

# MACDONALD CI

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES



Date: October 27, 2021

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Virtual Video Conference

Facilitator: Helen Vokas

Minutes Recorder: Helen Vokas

### In Attendance

Helen Vokas, Principal	Sunila Akbar	Gina Yang
Laura Pagnotta, Vice Principal	Christine Cockburn	Wendy Yamamoto-Smith
Clenton Morrison, Vice Principal	Helen Karaoulis	Nancy Whitley
Annette Fong	Maria Kalamaras	Efrosini Papaconstantinou
Banah Asafadi	Li Liu	
Anjali Danesh	Nicole Rahaman	
Aleka Kentros	Alisa VanDerToorn	

### Welcome and Introductions

We begin our meetings with the Land Acknowledgement.

Helen Vokas, principal welcomed parents/guardians to the meeting and introduced Vice-Principals Laura Pagnotta and Clenton Morrison. Mr. Morrison provided an introduction of himself to the school council.

### Election of Executive

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 role 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:

Chair: Sunila Akbar

Secretary: Aleka Kentros

Treasurer: Tina Smilis

Member at Large: Gina Yang

## Principal's Update

Principal Vokas presented Ministry and TDSB related information related to Macdonald CI:

- Now that our academic program is in full swing, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge how hard everyone is working to engage in learning.
- **Covid Update:** Our staff and students have been diligently following protocols mitigating within the school. Please remind your child(ren) to continue to mitigate outside of the school environment. We continue to follow TPH protocols which are updated weekly.
- TPH has advised that within our community (M1W postal code) 92% of students aged 12 – 17 years have received their first vaccine and 87% of students have received their second dose.
- The majority of our student body is in-person with only 160 students opting for virtual learning.
- **School budget for 2021-2022** is approximately \$215,642.93, an increase from the previous year of \$33,642.93.
  - Further adjustments may be made depending on number of students and needs.
- **Grade 8 Virtual Information Night** will be on December 9 at 7pm, presentation on website.
- **Optional Attendance** forms will be made available on the first Monday of November. Applications may be submitted to the desired Secondary school after Monday, November 1, 2021 and up until, but no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 28, 2022. (b) A lottery, if necessary, will be held the first week in February 2022.
- **Evacuation Plan** consists of direct instructions to all staff for the evacuation needs of the building in case of an emergency. Primary Evacuation Site is JB Tyrell with Pleasant View & L'Amoreaux as alternates.

Vice Principals' Reports:

Vice- Principal Laura Pagnotta provided general communications update for the school:

- **Modified Semester:** Week 1 students attend two classes; Week #2 students attend another two classes. School starts at 9:00am and ends at 2:45pm. Classes are each 2 ½ hrs in length.
- **Athletics Update:** Exhibition games are running as league structures are not. Our coaches are volunteering and teams for the fall include Girls Field Hockey, Boys Soccer, Co-Ed Ultimate, and Golf. Our athletics department is also running intramurals co-ed ultimate and flag football are wrapping up and coming in November co-ed Volleyball and December co-ed Badminton.
- **Indigenous Education Events:** Orange Shirt Day and Walk for Wenjack; School raises over \$1100 for our Walk for Wenjack.
- **Website:** The MAC school website continues to be updated with relevant information and links to resources. Parent Handbook is going through a last review before being posted online.

- Parents were advised to regularly check the school site for communication and updates: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnamacdonald/> and provide their most current emails to the school for email communication.
- A staff link is on the school internet site to facilitate communication between parents/guardians, and teachers.

Vice Principal Clenton Morrison provided updates on parent student interviews and school activities.

- **Letters of Concern:** Were sent out this week. This is an opportunity for our students to reflect on their areas of strength and opportunities for growth.
- This is followed by **Credit Rescue** days on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> which are intended to assist students with review or catching up on missed assignments.
- **Parent Teacher Interviews:** Scheduled for Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30pm and 5:00 – 7:00pm. An email will be sent home on November 3<sup>rd</sup> providing instructions on how to book an appointment.
- **Mid Term Report Cards:** will be electronically emailed out on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Clubs and Councils Update:** Thanks to our staff for volunteering to run our many clubs and councils and athletic teams. You can find information on our website regarding which clubs and councils we have running.

### Questions:

- **How can students get involved:** The SAC will be organizing a clubs and councils fair to inform students, provide details about when they meet and where. We also have numerous announcements and flyers posted around the school. Parent/Guardians encouraged to ensure their child(ren) downloaded the TDSB Connects App, it enables students to view their timetables and school events. Download at: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Media/News/ArtMID/2750/ArticleID/1512/TDSB-Connects-App-Now-Available-for-Secondary-Students>
- **Student Awards:** Awards from 2019-2020 were handed out last year, if your child did not receive theirs, please contact the main office. This year's awards will be handed out starting November 1, 2021.
- **EQAO:** The Math EQAO for grade 9s will be written once in semester one (January) and once in semester two (June) and the Literacy Grade 10 OSSLT will be written in the spring. Dates will be announced on our calendar and in our newsletters. EQAO reports are accessible by parents/guardians.
- **What is the school population?** We have 1051 students enrolled and are limited to optional attendance.
- **Regular Semester:** Is there any work on moving to a regular semester model for February? We are hopefully that the Trustees will consider this, they follow TPH guidelines, but we as staff are requesting that we move to a regular semester. Please connect with our school trustee Manna Wong for more information.
- **Lockers:** Are students going to get lockers? We have made a request with our Superintendent to review this and allow students to use lockers especially in the coming winter months.

## New Business



Annette Fong | School Settlement Worker | Settlement and Education Partnerships in Toronto (SEPT)

Centre for Immigrant and Community Services

2330 Midland Avenue, ON, M1S 5G5

647-888-1494 | Fax: 416-292-7579

[www.cicscanada.com](http://www.cicscanada.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

- Settlement workers Annette Fong, Banah Asafadi and Anjali Danesh introduced their services to the school council. Upcoming events include Newcomers Club, and OSAP presentation. We will continue to communicate all the posters and events through school messenger to our community as well as post it on our website and newsletters.
- Food and Nutrition Pantry: School has a Food and Nutrition Pantry available for students and parents to access. There are numerous non-perishable food items available.
- Book Drive for Nigeria: One of our teachers, Ms. Kibedi is organizing a book drive for the month of November. Send in books with your child to drop off in the main office. Information about the book drive will be in our November newsletter.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

- November 24, 2021
- January 26, 2022
- March 30, 2022
- May 25, 2022

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:45pm