

Humberside Collegiate Institute (HCI)

School Advisory Council Agenda

Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6pm - ZOOM meeting

6:00pm Welcome, Introductions, Actions

- Declaration of conflict of interest
 - None was declared
- Approval of October 19 meeting minutes
 - Minutes will be approved at January 2021 meeting
- Agenda approval
 - Agenda approved

6:05 - 6:10 Student Council Report

- None presented

6:10 - 6:15 Report from Chair (R. Hansen)

- Appointment of new Treasurer
 - Joanna Forester has volunteered to serve as Treasurer
- Course websites/on-line marks
 - Pre-COVID, use of online platforms by teachers for teaching/course management had been inconsistent
 - 100% of classes now on Google Classroom or Brightspace, making communication with parents easier
 - It was noted that some teachers have been posting marks quite late
 - Vice Principal Isabel Arias Lopez I has asked teachers to share mid-term marks as soon as they are available
- Upcoming SAC meetings: January 11, February 8, April 12, May TBD
 - Principal Kim McLaren advised that Toronto Public Health's school nurse has offered to join our School Council for 30-45 minutes at our January meeting to discuss updated protocols
 - Attendees of meeting indicated they would be interested in having her present at the next meeting
 - Principal McLaren will share her contact information with Randall to coordinate

6:10 – 6:15 Teacher Report

- No teacher representative available at this time

6:15 – 6:20 Principal's/VP's Report (K. McLaren/I. Lopez/R. Palmer)

- Principal McLaren reminded parents that course selection for 2021-22 starts around this time of year
 - Guidance Department normally engages face to face with classes at this time of year to begin the process of course planning
 - Guidance staff are not able to do this this year, given the increase in the number of classes (small cohort requirement has effectively doubled the number of classes) and because of the impact on teaching time in the quadmestered system
 - While many courses are mandated, students still have some flexibility and options, e.g. taking courses a grade level ahead, selecting courses in the applied vs. advanced stream
 - In lieu of a class presentation, the Guidance Department has prepared a FAQ and videos and will be promoting 1-on-1 counselling to help with decision-making
 - Process for course selection will formally start in January, with information about using myBlueprint (www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb)
 - When students log-in, they will see a record of the credits they have accumulated and what certain courses require as pre-requisites
 - Attendees were reminded that the Applied stream options will no longer be offered for incoming Grade 9 students in 2021 – however, this option will still remain available to students entering Grade 10, 11 or 12 as they were grandfathered when this change was implemented
- It was unclear what format courses would take in 2020-21
 - It seemed doubtful that the TDSB would continue with a quadmestered system but too early to advise
 - This issue might be discussed in an upcoming Ward 7 meeting
- An attendee shared that the University of Ottawa had already indicated their fall 2021 semester would be offered online
- Principal McLaren noted that several charity initiatives associated with the holiday season were going ahead
 - The traditional fundraiser for Interval House has been paused due to COVID so students have selected another charity to support
 - A food drive was also underway
- Vice-Principal Isabel Arias Lopez advised that the contest asking students to create 60-second video PSAs around COVID safety protocol was underway
 - Submissions are due on Wednesday, December 9
 - While not many submissions had been received by the end of last week, the recent promotion of prizes appears to incited more contributions
 - The contest has also been promoted via announcements from the Office

- Vice-Principal Lopez reminded parents that students enrolled in the Grade 10 Civics and Careers course would have a new teacher after the holiday break as the course is two half-credits
- Parents were also advised that Festivus, Humberside's annual holiday celebration which normally takes place as an assembly in Lismer Hall will happen virtually this year – this year's celebration is open for viewing by both students and parents

6:20 – 6:45 Standing Committee Reports

6:20 to 6:25 Safe & Caring Schools (Amy Mulhern & Katherine Cole)

- No representatives were in attendance to provide a report

6:25 to 6:30 Treasurer

- As Treasurer had just been appointed, no report was available

6:30 to 6:35 Communications (Helen Kula)

- As Council has been unable to use the TDSB-licensed Zoom software, Council meetings will continue on an informal, unofficial basis
- Will continue to investigate list management software and updates to website to ensure minutes and current information about Council is available

6:35 to 6:40 Ward 7 (Glenn Dunphy & Jillian Kohler)

- Glenn provided a quick update on the last Ward 7 meeting – full minutes will be circulated
 - Representatives from all schools reported on their experiences to date– most were very positive
 - Meeting discussion tended to focus on issues and concerns of elementary schools
 - Minutes contained many helpful links about changes to the process for applying to post-secondary institutions
 - Updates on the Parent Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC), French as a Second Language, and the Environment & Sustainability initiatives were provided
 - One interest insight shared was that Ward 7 has the lowest percent of students enrolled in virtual school of all TDSB wards

6:45 – 7:30 Other Business

- A parent asked about COVID surveillance testing at school
 - She explained that spit testing had been facilitated by Sick Kids at Swansea and is open to all family members, not just students
 - She wondered if Sick Kids/Toronto Public Health had contacted Humberside about this option
 - Principal McLaren advised that because COVID case rates at Humberside are so low, this option will not be offered – this initiative is targeting schools with high case rates
 - Principal McLaren advised that to date, Humberside had only two reported positive cases – a third positive case had been just reported today but as the student has not been attending school in person since mid-November, the impact on their student cohort or staff was expected to be negligible
- A parent inquired if students experiencing running noses in response to cold winter weather, vs illness, should not enter school
 - Principal McLaren advised that symptom screening should be done at home – if no symptoms are reported before the walk to school and the running nose is clearly related to this, students should be feel comfortable attending school
- Council President Hansen concluded meeting by wishing everyone a happy holiday and a happier 2021, with vaccinations!

7:30pm Adjournment of meeting

- The next HCI School Advisory Council meeting will take place Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6pm on Zoom