



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY November 25, 2020

Microsoft Teams Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting – Mrs. Sharma, School Council Chair
Participants: 8 parents, 3 students, 2 teachers, principal (S. Khan) and vice-principal (B. Bissell)

Confirmation of Agenda

Statement of Consent to recording of the meeting – *not done*. It isn't possible to share the recorded meetings using Microsoft Teams/TVDSB accounts.

2. Approval of the Minutes from last meeting of October 7, 2020

Note: the meeting was recorded.

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/1f336b08-a7cf-4a05-827f-882f73aa207e>

Unfortunately, we aren't able to share the recorded meeting with people without TVDSB accounts. Minutes of the October 6, 2020 will need to be created after a review of the video.

3. Business arising from minutes/last meeting

- Art Therapy workshops: Stephanie Hull
Dates: Jan 12, Feb 2, Feb 23, April 13
Time: 6-7 PM
Cost: \$105 per hour; **free to parents to participate**
Parent PC is supportive of the idea for Art Therapy sessions and is interested in supporting this.
- Sub-Committees – Vice Chair, Mr. Kadi: Health & Safety (COVID-19), Art, Science committees
 - Short discussion occurred; is there any interest from parents to create any sub-committees? None identified at this time.

4. Review of guidelines for online meetings.

Do a roll call and ask participants to turn camera on (even if just briefly) if they are able. We will request all participants to identify themselves verbally and, if possible, visually.

Short discussion about the equity lens needed to not have barriers for parent involvement. It was acknowledged that some parents find it difficult to use video and maintain a good internet connection. It is also important to recognize that not everyone is comfortable being seen on camera and people may not want to keep the camera on for the full meeting.

Appropriate etiquette for on-line meetings includes using appropriate language, discussing that we try to maintain secure Internet connections, that we encourage all participants to engage in the conversation and share ideas and opinions.

5. Reports

- **Student Report**

3 Student Council members shared what's been going on at Saunders Hallowe'en fun via Instagram, World Kindness Day was recognized by sharing motivational quotes with each student
Grade 9 Fun Day – virtual event; the gaming session went well
Movember – video posted “Shout Out to my Bro”; supporting the men in our lives; educating about mental health as well as prostate cancer; raising \$ on the Movember website; had a draw for a gift.

Upcoming events: Cookies and Chat – Student Council members will join in a virtual meeting with students to make cookies (via Zoom); Sabres' Spirit Days – every Friday students are encouraged to wear their Sabre gear.

In December – Holiday/getting ready for winter break activities; see the Instagram page for information

Student Council and SAA are teaming up to support each other in planning events for the year.

- **Teacher Member Report – Ms. Joyce Franklin: Technological Studies Department**
Ms. Franklin shared a presentation about Technological Studies and the need for skilled trades people in Canada; why should students take Technology courses? To become self-reliant; to understand principles of STEM; to learn the value of perseverance; students can identify their strengths; to explore skilled trades.
Presentation shared on School Council webpage.

- **School Administration Report – see attached report**

- **Treasurer's Report – Funding and Future Applications**
Nil report

6. New Business

- **Guidance Department Update:**

- (i) **Communication with Students & Families**

Using variety of modes – websites (Saunders and Guidance) with monthly updates/newsletter, Instagram, morning in-school announcements, Google Classrooms for College, University and Apprenticeship pathways, school sign.
A new website is being created which is designed to be usable on a mobile phone, a computer or a tablet; it will be live in mid-December. It is open source so anyone can access the information.

- (ii) **Pathway Report**

Scholarship information sessions were held in October; the recorded session is available on the Saunders Guidance website
Dec 8 – virtual presentation by Skills Ontario

Feb 1 – College application deadline; this is an important date for those program which receive a lot of applicants and are more competitive

Jan 15 – deadline for University applications

CoVID-19 silver lining take-away – virtual platforms have been revamped and are well used; we have decreased some barriers for students accessing assistance and information.

(iii) **Upcoming: Grade 8 Transitions, Course Selection for 2021-22**

Dec 10 – Grade 8 guidance lead virtual meeting to share initial information about registration

Up to Dec. 14 – student contest to log into MyBlueprint and update some information; a draw for a tablet or gift card for those who participate.

Jan – Feb 12 – Course selections for the 2021-2022 school year.

Volunteer Hours Idea – creating cards for senior citizens in our community

- **Email notification updates – Chair, Mrs. M. Sharma**
Question asked if the current method of Saunders office staff communicating via email with parents about the date and time of School Council meetings and having people contact the office for link to the meeting works; participants felt it is a good method so we will continue.
- **Art Therapy Update**
Dates are Jan. 12, Feb. 2 & 23 , April 13 from 6-7 PM
They will be virtual sessions; max of 10 people per session.
Poster will be distributed to parents during December and a Google form will gather interest from parents for each of the dates.
The session could be repeated if different parents sign up; they could also be sequential if the same people sign up for different dates.
- **Parent Involvement Grants – a brief discussion on the different funding available for School Councils. \$500 per year with no grant application needed; to be used to communicate with and engage parent participation with the school.**
Parent Engagement Funds – an application process each year. Sometimes two opportunities to apply in a year, depending on funding available.
- **TVDSB Policies and Procedures for Public Input –**
Privacy Breach Protocol – has been updated
- **Chair M. Sharma shared information about the Province’s School Council policies.**
Questions:
Can community members participate in School Councils? Yes.
-participants felt it was more important to encourage parent participation, not as important to recruit community members to participate

Chair Sharma also shared points about fundraising, meeting minutes being available to parents at no charge, having meeting minutes available for several years.

Sub-committees of School Council – Chair Sharma led a discussion about this. Could Saunders School Council have its own bylaws? Yes. Other schools do. Parents would need to be made aware of them. It was suggested the group review bylaws created by other schools to determine if they would be useful. It was noted that TVDSB School Council Leadership Guide is based on the Ministry of Education policies.

It was determined that the goal of Saunders' School Council is to be a forum for parents and bylaws may not be useful or helpful at this time.

One suggested bylaw: Familiarize yourself or review the TVDSB policies and procedures and declare that you have read and understand them. (for parents to complete if participating in School council)

Reminder: we do not want to put up any barriers to participation.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:02 PM

Future Meetings:

- January 20, 2021
- March 3, 2021
- May 5, 2021

Goals for this School Council – 2019-2020 School Year.

- i. Support parent involvement through providing opportunities to acquire information/knowledge to support their child;
- ii. Provide an arena for direct consultation between administration and parents on school and board affairs;
- iii. Provide timely information to parents on Saunders school year events, important dates;
- iv. Provide a social environment for parents of Saunders students to congregate.