondary admissions requirements**

- Post-secondary admission requirements were listed and discussed for the following categories:
  - University & College degree programs
  - College
  - Apprenticeship
  - World of work

#### **Pathway Programs**

- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program
  - Four sectors offered: Arts and Culture, Business, Health and Wellness, and Information and Communications Technology.
  - Enhances learning for students focusing on a specific sector.
  - Program is free for students, including certifications.
  - Starts in grade 11, with registration during grade 10 course selection.
  
- Cooperative Education Program
  - Ms. Riolo explained that co-op is a requirement for the SHSM program but is also available to non-SHSM students.
  - Placements are available in various fields, including hospitals, physiotherapy offices, pharmacies, elementary schools, technology companies, and woodworking shops.
  - Students can find their own placements or use the school's list of community partners.
  - Co-op is unpaid and counts toward course credits.

- Two-credit co-op runs for one semester, either in the morning (periods 1 and 2) or afternoon (periods 4 and 5).
- Summer school co-op is available but condensed into one month.
- Dual Credit Program
  - Dual credit is offered at their school and across the board.
  - Open to grade 11 and 12 students.
  - Target audience: students who are facing significant challenges in learning and completing their graduation requirements.
  - Aims to re-engage students in school and provide a taste of post-secondary education.
  - Students earn both a high school and a college credit.
  - The program is free, including transportation.

### **Course Selection Process using My Pathway Planner**

- Course selection is done online through My Pathway Planner (also known as My Blueprint).
- Course descriptions are available on the school website under the Guidance tab and course offerings.
- Students access the planner through the YRDSB website using their student number and password.
- Students must submit course selections and send an approval email to parents/guardians.
- Parents/guardians must approve the course selection for it to be processed.
- Course selection opens on February 13th at 9 a.m.
- Deadline for course selection: February 21st at 4 p.m.
- Guidance POP-UP shop located in the atrium periods 2, 3 and 4.

### **Summer School Information**

- Summer school registration typically opens in April.
- Students planning to take summer courses should not select the same course for day school.
- To indicate summer school plans: Complete the Google form to inform guidance counselors
- Summer school courses are recognized as credits by universities, but some prerequisite courses may be discouraged from being taken in summer school.

### **• School Council Updates:**

Dr. Anoosh Sharif thanked fundraising committee and council members for their fundraising efforts. Appreciation was expressed for parents who have offered to help with fundraising efforts.

### **• ADMIN Updates**

- Ms. Susie Nunes highlighted a list of upcoming important dates and deadlines:
  - Exams: Wed. January 22 - Tues., January 28
  - Instructional Day/Lunar New Year: Wed., January 29
  - Exam Review Day: Thurs., January 30
  - PA Day: Fri., January 31
  - Semester 2 Begins: Mon., February 3
  - Caring and Safe School Assemblies: February 10 and 11 (Mon/Tues)
  - Report Card Distribution: February 11 (Tues.) - 13 (Thurs.)
  - Course Selection Opens: February 13 (Thurs.)
  - Course Selection Closes: February 21 (Fri.)

- Ms. Susie Nunes also announced that Vice Principal Patrick Belmonte will be leaving to become principal at Thornlea Secondary School. Ms. Joanne Tang from Bill Crothers Secondary School will be joining as the new Vice Principal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, February 24th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.