



Zion Heights MS – School Council Meeting #4

Wednesday January 26, 2022
6:30 PM to 7:30PM

Attendance

Principal Chi Le, teacher Mr. Singh, Ms. Helen Corulas, June Leung, Aaron Iravani, Terri Wen-Ying Sung, Chickita Ngo, Dickson Liu, Seelan Visva, Jean Paul Ngana, Banasha Shah, Mojdeh Mojaradi, Katherine Whang, Kalan Chung, Kiran Asrani, Samson Chiu, Jenny Zeng, Hennedy Eng, Jessica Li, Michael Zhang, Minako Ogawa, Tejal Mody, Yash Mody, Cathy Wu, Suzy Chen, Christine Tom

1. Land Acknowledgement

“We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”

2. Welcome

Co-chairs – Phouv and June

Good evening and welcome to the 4th School Council Meeting. Thank you for joining us.

Approve Agenda for the meeting – Motion: June, second: Aaron

Approval of November 24, 2021 meeting minutes – Motion: Banasha, second: Phouv

3. Students’ Report

Presentation by Asad and Reksha from Grade 8

Provided brief description of activities at school and learning topics in various subject matters.

4. Teacher’s Report – (Mr. Singh)

Grade 6:

Science – Space, with a variety of culminating tasks that tie in Visual Arts to the solar system / celestial bodies, analyzing satellite imagery (NASA Art project collaboration with professional artists), designing an invention to help with ocean/water clean up (Exploravision)

Language – Persuasive writing, novel study Refugee, elements of short stories

Math – Geometry

French – expressing voice on a variety of topics, and reading short stories/dialogues to learn new vocabulary

Social Studies – What are human rights?

Visual Arts – Elements of Design

Grade 7:

Math – culminating activities such as calculating area/perimeter/volume for house and garden designs; exploring budgets using dream careers

French – practising French skills while focusing on the theme of Identity

Language – Analyzing Ads, creating Infographics

Science – Pure Substances with a focus on Particle theory and classifying matter

Geography – Natural resources and extraction methods → shifting soon to History

Art – Digital Art & self portraits

Grade 8 and 7/8:

Geography – Quality of life, population pyramids, and looking at critical issues such as equity

Math – Financial literacy, Number Sense

Language – monologues, analyzing mis/disinformation and advertisements

French – Tying together the use of the past tense and Canadian French legends and folklore

Science – Fluids

Math Contests

Zion has registered for the Mathematica Centrum

Pythagoras (grade 6), Euler (grade 7), Lagrange (grade 8)

Info will be out later this week

Registration will be happen soon

The test(s) will be written in April

Ms. Helen Karaoulis – Librarian

Happy to be part of Zion. I wanted to introduce myself.

Zion used to be grades 7 to 9. I've spent time to make sure the books/resources in the library are focused on the current grades 6 – 8 and the library is more modern. It will take time and money but it will be done over time. I have met all the students now as I see them once per week.

5. Principal's Report – (Principal Chi Le)

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our incredible staff and parents for being so supportive during these difficult times.

Health & Safety

COVID-19 Testing: Rapid Antigen Tests have been given out to all students learning in-person and school-based staff. Staff and students are encouraged to use them at home when symptomatic. If symptoms appear when students or staff are at school, a take-home PCR test is still available as well to students and staff.

COVID-19 Case Reporting: The Ministry of Education is no longer collecting COVID-19 case numbers from school boards. At the TDSB, when schools become aware of a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test confirmed case of COVID-19, directly impacted classes will continue to be informed. As the Ministry of Education has stated that classes will no longer be dismissed as a result of a case of COVID-19, that guidance will no longer be provided by the school. Instead, parents/guardians and/or students will review the daily COVID-19 screening tool to determine if they are permitted to return to school. While individual classes will continue to be provided with COVID-19 case information, the COVID-19 Advisories page on the TDSB website will no longer be updated.

Reporting Absences: TDSB Schools are required to monitor and report to the Ministry on their student and staff absences and any school closures. Data related to this will be published starting on January 24 at www.ontario.ca. If absences exceed 30% of the school population, the TDSB is required to notify Toronto Public Health. We will continue to consult with TPH to determine if a lower threshold is more appropriate.

Masks: All students continue to be required to wear a mask while in school buildings. Every school has a supply of high quality, 3-ply cloth masks available for students.

Extra-Curricular Activities: All in-person extra-curricular activities that involve the mixing of cohorts, singing and use of wind instruments, will be paused temporarily.

Mental Health and Well-Being: A TPH nurse has been reassigned to support the school with COVID 19 related and student mental health and well-being concerns.

Facilities: replacement of windows and external doors is on track - 6-18 month timeline still projected.

Program: Feb 22 is the switch date from in-person to virtual and virtual to in-person learning – no re-organization is expected, final numbers will be coming from the board shortly

Short Term Virtual Learning: Parents can continue to request a Short Term Virtual Learning for up to 2 weeks. Teachers will continue to update virtual learning platforms. Simultaneous (live) learning will not be available for those choosing short term virtual learning.

Staffing: TDSB central staff are currently being deployed to support schools with staffing shortages. Our Student Success Counsellor who has been supporting the Grade 8-9 Transitions process has been redeployed to another school – We have no school vacancies at this time.

Programs & Extracurricular – has been put on pause for now due to COVID.

People / Staffing – Ms. Zenith Issacs, one of our Lunchroom Supervisors has been hired as our temporary school COVID screener and is helping out in the morning to screen students and following up with parents when required. We are currently have an additional LRS vacancy so community members who have experience volunteering and/or working in schools or with children are welcome to email their resume directly to our Vice-Principal Mr. Emmanuel Peter or drop it off at the school. LRSs work for 75 minutes a day Monday to Friday during our two lunch periods.

Two office staffs are on leave – wishing them speedy recovery. There are two temps filling in for them at this time.

Mr. Peter: Lockers have been assigned to students. This is well received by students, they are excited about it. The use of lockers will be scattered throughout the school. There will not be any locks on the lockers.

Financial Report (Treasurer: Terri Sung)

The total amount in the account remains unchanged at \$9,158.34.

6. Discussions

Classroom Parent Rep Program

Christine to provide an update at the next meeting. Still have few classes without parent rep but will not continue to ask.

Graduation (June)

Outdoor reception idea is abandoned for now due to COVID. School is committed to have a live graduation, even if it needs to be partially virtual where parents can watch their child walk on the stage and receive his/her graduation.

6. New Business

Community Outreach Fund is approved

June and Mr. Peters applied for the funds and we have been approved, receiving \$1500. The money has to be spent this school year. The program is for the parents – community outreach funds. The focus is going to be on anti-black racism, anti-Asian, anti-depression.

Outdoor education and Field Trip

Grade 7 virtual field trip is happening shortly. Grade 8 will happen in April – one bus per class, students will bring their lunch. Dates are on hold until we get further direction in March from TDSB.

Middle-School Experience for our Students

Banasha: This is about non-academic middle school experience. The parent volunteers met on December 7th 2021 to discuss potential programs/activities. Due to COVID surge follow-up fizzled away. Mr. Peter has indicated that more direction is expected from TDSB in the near future. Mr. Peter to advise by month's end for potential programs based on TDSB clarification on the activities that can take place.

Contests and Competitions

As per the info Mr. Singh provided (see Teacher's report above)

Motion to adjourn: Banasha
Second: Katherine

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm