

George S Henry Academy School Council

🏠 Location: GSHA Conference Room
📅 Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022
🕒 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Laura Pagnotta, Principal	Daniyal Ur-Rehman	Marie Labrousse
Jayson Luiz, Vice Principal	Milad Solot	Carmen Sturzu
Sarah Labine	Masoumeh Amiri	Alex Sturzu
Muda Hayee	Sandra Espinoza	
Paul Cook	Natasha O'Connor	

Welcome and Introductions

Laura Pagnotta welcomed parents/caregivers to the meeting and provided an introduction of herself to the school council. Laura introduced vice principal Jayson Luiz. Jayson provided an introduction of himself to the school council as well.

School Council Elections

The school council is an advisory body, that make recommendations to the principal of the school or the Board on any matter (Reg.612/20). The roles and responsibilities of a school council member include:

- Attending scheduled meetings
- Promoting the best interest of the school community, student development and academic excellence
- Participating in decision making process which may involve voting on issues

The following positions were acclaimed:

Co-Chairs: Daniyal Ur-Rehman, Paul Cook

Secretary: Natasha O'Connor

Principal's Update

- Current student population – 457; projected enrolment – 475
- Current teaching staff – 32; Total staff – 49
- Still awaiting budget for 2022/2023; last year's budget was \$115, 317 based on 475 students
- 1 lockdown drill and 1 fire drill have been completed; must complete another 2 fire drills in Semester 2, likely in October
- Terry Fox Run took place on Friday, September 23; school goal \$1000; raised \$510
- Truth and Reconciliation Week this week and Friday, September 30 is Orange Shirt Day; teachers have been incorporating Indigenous Education into their classes this week; school will continue to promote Indigenous Education throughout the year
- Grade 8 Open House – Thursday, November 17
- Weekly news bulletin is sent home to parents on Monday mornings about events and activities at the school – very informative
- November school council meeting – looking to have settlement workers make presentation to parents about services they can provide to newcomers
- School has 4 settlement workers – languages spoken include Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Urdu, Farsi, Dari, Pashtu, Hindu and Tagalog

Vice Principal's Update

- Structure of the school day explained – 2 classes in the morning and 2 in the afternoon; on alternating days, the classes flip in the morning as well as the afternoon; students not always late for the same class in the morning, as well, athletics doesn't impact the same classes in the afternoon
- 2 late starts per month – generally last 2 Wednesdays; one for teacher's professional learning and another for staff meetings
- Sometimes additional modified days such as early dismissals and late starts will occur to accommodate events
- Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled for Thursday, October 27 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm; school will have a half day, followed by a late start on October 28.
- School is busy with athletics, clubs and councils running again – encourage parents to visit school website to see list of Clubs/Councils with staff advisors and meeting dates; website also has our school calendar and a lot of information about the school
- My School Day app is also used to communicate information to students and parents; it is a free app and encourage everyone to download it

Other Business

Question: Is the pool being used?

Answer: Yes, the pool is operational again. Was closed due to covid and prior to that, it was under construction. Phys Ed (gym) classes will have students in the pool at some point. As well, swim team will be up and running during swim season.

Question: How many students in each grade?

Answer: Approximately 100 in each grade with more in grade 12 due to age of students new to Canada

Question: Can students still join clubs?

Answer: Yes, however councils such as Student Council and Yearbook have been established, but there are many clubs open to students.

Question: Is the library open?

Answer: No. The library is currently under construction. Was supposed to be completed, but the hope is that it will be operational in Semester 2.

Question: Can parents attend the university and college fair?

Answer: Yes, parents are encouraged to attend along with students. Although the fair is aimed towards grade 11 and 12 students, grade 9 and 10 students are also very welcome. There will be announcements on the My School Day app next year before the university and college fair.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.