

Milliken Mills HS School Council

Meeting #1 – Monday, September 18, 2023

Library, 7:00 p.m. in person

Attendees

- Parents: Sunita Bhagwat, Arslan Ghani, Baiju Thomas, Flora Bao, Saeed Atcha, Hirosh Abeywardane, Angela Lu, Mehnaz Fazal, Nada Kesavan, Parani Vins, Seema Shahjahan, Catherine Chen, Asma Anwar, Richard Kuo, Shunfang He, Jenny Fung
- Administration: Christopher Hilmer, Sanjee Sivanesan, Vanessa Wonnacott
- Student Representatives: SAC President Pedram T. and SAC Vice-president Rosalyn T.
- Teacher Representative: Natalie White
- Regrets: Nadia Pinelli (non-teaching representative)

Opening of the Meeting

- Welcome to attendees
- Introductions of School Administration and Staff – Chris, Vanessa, Sanjee, Natalie
- Introduction of Past Executive: Sunita Bhagwat (Chair), Seema Shahjahan (Vice-Chair), Arslan Ghani (Secretary), Baiju Thomas (Treasurer)
- Introduction of Student Representatives
- Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
- Reviewed meeting norms - take attendance, can take meetings notes, do not record or take pictures, be respectful of member viewpoints, Listen attentively with the intent to understand others
- Agenda posted on school website
- Approval of the Agenda - Sunita moved to accept the agenda, Arslan seconded the motion
- Last school council meeting was in May 2023 - Baiju moved to accept the May meeting minutes and Seema seconded the motion

Student Report

- Rosalyn and Pedram shared information about Grade 9 Rep Elections. Applications for Grades 10-12 will take place in the Spring.
- SAC is also planning the following events:
 - Semi-formal - Nov 9
 - Spirit Week in October
 - Talent Show in December
- MMHS offers many clubs. Information about clubs can be found on the school website.
- Information about SAC can be found on:
 - **Instagram Username:** @milliken_sac
 - **Google Classroom (grades 9 & 10):** wi4hpqx
 - **Google Classroom (grades 11 & 12):** eolcdbf

Teacher Report

- Natalie White, IB Coordinator, shared an overview of the IB Program

- Students study 6 subjects over 2 years - English, French, science, math, economics/history/geography, arts (theatre arts or visual arts) or additional science
- Students will graduate with IB Diploma and Ontario Diploma
- IB will be conducting their evaluation visit this month. Staff, students and parents will meet IB Examiners. Parent session will take place on Sept 28, 3:30-4:00 pm.
- Parents can find IB information on Google Classroom, ManageBac, and mid-semester and end-of-semester newsletters
- Grade 11/12 IB students attended an IB orientation at Green Acres, where they discussed CAS, EE and TOK, as well as collaborative leadership
- Upcoming dates:
 - Sept 28-29 - IBO visit
 - Oct 12 - IB Info Night for Grade 8 Students/Parents
- General IB questions were answered.

Library Learning Commons

- Amrita Bhat is the new Head of Library
- The library is open at 8:20am, lunch, and closes at 4pm
- Students can use the library for quiet study, to print, to meet with friends to do quiet activity (i.e. playing board game), or to take out books
- Upcoming projects in the library include expanding the MakerSpace to include coding, robotics and STEM projects
- The library would like to expand its collection of multilingual books, specifically in Mandarin, Tamil, Arabic and Spanish. Teen-appropriate donations (i.e. books, current magazines) can be dropped off at the main office

Introductory Activity

Parents asked to answer icebreaker questions in table/mixed groups. Questions:

- If you could spend time with any character from a movie, TV show or book, who would it be? Why?
- What sport would you compete in if you were in the Olympics?
- If money and time were no object, what would you be doing right now?

School Council Elections

- School Council provides advice on school improvement planning, school-based services and community partnerships, and administrator profile. It also engages in outreach activities such as developing a sense of community, communication strategies, workshops/seminars, planning/fundraising, etc.
- School Council works collaboratively to make decisions by consensus or voting, and act as an advisory group
- School Council is not: to complain about a teacher or singular event, to promote a certain program, or to advocate for own children
- School Council is composed of parents, the principal, a teacher, a support staff, one community rep, and a student rep
- From membership, we elect a chair, vice-chair, sec, and treasurer who serve for a one-year term
- Shared dates of upcoming School Council meetings. There must be a min. of 4 meetings per year. Possibility of 2 online meetings in January and March. We will not have hybrid meetings this year.
- Reviewed roles:

- Chair - Works collaboratively with principal to set agendas, chairs meetings and works collaboratively with members to assign duties
- Vice-Chair supports and assists the Chair
- Secretary records attendance and takes minutes, and shares minutes with principal for distribution
- Treasurer manages finances and reports on accounts
- Members participate and encourage participation, and act as eyes and ears of the community
- More information can be found on website (i.e. school council handbook, MMHS School Council Constitution)
- Richard Kuo, Parani Vins, Sunita Bhagwat were nominated for Chair. They shared why they wanted to be part of School Council. Sunita Bhagwat was elected.
- Seema Shahjahan and Catherine Chen nominated for Vice-chairs. They shared why they wanted to be vice-chair. Seema Shahjahan elected.
- Arslan Ghani was nominated and appointed for Secretary.
- Catherine Chen was nominated and appointed for Treasurer.

Administration Report

- Reviewed past and upcoming events: Grade 9 Day (parent presentation on school website), Caring and Safe School Assemblies, Start-up forms (due this week), PA Day (Sept 22), Safety Week (Sept 25-29), Photo Days (Sept 27 & 28), Orange Shirt Day (Sept 29) and Terry Fox Run/Walk (Oct 3)
- Parents were reminded to subscribe to CASL by going to school website and providing their email address
- Fire routes were reviewed with parents. Parents are not permitted to park in the fire route (anywhere along driveway) and may receive a ticket from the City of Markham.
- Students are reminded to self-assess daily using the COVID screening tool.
www.ontario.ca/self-assessment
- The Ministry of Education's 'Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act' was presented
 - Achievement of outcomes in core academic skills
 - Preparing students for future success
 - Student engagement and well-being
- Guidance counselors and alpha assignment were shared with parents
- French extra help is available every Thursday in room 224
 - Period 3 from 12:10-12:40 pm
 - Period 4 from 1:40-2:10 pm
- Other updates:
 - Camp Robin Hood for Grade 9's, \$50 due this Friday
 - Interim Reports Cards (Oct 17-18)
 - Parent-Teacher Interviews (Oct 25 at 6:30-8:30pm). Communication coming soon.
 - Midterm Reports (Nov 20-22)
 - SAC Semi-Formal (Nov 9)
 - Grade 8 Open House (Nov 29 at 6:30-8:30pm)
- Upcoming meetings: Monday, October 16, 2023, Monday, November 20, 2023, Monday, January 22, 2024 (possibly online), Monday, March 18, 2024 (possibly online), Tuesday, May 21, 2024
- Sunita adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm

Next meeting: Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.