

AY Jackson Secondary School Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Meeting convened at 6:05 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Paputsis welcomed everyone to the 1st ever online AYJ meeting, introduced the executive members, and explained how to take part in the meeting.

2. Call for Items for new Business

Questions were added on the chat bar as the meeting progressed.

3. Student Council Report (SAC Communications officer Marium Naqvi)

SAC has been trying to stay engaged through these difficult times via social media. They have held some virtual events such as: Quarantine Spirit Week, where the SAC allocated themes for each day then asked for pictures from students and posted them on social media. They held a Virtual Talent show called “Quarantime to Shine” where students could send in pictures of their art, cooking, dancing etc. They also had a Story Share, where students and staff could share stories of a day in the life during quarantine. The SAC voted on the agenda cover contest and determined the winner for next year’s agenda, and are now working on their upcoming elections. They have put up videos describing the position and duties of the council members, and today held an online meeting with over 30 interested candidates. They are currently working with administration to arrange the vote before the end of the year, and all positions should be announced by June 22nd. This makes sure that leadership is in place for next year, and enables them to make some soft plans over the summer.

Parent question: How is the SAC communicating with students?

Answer: multiple platforms: Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat.

4. School Report (Mr. Paputsis)

4.1. School Update

It is the time of year that the administration needs to start planning for next year. In terms of school staffing, 2 retirements came in, and in a great piece of news, we did not have to report any surplus teachers, so no one has to leave next year. Admin are now tentatively scheduling teachers, courses and students for next year. They are currently in a ‘Cone of Silence’, and cannot make any announcements about staff or scheduling until later in June.

4.2. AYJ50

- Cancelled the event due to Covid. Looking to defer to the fall. Once we are aware of what events can take place in the fall we can move forward with that.

5. School Council Business

- Jack Wang announced that it is his last year as chair/co-chair as his son is graduating. Mr. Paputsis, Ms. Griffith and Dr. Lee all thanked him for his

leadership and hard work over the years, describing him as a pillar of the community, always advocating for the AYJ parents. He will be missed.

- Jack asked about having another online parent event before the end of the year, and there was some discussion around hosting the university transition event that had been planned earlier, but we would need to find an online platform that could handle the large group and the security. Jack and the admin will look into some of these platforms, and Jack is asking that anyone who knows an AYJ graduate that would be willing to talk to graduating students about their experiences, please contact him: [Jack Wang: #647-861-8308; Wechat: JackJWang2015.](#)

6. Question and Answer Session: Some questions were submitted online ahead of the meeting, while others were submitted during the meeting. For a link to the slideshow that addressed the early questions click [here](#). Below is a summary of all the questions addressed in the meeting.

Q1: Can students receive pdf versions of their text books?

A1: They canvassed different AYJ departments around textbook accessibility, and found that accessibility and need varied greatly among the different departments. In general, many publishers allowed for online access to texts at this time, although some promised just until June, not into summer. In some cases teachers cannot post links to the texts because they don't have the license, but parents may still be able to access them.

Virtual Library Link:

<https://archive.org/>

-this is a link to a free library that may have your child's text available to 'sign out'

Q2. What role has the Special Ed team played in supporting students?

A2: All non-instructional staff have been given specific tasks in support of students and staff. They are helping both behind the scenes and by directly reaching out to students. If your child has an IEP and needs help, please contact the teacher/counselor/ or VP.

Q3. Have you looked into a full disinfecting/cleaning of the school?

A3: Yes, since the closure, the caretakers came in to give the school a "deep clean" including doorknobs, keyboards, washrooms, etc. They are currently in getting a head start on the summer cleaning that they usually do in July and August.

Q4: Is there enough soap and supplies in washrooms?

A4: There will be a heightened attention to details of sanitary items like washroom soap.

Q5: Has the school considered keeping doors open or installing automated doors to minimize touching when students return?

A5: While we cannot currently get automated doors, we will listen to the recommendations of public health to keep our school safe. Because of fire code, some doors need to be shut. Before the shutdown we were in planning stages to replace some steps in the school with ramps, and where these go in, automated doors would also go in.

Q6: Has the school installed hand sanitizers?

A6: The parent council donated 50 ‘Purell’ hand sanitizers before the break, which were put in every classroom. The TDSB will likely be supplying sanitizer upon return.

Q7: When is the last day of school?

A7: Friday June 26. All exams and PA days are instructional days now. There will be an earlier cut off time for instruction as the teachers will be preparing final marks and report cards. We want to de-emphasize learning for marks, and emphasize learning for future knowledge and curriculum coverage. By limiting the gaps in our education, we put ourselves in a better position for future learning.

Q8: When will students be able to get their belongings? Will there be yearbooks?

A8: The TDSB is working on a protocol right now. The framework will limit the number of students allowed in at a time, probably indicate one point of entry/exit, and determine how they will discourage any large congregation of students. When they have a procedure centrally, it will be up to individual schools to make their own plan of action. Once they have figured out locker cleanup, they can address yearbook distribution, as again, yearbooks tend to cause congregations. Yearbooks may be kept until fall.

Q9: Will locks be cut off?

A9: Once students have had a chance to remove their belongings, there may be a few lockers that are left. We have a key for most of the school locks, and can determine the combination for some others. For the very few that cannot be unlocked we will cut them off. In any case, where a student cannot get to the school to clean out their locker, staff will put belongings in garbage bags that are sealed and labelled and they can pick them up in the fall.

Q10: Will there be any graduation?

A10: Spring Convocation will be deferred to a date in the fall. They are currently in talks with the venue. Scholarship and bursary winners will be notified and awarded in June, while recognition will follow in the fall ceremony. The school is looking into how they can acknowledge graduation in a virtual setting. Music and Phys Ed departments have virtual banquets planned.

Q11: What will school look like in the fall? What if there is a Second wave? Will we have Pre-screening? Attendance? Illness? Remote learning?

A11: This is what the TDSB Senior team, in consultation with Toronto Public Health, are currently working on. They are trying to plan for all different contingencies. We don’t know yet, but we will not open schools until we feel they are safe. There could possibly be hybrid plans with online components to deal with a second wave or increased absences by staff and students.

Q12: When will student timetables be available?

A12: We should have tentative timetables available in June, possibly an electronic distribution, emailed out to students with their report cards. If not, timetables will be available in August.

Q13: Has the grade 10 Literacy test been postponed?

A13: All EQAO assessments have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. For any students graduating this year, the OSSLT will be waived. Students not graduating will have the opportunity to write the test next school year. The OSSLT is scheduled for Apr. 8, 2021.

Q14: What happens to items/events that we have paid for?

A14: For SAC items (such as sweatshirts) that have been ordered, we are working to give you the status on those deliveries. All field trips that have been paid for on SchoolCashOnline had the payments reversed.

Admin comments:

Dr. Lee: Staff have been working diligently to connect with students. They are listening and responding to the great feedback that you are giving them. These are unprecedented times, and we are all trying our best to navigate the new systems. Thank you to all the parents that joined this meeting today.

Ms. Griffith: I am so proud of AYJ community. School staff, teachers, admin, caretakers and parents have all been stepping up. This has been a challenge for everyone, and everyone is working hard behind the scenes. The pandemic won't stop this great AYJ team!

Mr. Paputsis: This school year has been tough on parents. I am a parent too, and know the pain of trying to get the kids in front of their laptops to get some work done. Thank you. We miss all your children, stay well and keep safe!

In many online comments, parents thanked and shared goodwill towards the admin, teachers and council.

7. Future Meeting Dates:

- 2020-2021 Dates will be forwarded at a later date

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm