



VAUGHAN SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 16th, 2019
Library: 7:00^{PM}

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Camila Abramovich, Anastasia Asastasakos, Karine Benzacar, Rhonda Ber, Lee Birbrager, Danny DeBellis, Farida Dehghan, Elena Duke, Jennifer Fleischer, Raymond Fung (Vice Principal), Elizabeth Gartner, Christine Gomes, George Haim, Michelle Hamer, Dan Horner (Teacher Rep), Fayorn John, Beverly Murray, Maria Maiato (Principal), Marcos Mosnaim, Gisele Ng, Guy Peer (Chair), Carolina Rybnik, Sally Quan, Mila Robin, Anton Skerritt (Vice Principal), Kapil Vaid, Ekaterina Vinokurova, Kai Wang, Lorie Willoughby, Jill Winer, Josephine Wong, Anna Woo, Neil Yancovitch*

1. **Welcome/Greetings**

Maria Maiato (Principal)

- Guy welcomed everyone and people introduced themselves around the table
 - Maria advocated for the payment of the **Student Activity Fee** (\$50)
 - the SAF supports school activities such as Carnival, Clubs/Activities and other school-based extra activities for students
 - there is possibility of making a Donation (*ensure that when donating via the YRDSB is for the funds to be sent to VSS*) VS Activity Fee
 - this option allows for a Tax Receipt to be issued
 - the SAF can be waived for those in financial need
- Maria addressed the purpose of Council
 - the Council is not focussed on fundraising, but rather awareness raising among the parent community
 - the Council is not a venue to speak to specific personal issues, personal concerns or about specific groups (*ie. FI, SHSM*) but rather about global issues that affect all students
 - Maria will be asking the Council about what they'd like to hear about
 - some topics that came up were presentations by the YRP regarding drugs/vaping/consent ➤ Mental Health issues ➤ Bullying ➤ Public Health information
 - OSSLT will be discussed/presented by the Literacy Leads at the relevant time in the year
 - at various times during the year, staff presentations (*ie. School Improvement Planning, etc*) may occur
 - staff is currently working on strategic planning with regards to marginalized students as a focus for this year
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2. School Council Elections

Guy Peer (Chair)

- Guy informed the Council about the role of the Chair
 - meetings are once a month on the 3rd Monday of the month (*unless the Monday is a PA Day or holiday*)
 - ordinarily we will also have a Student Council representative to speak to the student perspective of the life of the school

Chair ~ Guy Peer was nominated and acclaimed

Secretaries ~ Rhonda Ber & Christine Gomes were acclaimed as co-Secretaries

School Council Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

Monday September 16th, 2019

Tuesday October 22nd, 2019 (*Monday is a PA Day*)

Monday November 18th, 2019

Monday January 20th, 2020

Tuesday February 18th, 2020 (*Monday is Family Day*)

Monday April 20th, 2020

Monday June 1st, 2020

3. Teacher Report

Dan Horner (Music/Alt.Ed.)

- no Teacher Report was made at this meeting

4. Principal's Report

Maria Maiato (Principal)

- reviewing the rules of engagement for members of Council
 - addressing the issues of the whole school and understanding the role of Council as an advisory group
 - Administration needs the input of the parent community on various issues

Grade 9 Day

- it was nice to have the families of Gr9 students there
 - parents stayed and chatted with staff about the expectations of the school and were able to visit with the classroom teachers

Friday Fun Day

- Gr9 students went to a neighbourhood park for a day-long series of activities

Timetables

- Guidance has been working very hard to accommodate for schedule changes
 - the process for Course Changes was new this year with an online submission
 - things have settled down now
 - Maria explained more about the timing of the Drop/Waitlist process
 - Semester 2 course changes will be dealt with later in the year

Lockdown on Friday Sept 13th:

- the Lockdown recording came on out of the blue at the end of the day on the 13th
 - no one pressed "the button"

- Maria called the Board and it was determined to be a false alarm; she was told to release the students
- prior to doing that, Administration checked cameras and the outside perimeter
- further investigation is happening to determine the reason for the false alarm
- the **Lockdown** drill (*classrooms are locked and student take cover and stay out of sight*) takes place in Safety Week
 - anyone outside of the building should stay out and not enter during the drill
- the **Hold & Secure** drill (*all exterior doors are locked, but business as usual inside the building*) will also take place that week
- all schools are mandated to have a Lockdown drill once per semester

Administration/Parent Contact

- when the Admin calls a parent, they are usually communicating a serious issue (ie. Vaping)
 - parents are encouraged to use the opportunity to have the conversation and seek positive solutions for the issue rather than becoming defensive

Vice Principal Report

Raymond Fung (Vice Principal)

Safe Schools Assemblies

- the Assemblies were part of the start up process for all grades
- expectations of inclusive, welcoming behaviour were addressed

Safety Week

- will be coming up at the end of September
- drills will take place throughout the week
- this will familiarize students with procedures in preparation for any emergency

Interim Report Cards ➔ **Oct 4th**

Parent Teacher Meetings ➔ **Oct 29th**

- bookings to be made through Edsby
- Vaughan SS is a pilot school for Edsby with reporting and booking done through this new platform

5. Any Questions?

- Are there Teams running this year?
 - Yes, regular school teams are running (although Prep Basketball is not running this year) including a variety of in-school and outside coaching
- What about issues in the parking lot?
 - There continues to be issues with people who stop in the driveway
 - signage has been installed about proper traffic rules
 - there is a possibility of a Police Officer being called
- How do the teachers deal with cellphones in the classroom?
 - Use of devices is at the discretion of the teacher as some use devices, such as phones, for classroom activities

- issues arise when students using their phones inappropriately in the classroom (*ie. texting, gaming*)
- What is the new policy on bathroom breaks?
 - teachers are responsible for their students with IN/OUT passes in each classroom (*please ASK, please WAIT*)
 - this creates an accountability piece and reduces students who were wandering in the hallways and getting into trouble
- What about students having Period 1 or Period 5 Lunch?
 - Maria explained that this can happen (*usually in the older grades*)
 - teachers are usually understanding and allow students to eat during class
- Any info on any potential strikes?
 - currently, there is no news on any strikes
 - Maria expressed that thing will likely be calm until January/February
 - the contract has been up since August 2019
 - there could be a possibility of Work To Rule action
 - How would this affect Prom?
 - Maria posed that volunteers will be in place and that everything would run as usual
 - timing for Prom is usually the first Thursday in June

Maria asked for **Burning Questions** to be addressed at future meetings (*Council members were given sheets that they could pose questions on anonymously ➡ to be collected and addressed at future meetings*)

- items of interest (ie. Presentations)
- Raymond mentioned that an official statement on Vaping from YRP would be coming shortly (*YRP has been asked this September and it is pending*)
 - from an anecdotal viewpoint, more males vaping than females
 - someone suggested the possibility of someone from the Lung Association come to speak about the impacts

The Council will review the **Start-Stop-Continue** template from a few years back

- to be able to understand the concerns and how they have been addressed

Adjourned at 8:21^{PM}

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 22nd, 2019
Minutes prepared by: Christine Gomes