

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Opening Meeting 7:03 pm

1. Attendance:

Principal: Mrs. Sarah Khan

Vice Principal: Mr. George Bullas

Chair: Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma

Teacher Representatives: Ms. Franklin, Ms. Harrington and Ms. Angie Roth

Student Representatives: Mia and Lauren

Guest: Ms. Stephanie Hull

2. Parent Members and Introductions:

Kim parent of Grade 9 student, Kathrine Draper Quinn parent of Grade 10 student and Jen L.

3. Correction on the website to remove the name of Vice Chair, since he has been away for two meetings.

4. Student Council Report.

Events and activities:

April and May nature photographs contest, art and baking contest, bingo challenge marathon; lots of participation, mental health study tips, trivia Tuesday included teacher participation
TikTok account set up to increase presence across different platforms.

Where is the Sabre? (dress up all around London); Sabre deliveries – to include full remote learners in school community. Easter deliveries & teacher deliveries; socially distanced photos taken.

Future: May department contest, favourite department help win points; Sabre Surprises – will drop into Google meet; pet photo competition; Teacher Feature Fridays – posting throwback videos of life before the pandemic.

Multicultural cookbook was created in March and Council will share with students and families.

Ms. Khan: Amazing job during a tough year; kept Council going; student council shared news and updates with student population quickly

Kim Seguin: Appreciate the cookbook, thank you.

Leah H: Staff Advisory every Tuesday night from Student Council and additional hours volunteered for other events. 800 Instagram followers; year book revived after a few years without one; this year 200 in print.

5. Guest: Ms. Hull, Registered Psychologist (Art Therapist,)

-four art therapy sessions provided to the parents at Saunders SS

-she works with children, adolescent and parents, couples, etc...

child routine, couple communication skills

- check for parents who want to support teens and have compassion for teens during Covid 19

restrictions; impact on teens of limiting social and relationship skills. Utilization of handouts during her session to explain values, feelings, storytelling and analyzing the impact of feelings on self. Available next year for similar funded sessions, provided there is availability of resources.

6. School Administration Report

Welcome to Mr. George Bullas: New Vice Principal at Saunders S.S.

-previously was vice-principal at Huron Park S. S. in Woodstock; has worked in TVDSB Math Portfolio and taught at Laurier S. S.

Questions for Administration:

Mia: Would like an outside Graduation, stage outside, if possible.

Meenakshi Sharma: Westmount Parking Lot Recommendation for drive through graduation without a gathering, board permitting.

Kim Seguin: Board directives for such a graduation?

Ms. Khan: Not any theme recommendation from the board; all schools have to plan a virtual graduation similar to last year.

7. Teacher's Report.

Ms. Franklin: Teachers are being flexible, it's been a difficult transition to quad 4; helping students learn to be more independent and help them explore what works for them as learners

-what are the kids doing? 24/7 in bedrooms, kitchen or basement so missing life balance;

-activity & sleep is important

-sometimes moms and dads come and say hello to teachers when online,

-some thrive in virtual environment, some don't,

-teachers encouraging participation in school and are being emotionally supportive.

Ms. Harrington: Relay for Life is June 3rd

A donation is a Grad gift possibility

Saunders has been fundraising for 20 yrs.

This year, Relay For Life will be virtual events that are student run

Saunders Committee Fundraising -Kelsey Cares night, Byron Pizza Campaign.

Mia's Talk on Cancer.

Meenakshi: Support group for students (follow up from last meeting)?

Sarah: Guidance counsellor and social worker teachers supporting, every week provide resources. Teachers look for signs of disengagement and sadness; reach out to parents and other staff.

Meenakshi: What if students are unable to ask?

Ms. Franklin: 100 to 121 kids 15 to 25 kids to watch the entire week for a teacher, if the kids have issues teacher takes an action. Impacted student are found immediately. Group therapy: kids are compassionate with each other.

8. Newsletter Approval, proposed by Meenakshi Sharma: Jen likes the idea, no one against the idea, therefore approved. **Newsletter for Saunders School Council, twice a year.**

9. Stepping down from Chair position, I (Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma) am stepping down from Chair's position Meenakshi Sharma's explanation for the next year's election process, website as a resource, **section 3.3 of** <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>,

10. Next year Chair recommendation: Kim Seguin, **Art Therapy Chair:** Ms. Lynne to continue.

11. Parents have to self nominate for School Council positions according to section 3.3 of Ontario School Council Handbook. Meetings are every first Wednesday of every other month starting from October, November (due to Christmas December meeting is scheduled in November,) January, March, May12.

9:01 pm meeting closed.