

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 29, 2024 (3:30 PM – 4:30 PM)
In Person



ZION HEIGHTS MS
SCHOOL COUNCIL

STAFFING / SSON COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE:

School Staff: Principal Le, Ms. O. **Also in attendance:** Trustee Li (phone).

Committee Members in Attendance: Kalan Chung , Vince To, Ken Ng (phone), Key Kasravi (Co-Chair).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: “We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”.

AGENDA:

Discuss planning and options for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Q: Is the full rotary model off the table as an option for next year?
 - Mr. Le: We are considering all options and everything is on the table for discussion and assessment. The goal is to consult with stakeholders and determine the most beneficial approach for students.
- Q: What are the metrics we have or can use to determine whether a particular model works better? For example, how do we determine if the changes implemented for the 2023-2024 school year represent a better outcome for students.
 - Mr. Le: It would take more than a portion of a year to be able to assess the changes. There are no specific metrics in place.
- Q: If we're not tracking any metrics: do we have enough time left this year to collect data and assess?
- Mr. Le: One of our biggest challenges has been around staffing. Teacher shortage across the Board and high demand for substitute teachers impacts operational flexibility.
- Q: Do we have any data to support the change we made based on mental health challenges facing some students?
 - Response: In an effort to pay more attention to mental health and equity, we want each student to be known by a teacher. Having a homeroom model allows for that relationship to be established
 - In the prior model with full rotary, each student was interacting with multiple teachers for each subject and each teacher had many more students in the “specialty subject focus” model within rotary
 - The issue was whether the level of care for some individual students that have a need for more attention was being met.
- Q: If one of the goals is make sure the students are known by their teachers and develop a relationship of trust, what happens if a student only has one teacher and does not connect or feel they can have that trust relationship of the one teacher all year? Wouldn't it be better if the students have the option to potentially connect with multiple teachers?

- Q: Another consideration is that if we have a single teacher for a number of the core subjects, in a homeroom model, and that teacher is out, especially in a case of a longer duration absence, then those students in the classroom will have a substitute for all those subjects, whereas having multiple teachers allows for continuity of learning in the other subjects.
- Mr. Le: a suggestion from one of the teachers was to consider different scheduling/models for grade 6s vs. grade 7 and grade 8 students, where the grade 6 students coming from primary school have more of a home-room model, but the grade 7 and 8 students have more of a rotary model to prepare them for high school.
- Ms. O: Middle school is also intended so serve as a transition to high school.
- Mr. Le: We should have the headcount estimated numbers for next year's resource allocation either the week before or after March Break.
- Mr. Le: Let's reconvene next week and continue the discussion.

Meeting adjourned.