

Humberside Collegiate Institute (HCI)

School Advisory Council Agenda

Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6 pm - Zoom meeting

6::00pm Welcome, Introductions, Actions

- Declaration of conflict of interest
 - None was declared

Agenda approved

- Approval of October 19, November 16, December 7 & January 11 meeting minutes
 - Minutes will be brought forward for approval at February 2021 meeting
- Agenda approval
 - Agenda approved

6:05 - 6:10 Student Council Report

- None presented

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

- Nothing to report

6:10 – 6:15 Teacher Report

- N/A

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

- Principal McLaren noted that teachers and students were now in their second week of remote learning
 - All were generally doing well but staff recognize this can be stressful for students
- As of January 11, no indication that we will not return to hybrid learning as of Jan 23
- Parents were reminded that February 5 is a PA day
- A recent meeting between HCI students and the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Arif Virani, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada & Member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park was highlighted
 - The PM and MP paid a surprise visit to a Grade 10 Civics and a Grade 12 Interdisciplinary Media classes

- Visit had been arranged with just 2 days' notice and had been convened by MP Virani, who is a strong supporter of HCI and its social justice efforts
 - PM had requested that cameras be on for this visit and most students obliged
 - Grade 12 students reported being excited by visit; Grade 10 students reported somewhat less impact, perhaps because they can't yet vote and feel more removed from politics
- Vice-Principal Lopez had asked teachers to communicate mid-quadmester marks with all students this week – teachers will be in touch if a parent-teacher conference needed
 - Vice-Principal Lopez reminded parents that February 2 is the last official day of the second quadmester, with Feb 3 and 4 being used as credit rescue days to allow students the opportunity to work on and complete missing assignments, etc.
 - Council Chair Hansen asked about whether COVID had affected overall student performance and averages
 - Principal McLaren indicated that students continue to do their best but the quadmester's constraints on teaching time can be a challenge – teachers are very focused on ensuring students are prepared for the following year
 - Overall, failure rates are down from previous rates – smaller class sizes may be a factor here
 - Principal McLaren noted that some concrete achievement data could be brought forward to review at next Council meeting
 - Reported that failure rates are down – smaller class sizes may be a factor
 - Vice-Principal Palmer advised that January marks the beginning of the course selection process for 2021-22
 - A video presentation developed by the Guidance Department will be shared with all classes on January 18 and 19, together with some grade-specific content
 - Video will be posted on the HCI website and also posted to the Guidance Department's Google Classroom
 - The course selection period runs from January 25 to February 22 – students are encouraged to do their research in advance but not a first-come, first-served process in terms of access to courses
 - Parents are also welcome to contact the Guidance Department with questions or concerns
 - Scheduling for 2021-22 will begin in April
 - Parents were reminded that beginning in Sept 2021, there will no longer be Applied courses available for the incoming Grade 9 class
 - This pathway will continue to be available for current Grade 9 and higher students but will be phased out over time

- Vice-Principal Palmer highlighted several other changes to and additions to course offerings
 - Because of a human rights case ruling, there will be more co-ed PhysEd courses offered, together with some gender-exclusive ones
 - In Grade 9, PPL101 (co-ed), PPL101F (female) and PPL101M (male)
 - Similar options will be offered for Grade 10 PhysEd and Personal Fitness
 - A new Grade 11 Environmental Science M-type course will be offered next year – this is being offered because of the new social justice offering
 - A new Grade 12 Equity and Social Justice M-type course will also be offered through the Humanities Department
 - A new Geography course on natural disasters (CGC4M1) – Natural Disasters – will also be offered
 - These courses will only be offered if enough students select them
- A parent asked about what assumptions the school is making about student class sizes and course format for 2020-21 to inform course availability and scheduling
 - Principal McLaren advised that those assumptions don't need to be finalized until later on in the school year
 - Staffing numbers aren't confirmed until March break, for example
- A parent asked about staffing numbers for 2020-21 and how this will be calculated
 - Principal McLaren advised that she had not yet received any information yet
- Vice-Principal Palmer advised that student meetings with Guidance teachers will be offered on Feb 18 and 19 in the afternoon –students are encouraged to book meetings if they have questions or concerns
- Parents are also encouraged to look at MyBlueprint.ca
 - Program includes entry requirements and grade minimums for college and university programs – information is often good to look at in preparation for a conversation with a Guidance teacher
- A parent asked if it would be possible for students to take one or two high school credits in the year after graduation if, for example, they chose to defer or post-pone post-secondary enrollment
 - Principal McLaren advised that in theory, it is possible but if the school is at or exceeds capacity, student who have already met the requirements for graduation may be directed to enroll elsewhere if they are wanting to obtain additional credits
 - She advised that next year's enrollment projection is for 1800 students, which would mean we would be at 135% of capacity Minutes were advised
- Council Chair asked if HCI offered an Economics course – good preparation for many programs in University
 - Vice-Principal advised that one or two sections of this course had been offered in previous years

6:20 – 6:45 Standing Committee Reports

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

- As the parent representatives were not in attendance, Vice-Principal Lopez reported on the COVID safety video contest
 - Not as many videos were submitted as hoped for but pool was large enough to support the selection of two winning videos, which were premiered at Festivus, the school's holiday celebration
 - Plan had been to share videos with student clubs to promote across their channels but this will be postponed now that students are back to remote learning
 - One of the winning videos was animated while the other compiled live clips; both were well done and shared good information about protocols
- A parent asked if it was possible to move Council meetings to 7pm to create a break between the workday and the meeting
 - While an earlier start time was preferred by school staff, the Council Chair agreed to consider moving future meetings to 7pm

6:25 to 6:30 Treasurer (Joanna Forester)

- \$1000.00 of TSDB funds has now been allocated to the School Council
- If funds are not used by June 2021, they will be clawed back by TDSB
- Funds can be used to offset the costs of host speakers, meeting supplies, light refreshments
- In previous year, the Council has used the funding to bring in speakers, e.g. the mindfulness speaker hosted last year
- Council also has approximately 500.00 of non-Board funds, which must be used to support student activities, e.g. subsidize student activities, nutrition, or activities that occur outside of instructional time
- Treasurer asked for suggestions about how to use these funds
 - Jillian Kohler suggested a speaker on mental health might be appropriate to address the challenges of living amidst the pandemic's uncertainty
 - Joanna (last name?) will reach out to a child psychologist contact for speaker suggestions
- A parent suggested that the Council could consider hosting a comedian or an event featuring humour
- The challenge of screen burn-out and its potential impact on attendance at a virtual event was also noted
- A parent wondered if there was a way to spend the funds to directly benefit the students

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Nothing to report as next Ward meeting not scheduled until February
- Parents were advised that the TDSB would be releasing a survey of parents, guardians and students about their experience with remote learning on January 25

6:45 – 7:00: Other Business

The next HCI School Advisory Council meeting will take place Monday, February 8, 2021, at 7 pm.