

Jan 23, 2023

School Council Meeting

23 January 2023 / 7:00 PM / Library

Attendees

- Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Nada Kesavan, Peter Wang, Saeed Atcha, Steven T. (Student Rep.), Raghav C. (Student Rep.), Kamla Reid (Teacher Rep.), Kathariny Nagulesapillai (Guest Teacher), Chris Hilmer (Principal), Vera Katyshev (Vice-Principal)
- Regrets: Arslan Ghani (Secretary), Baiju Thomas (Treasurer), Nadia Pinelli (Non-Teacher Rep.), Sanjee Sivanesan (Vice-Principal)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Attendance
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Student Report
5. Featured Department: Math
6. Teacher Report
7. School Council Survey Results + Speakers
8. Admin Report

Land Acknowledgement

- Seema: Reading the Land Acknowledgment and explaining it using the Truth and Reconciliation points

Approval of the Minutes

- Seema moved to accept the meeting minutes from November and Nada seconded them
- Seema moved to accept the agenda from November and Nada seconded them

Student Report

- Talent show was a success
- Outline of events for Valentine's Day

Featured Department: Math

- Kathariny explained about Math Flowchart/Pathway, Math Help Room during lunch, De-streaming math support teacher role, Peer Tutors and volunteer hours, Math Contests (Pascal/Cayley Fermat on Feb 22, Euclid Contest-April 4 and Fryer/Galois/Hypatia-April 5), and Math Club: MMHS Math Society- In this math club they practice for competitions and solve challenging problems under a timed environment
- Questions about EQAO and new formatting and removal of long answer questions from EQAO
- Questions about courses and which ones shifted to de-streamed and the consequences of this move on students and their progress
- Discussion about motivating all students not just IB students to join the math club and math help

Teacher Report

- Teacher report by Kamla:
- Report about visual arts:
 - Students from Personal Alternative Education updated and extended the frames at the front of the school. The first showing in the frames involves Grade 9-12 Visual Arts students representing the school community with a series of portraits in diverse stylistic approaches.
- Gr. 12 Photo students have an upcoming show at Gallery 44, Centre for Contemporary Photography, entitled EMERGENCE from February 10-20, with a closing reception from noon-3 pm on February 20, Family Day.
- LLC in the library: 1. Readathon last month was a huge success: Over \$400 was raised toward our Library Bursary, which will help one of our more financially needy students offset postsecondary costs. Applications become available in early May.
- We also hope to run a second Readathon in later April/early May to add even more funds.
- Black Excellence Month is almost here. We welcome your participation and ideas. A planning meeting will take place in the back of the Library on Tuesday at lunch (noon).
- A compilation of student work was shown with black and white images and explained about each piece.

School Council Actions

- Sunita explained the survey results that were open to parents of students from grades 9-12
- Only 23 parents participated, the highest participation from grade 9 parents.
- External Speakers" was the top 1st choice (43.5%)
- "Awareness sessions for YRDSB/Tools" was the next top choice (39%)
- Parents want to see more talks about university education and better parenting strategies
- Overall, more motivation is needed to get parents engaged in the school and tell the school more specifics about what type of workshops they want the school to run i.e University applications and explanations

- The next step will be to have a parenting-themed session using the PRO grant
- SC can work with guidance on tools and awareness
- Seema is proposing a strongmindstrongkids.org workshop for parent and caregiver master class in stress management, which will cost 500\$ for 100 participants, discussing whether it should be a hybrid, in-person, or entirely online.
- Looking more at survey results and seeing what type of workshops parents want i.e new and uprising industries, possibly even using some of the parent council members to conduct the workshops themselves
- Seema will be following up on the strongmindstrongkids.org workshops
- Decision to pilot have the March School Council Meeting begin at 6:30 pm and also potentially hybrid in order to have more students participate

Administrator Reports

- Report from Vera
- Exam Week – Inclement Weather plan – Exam Feedback Day
- OSSLT
- EQAO Math
- Textbook Collection
- Report from Chris
- Exams- Students are tense, some at-home communication might be needed to allow them to relieve stress about how exams are similar to tests
- OSSLT Student Reports and EQAO reports will be given out to students in the following weeks
- IB offers- 116 acceptance sfuture grade 9 IB students
- February 3rd is a PA day - Violence prevention training for teachers in the school
- Course Selection begins in February, important students choose alternates as not all courses are guaranteed to run
- School Council Forum- run by the board, all the Markham Schools both elementary and secondary will be held at Markham District H.S, there will likely be a keynote speaker and workshops that parents can choose to go to- Thursday, February 16th 5:00 – 8:30pm at Markham District High School
- Graduation will now be on Tuesday June 27 Brighton Convention Centre, only 2 tickets/student – Grad Fee of \$75 must be paid by March 31

Action Items

1. The School Council is moving the meeting to 6:30 pm for March
2. Looking into booking a parent workshop at strongmindstrongkids.org
3. Maybe try a hybrid version of the School Council meeting
4. Add the agenda on the school bulletin board and link to the school website as well
5. Share the School Council Chair e-mail with families

Next Meeting

- Monday, March 20