

October 17, 2022

School Council Meeting

17 October 2022 / 7:00 PM / Library

Attendees

- Parents: Saeed Atcha, Nada, Minnie, Peter, Jack Sun, Shansha Chen, Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Arslan Ghani (Secretary)
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer (Principal), Vera Katyshev (Vice-Principal)
- Teacher Representative: Kamla Reid (Head, Science Department)
- Student Representatives: Emily and Violet
- Regrets: Baiju Thomas (Treasurer), Sanjee Sivanesan (VP)

Agenda

- Call to order – 7:07 PM
- Welcome & Attendance - Sunita
- Land Acknowledgement - Sunita
- Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from September Meeting – Arslan moved, Shansha seconded

Student Report

- Emily shared information about Student Activity Council (SAC) Spirit Week which runs from October 31 – November 04.
- Violet shared information about the upcoming Semi-Formal on November 17, which will be open to all students at Milliken plus a high school guest under 21. A bake sale is planned to raise funds to support the event.

Department Introduction: Science

- Dr. Reid shared information on MMHS Science Program.
- Various science programs are being offered at MMHS, such as the new de-streamed Grade 9 science program, SHSM & Science.
- Dr. Reid explained the numerous courses, and the codes assigned to these courses.
- She also shared information on the new de-streamed science program for Grade 9.
- She spoke about the importance of STEM and equity in sciences to include marginalized voices.
- Dr. Reid explained the various aspects of cross-curricular and integrated learning.

School Council Goals

- Sunita spoke about some of the goals for the School Council, such as mental health and well-being, equity and inclusivity, literacy, supporting ESL and IEP students.
- The Council will apply for the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant when the applications are open.
- Seema suggested to try to guide students on applying for scholarships. Mr. Hilmer mentioned that the guidance department held a presentation last year to help students with scholarships as well as university admissions applications.
- Sunita suggested to guide students about the possible career paths. Dr. Reid mentioned that old students visit the school to provide guidance.
- Sunita asked about specific school requirements that the council can help with. Mr. Hilmer mentioned setting up a mobile lab of 30 Chromebooks. Dr. Reid suggested to acquire 25-30 Micro Bit.
- Arslan mentioned that many parents can't make it to the Council meeting. It might be beneficial if the school can send out a Google Form to all parents to collect suggestions and input on the topics for Council to focus on.

Teacher Report

- Dr. Reid thanked the parents for the opportunity to teach the students face-to-face this year.
- Drama department is presenting a mystery theatre show.
- Science department will resume the mandatory IDBP project for Grade 12 students. The students will visit the Ontario Science Center genetic engineering lab for some exciting projects.

Administrators' Reports

- Mr. Hilmer talked about the administrator profile required by the board to fulfill future administrative positions in school. A copy of the current profile was provided to the council and will be finalized with any additions or modifications at the November meeting.
- Ms. Katyshev spoke about mental well-being. She shared information on social workers for young Black girls, Chinese students, and all students in general.
- OSSLT assemblies will be held to prepare the students for the test.
- For students who need help to prepare for OSSLT, an after-school literacy program will start the week of October 24. It will run twice a week for 10 sessions.
- School social workers Melanie Brooks and Rebecca Sheluk arrange a weekly mental health group to deal with anxiety.
- Photo Retake Day will be October 25.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews will be on October 26.
- Progress reports will be emailed by October 20.
- Mid-term reports will be sent out between November 18-22.
- November 2 is 'Take Our Kids to Work' Day for all Grade 9 students. Grade 8 students will visit MMHS the same day.

- IB application window will be open from October 14 to November 7.
- IB intake assessment will be held on November 16 and 19.
- October 21 is a PA Day. Staff will learn about mental health, anti-discrimination, de-streaming programs etc.)
- University/College Fair will be held at the school on November 23 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. All parents and students are welcome to attend.
- Grade 8 Open House for students and parents will be on November 30.
- Mr. Hilmer provided an update on a recent accident in school where a student was injured.
- Parents need to follow the rules during drop-off and pick-up. Pay attention to the fire route and no parking/stopping signs. Breaking these laws can result in parking tickets from the city.
- The cafeteria is not open yet due to equipment maintenance and staff shortage which is being handled by the new company that has the contract with the board.

Action Items

- Seema suggested to arrange a food sale such as pizza by the slice until the cafeteria opens. It will help raise funds for the Council.

Next Meeting: November 21

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

