

Milliken Mills High School
School Council Meeting #2 – Monday, October 18, 2021
Virtual Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM
Minutes by Peter Wang

1. Opening of Meeting

- Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement and Indigenous learning (The Three Sisters – corn, beans, and squash – they work together to support one another – Principal Hilmer hopes that the school, parents and students can work together to continue to improve student achievement and well-being)
- Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from September Meeting (Shanshan Chen moved to approve Agenda; Hirosh Abeywardane seconded; Michelle Pan moved to accept Minutes; Tasneem Kassam seconded)
- Attendance was taken:
Present for all or part of the meeting: Ally Zhao, Arwen C. (Student Rep), Baiju Thomas (Vice-Chair), Celine C. (Student Rep), Christopher Hilmer (Principal), Dong Xia Wang (Chair), Fang Chen, Frank Yang, Guoyin Wang, Hirosh Abeywardane, Irene Petrou (Guidance Counsellor), Jenny Zhou, Kamla Reid (Teacher Rep), Karen Luo, Michelle Zhang (Treasurer), Nada Kesavan, Nadia Pinelli (Non-Teaching Staff Rep.), Peter Wang (Secretary), Sanjee Sivanesan (Vice-Principal), Shanshan Chen, Shirley Liu, Sophie Zhang, Susan Ci, and Tasneem Kassam.
Regrets: Dawn Imada Chan (Vice-Principal).

2. Student Report

- Celine C. and Arwen C. presented on behalf of Student Council.
- Club fairs was held both virtually for remote learners and at school during lunchtime where representatives and presidents for 26 clubs promoted their clubs; great success with large student attendance and lots of energy.
- A Spirit Week will take place from Oct 25-29 for greater school spirit.
 - One different event to take place each day – battle of the grades – prize at end.
- A new Google Classroom has been set up just for Student Council announcements – students and teachers; report important info and club info, including list of clubs, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program requirements.
 - Note that Access to all Google Classrooms is through students’ GAPPS account.
- SHSM program: 3 sectors; 5 programs must be completed.

3. Department Presentation – Guidance

- Irene Petrou presented on behalf of the Guidance department, which comprises Ms. Kim, Mrs. Saweriss (Guidance Head), and Mrs. Lee (Guidance Secretary).
- “Guidance Corner” is a Google Classroom where students and parents can find all kinds of guidance-related information.
- Getting an appointment with the guidance department must use the TeachAssist tool.

- Reasons for an appointment: choosing courses, pathway planning, Q&A, post-secondary admissions requirements; difficulties in studies, applying to secondary programmes, and mental health issues.
 - There are community resources available: YRDSB social worker, Hong Fook Mental Health Association (Asian family help), Family Services York Region, 310-COPE (community crisis response services), Kids Help Phone, Mind Beacon (counselling by professionals 24/7 online).
 - SHSM Program (for grades 10-12) – specialist high skills major
 - Student can participate in programs for real life experience; school credits + certifications and training courses + “Reach ahead” experiences and activities.
 - Dual Credit program: allows college and high school credit to be obtained simultaneously – fully funded with no cost to student – for grades 11 and 12 – about 3 hours weekly – conducted online.
 - Ms. Petrou discussed major guidance-related events/activities for each month of the coming school year.
4. Introductory Activity (Principal Hilmer)
- Principal Hilmer led an example of in-class activities to develop a sense of community - Giraffe and bow tie: high or low position.
5. School Council Goals for the Year (Dong Xia Wang)
- To outreach to parents to develop sense of community; to build a strong communication strategy – build new ones in addition to existing ones (email, website).
 - Send suggestions by email to Dong directly once her YRDSB email address has been provided.
 - Organize workshop for parents – email Dong with ideas for workshop – Principal Hilmer notes that there is a list of approved speakers; workshop last year was for mental health wellbeing.
 - Uncertain if Parents Reaching Out Grant to support school council activities is available this year (possibly to be announce by end of November). The grant of \$500, if received, can be used to run the workshop.
6. Teacher Report (Dr. Kamla Reid)
- September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – showed respect to elders by wearing orange and pins.
 - Indigenous Garden and Planters – working with indigenous educators, all departments, and students.
 - Student Success Referrals – the idea is to intervene early with struggling students.
 - IB Information Session posted at school website
 - Application window open October 15 at 9:00 AM to November 10 at 9:00 AM, with intake assessments for applicants to take place on November 18 (6 to 8 PM) and November 20 (9 to 11 AM) – an applicant can choose either time.
7. Administration Reports (Principal Christopher Hilmer and Vice-Principal Sanjee Sivanesan)

Principal Hilmer

- IB Information: go to MMHS school website for video, slide deck, and FAQ.
- Assessment to be based on (1) gr. 7 report card; (2) student's personal digital portfolio (what makes them unique); and (3) synchronous assessment (ideas and writing skills, math, and French) – to be conducted virtually but with camera on.
- Grade 12 IB students are in their final stages of essay – teachers are mentors.
- November 10 East Area School Council Forum: all schools in the area – if interested in participating, then email Principal Hilmer for details – to be conducted virtually in the evening - any parent can attend.
- York Hills will do a presentation to Grade 9 classes on November 16 and 17 with the objective to teach how to recognize mental health problems.
- Transportation: Principal Hilmer is looking into traffic flow; he asks parents to be patient, kind, courteous, and safety conscious – should be role models for students; parents don't have to pick up in front of school and can use neighbouring community centre parking lot and streets; students can also be picked up later than 3:15 PM.
- At the request of Principal Hilmer, York Region Transportation Operations will look at extending the timing of traffic lights at the two intersections of Highglen Avenue and Kennedy Road as well as at Lee Avenue and Kennedy Road.

Vice-Principal Sivanesan

- Parent Teacher interviews will be conducted remotely on November 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM; during Oct. 20-26 Board will be distributing progress report.
- Booking for interviews will commence using Edsby from October 25-29; teacher will be in touch for timing; info posted at school website under "News and Events" tab; translation into Mandarin and Cantonese will be made available if requested in advance; teachers will make translation arrangements; any other language should contact Vice-Principal Imada Chan or school; volunteer translators are welcome to contact the school.

8. Chair's Report and Mailbag

- No mail

9. Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn moved by Baiju Thomas and seconded by Peter Wang.

Meeting ended at 8:54 pm.