

GEORGE S HENRY ACADEMY SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES



Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Virtual

In Attendance

Laura Pagnotta, Principal	Daniyal Rehman, Co-Chair	Carmen Sturzu
Jayson Luiz, Vice Principal	Natasha O'Connor, Secretary	
Paul Cook, Co-Chair	Lubna Daniyal	

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes were reviewed from the September meeting. Principal Pagnotta noted that Settlement Workers have unfortunately been reduced to two. Currently Arabic Speaking and Dari/Farsi/Pashtu/Urdu Speaking settlement workers assigned to Henry. As a result of the changes, we could not secure a speaker for the November meeting.

Principal's Update

- School Budget: Budget for 2022/2023 is \$111, 393. Reduction of 3.5% from last year based on similar student projection. Likely to be reduced slightly because we are 20 under projection. School Council portion is \$595. It is Principal's understanding that the School Council should be receiving an additional \$500 from the Ministry of Education, but it hasn't shown up in the budget yet.
- Facilities Update: Library just passed city inspection. Waiting for cleaning to occur and movers and library team to put everything back in. Hoping for library to open to staff and students for semester 2.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Dec 9 – school assembly – guest speaker Paul Davis to speak to students about Social Media Use. Parents are welcome to attend.
 - Dec 22 – Winterfest (5-8pm); \$2/ticket; \$5/family of up to 4; kids under 5 free. Early dismissal for the day – likely 2:15pm so that school can set up for evening event. Hoping for a great turnout. All are welcome. Ticket sales to occur soon.

- Grade 12 Events:
 - June 9 – Prom has been booked at the Grand Luxe (Bayview south of Finch); fundraising activities occurring to help offset the cost. Ticket prices likely \$80-\$90.
 - June 29 – Graduation @ GSHA
- Parent & Community Engagement Office (PCEO):
 - There is a School Council Innovation Grant available (up to \$1500) to support innovative projects and activities that engage parents/caregivers. Activities could include workshops, training sessions, book clubs, guest speakers, workshops on starting gardens, cooking or budget planning, Deadline to apply is December 9 at 5pm. Decision will be made by December 23, 2022
- Next School Council Date
 - Proposal to move next meeting date from January 25th to January 24th to accommodate presentation by Head of Guidance about course selection process. Parents in agreement.

Vice Principal's Update

- Exams are being held at the end of January and an exam schedule will be sent out before the December break. There will be efforts to help prepare students through the setup of an online research bank that will include exam writing examples, study tips, time management and more.
- Grade 8 Open House was on November 17 – good turnout of parents and students.
- Guidance counsellors visited four feeder schools to tell them about our school and various programs; students from Donview will visit George S Henry to get a sense of what our school is like.
- Parent-teacher interview were last month:
 - There was an issue that did not allow users to make changes after inputting info. This will be updated in the system and shared in the next communication.
- Winter Athletics has started and includes:
 - Jr Girls Volleyball
 - Jr/Sr Boys Basketball
 - Wrestling
 - Swim team

School Council Discussion Items

School Statement Of Needs (SSON)

- The document was reviewed and updated. This document is completed annually in the Fall by School Council. The SSON helps inform the Superintendent of the school needs when determining a new Principal. The Superintendent completes his section once it becomes known that there is a Principal vacancy.

Parent WhatsApp Group

- There was a recommendation from School Council members to start a WhatsApp group for school parents and guardians be created.
 - Parents can sign up to join the WhatsApp group which would share school info and updates, e.g., weather or school alerts.
 - More info is upcoming in a school community flyer which will include how to sign up and rules of engagement.

Other Business

Question: Will the school be doing any food drives or other Winter drives?

Answer: Discussions have started around food drives and other initiatives and more information will be communicated. There is also a Grant that the school can apply for to request funds to provide coats and boots for students in need.

Question: Can the school do bake sales to raise funds?

Answer: Bake sales and fundraising that includes food are limited to 10 for the year and are divided up to support all the fundraising of activities and clubs throughout the year.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm