**AY Jackson Secondary School Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

Meeting convened at 6:00 pm

Action Items:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Action | Who | When | Status |
| Culture Equity feedback | Email the survey to all parents | Jack Wang | ASAP | Complete |
| Culture Equity feedback | Complete and send back to Mr. Paptutsis | All parents  | Before Nov. 20 |  |
| Side walk extension | Email Mr. Paptutsis for discussion | Wilson Kwan | Before the next meeting |  |
| Student Safety | Discuss concerns with the councilor for international students | Mr. Paptutsis | Report back at the next meeting |  |
| Speaker series | Contact Mr. Paptutsis if they have suggestions | All parents  | Ongoing |  |

1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Principal Paputsis and all parent attendees)
2. **Call for Items of New Business** (Principal Paputsis**)**

2.1 Student safety (Jack Wang)

2.2 Missing items (Rana Addasi)

1. **School Report** (Principal Paputsis)

3.1 Focus of the school: in the first couple of months, the school has been focusing on meeting TDSB’s compliance requirement on class size. The school has the flexibility of 10% above the mandatory cap and that means 30 courses out of the 300 courses that A. Y. Jackson offers. The school has brought in 2 extra teachers. Instrumental and vocal music get exemptions from the requirement. Physical education and drama may be exempted as well.

3.2 Initial enrollment status: TDSB provides full funding for schools that have 85% of enrollment rate. Schools with less than 65% enrollment rate will be monitored for redundancy. Currently, A.Y. Jackson is at 99.1% capacity and that translates into 1070 students. A.Y will get its next year’s enrollment projection in January. The deadline for applying to optional attendance is Jan. 28, 2018. The school has to report back to the Board before Feb. 18.

Parent’s questions:

Question: Re gifted classes, what grades will it cover?

Answer: Grade 9 to grade 12

Question: Re international students, are they considered optional attendance?

Answer: They are separate from the optional attendance. The International Office at TDSB puts international students where there is space. The students are assigned based on their home stay area. A. Y. Jackson has special staffing for these students.

Question: Will some of the special programs be phased out at TDSB, such as gifted program, IB?

Answer: No.

3.3 Culture Equity survey: a survey looking for feedback from parents on school climate, class instruction, etc.

3.4 School events:

 -Battle of the Bands in Oct, very successful with a good turn out

 -Parents Info Night: Science and Music put on great work to impress parents and promising students.

 -December will see various fund raising events, Holiday Helper (with the police)

3.5 Delayed pathways:

 -TDSB’s new approach to provide students more options by eliminating the applied level subjects in grade 9 so students are not forced into an option before they have an opportunity to experience their high school courses. The intent of the new approach is to raise the level of requirements and expectations for all courses rather than lowering them for the academic courses.

 -A. Y. Jackson will consider offering its English course at academic level in Sept. 2018 and math in Sept. 2019.

1. **School Council Business** (Principal Paputsis)

4.1 Confirmation of Council positions

 Executive Positions for School Council are:

* Chair/Co-Chair: Jack Wang and Wendy Huang
* Treasurer: Catherine Peng
* Secretary: Shengnan Ma

Parent Representatives: Rana Al Kassem Addasi, Wilson Kwan, Lorraine Hidida- Kwan, Marueen Hylton, Bogdan Safmarean, Alex Aghayan

4.2 Speaker series: if any parents have any suggestions, please send them to Mr. Paputsis and he will distribute to the parents.

4.3 Upcoming School Council dates:

• Thurs. Jan. 11, 2018 7:00 pm (Gr 9-12 Course Selection)

• Tues. Apr. 24, 2018 6:30 pm

• Tues. May 29, 2018 6:30 pm

1. **New Business:**

5.1 Student safety: Jack Wang brought up the recent scams targeting Chinese students. The victims received phone calls asking them to hide if they didn’t want their loved ones in China were harmed. As a result, these students disappeared for days without letting their parents, friends or guardians know what happened to them. On the other hand, their parents were asked to pay ransom to get them back.

 There was discussion on emergency contact info and plan to deal with future situations should any students go missing. Jack also suggested a buddy system to pair a student’s parent who doesn’t live with their child in Toronto with another parent who does. Mr. Paputsis advised that A. Y. Jackson has a counselor for international students and he will bring the concerns to the counselor and discuss options.

5.2 Lost items: Rana Addasi brought up the concerns that early in the school year, there were various things got lost, such as bags, phones, and lockers are not seen as safe. Mr. Paputsis states that students who bring in valuable items should be very vigilant on protecting their valuables and not leave them unattended at any time. He also assures that locker break-ins are very rare. More often than not, it’s the students who forgot to lock their lockers but claim that they’ve locked them. Mr. Paputsis says the school can do mild investigations especially if there are witnesses and can provide statement. But the most effective way would be for students to keep a close eye on their own belongings at all times.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

**Next Meeting: Jan. 11, 2018 at 7PM**