

Ancaster School Council Meeting - Monday February 22, 2021

ATTENDEES

Rosemarie McCutcheon (chair)
Beth Woof (Principal)
Shelly Ferney (Vice Principal)
Mark Currie (Vice Principal)
Venetia Fletcher (Student Success Teacher)
Sean Nicholson (Student Services)
Scott Rancourt (Math Teacher)
Victoria Lee (student council)
Rida Siddiqui (student council)
Rhu Sherrard
Barb Love
Anna Sant
Pauline Boulos
Mr. and Ms. Tal
Elize Oosthuizen
Lisa Mancini
Vanina Noejovich
Yousef Alasadi
Ziji Yu

REGRETS - none

Welcome

- Land acknowledgement
- Introductions of school council president Rosemarie McCutcheon, the Ancaster High Administrative team and staff representatives presenting at tonight's meeting
- Minutes of November 30, 2020 were approved by Rosemarie and seconded by Pauline

Reports

1. Student Council – Co-Presidents: Victoria Lee and Rida Siddiqui

No Exams Rida conveyed the relief many students felt when it was announced there would be no exams. "Firstly, I would like to begin by mentioning how we, as students, really appreciated the fact that the school board decided to cancel exams. Coming to the end of the semester is a busy and stressful time. I know for me personally and talking to a bunch of other students, it made it a lot less stressful when wrapping up our classes and it was great for our mental health. Some classes had mandatory culminating assignments and others made it optional. We focused on completing those and, if needed, used the credit recovery period to ensure our maximum success in each course. Those of us who did not need the credit recovery time were able to use the week to ourselves and it was a really great break. Overall, we are very thankful for this and have smoothly transitioned into semester 2 since then."

Success of AHS Games Night An event that is coming up in a few days is the AHS Games Night. Victoria talked about the success of previous AHS Games Nights: "Thanks to the huge success we've had in the first two recurring games night, we decided to host one this month as well. We have received much positive feedback for this school event. People made new friends and feel more connected through the pandemic- a mix of in-person and online learning. We plan to host more Games Night in the future and focus on students feeling more connected and supported through their journey."

Snapchat Due to many students at Ancaster high using the popular social media platform Snapchat, student council has made an official school snapchat account @ahsroyals, where they will be posting similar items that they post to the AHS Instagram account. This snapchat account will serve as another platform to get information out and get more student involvement.

Black History Month Activities Victoria spoke to the Black History Month activities taking place at Ancaster High: "As February is Black History Month some of the Student Ambassador members have stepped up to organize events to celebrate it. We just wrapped up the AHS Black History Month Art Contest where students showed their support for it by entering the contest. We accepted any form of art like poetry, painting, media, and music so that students have the freedom to express themselves. Additionally, we are celebrating by introducing important black figures each week on our social media page.

2. Option Sheets, Xello and Next Steps - Mr. Nicholson

Course Selection for 2021/2022

Mr. Nicholson gave a power point presentation on how to select courses for next school year. The presentation was similar to that given to the students at their virtual assembly on February 22, 2021. Students and parents can access the student services website for help with course selection: www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/student-services/course-information

The website provides a link to the virtual assembly for parents and/or students who missed the assembly. There are also grade specific videos for additional support in learning how to select courses for next year. The due date for course selection is **March 5, 2021**.

The website also provides a link to the course option sheet for 2021/2022 that can be downloaded. It is important to note that some courses are **only** available via e-learning and are designated by an @ symbol.

Course descriptions and prerequisites can be found through this link:

- <https://educator.xello.world/course-guide/80a047c4-02d2-46ea-bcd8-c0ad17d3e1f1>

This link can also be found on the Ancaster High School Student Services website for easier navigation.

Mr. Nicholson reviewed the new platform called Xello which has replaced Career Cruising - the former platform used to select courses. Xello can **only** be accessed through The Hub. This method requires no username or password. Instructions on how to use Xello can be downloaded in the Hub or on the Ancaster High School Student Services website.

Parents/guardians will be asked to approve students' choices via Parent Portal in late March/April.

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)

Mr. Nicholson spoke about three Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) that begin in Grade 11: Hospitality & Tourism, Information & Communication Technology, and Manufacturing

There are recommended courses for students to take in grade 10 for the SHSM majors:

Hospitality & Tourism: Family Studies (HIF2O1), Hospitality & Tourism (**TFJ2O1*NEW**)

Information & Communication Technology: Intro. To Computer Studies (ICS2O1), Computer Technology (**TEJ2O1*NEW**), Communication Technology (TGJ2O1), Visual Arts (AVI2O1), Crafts (**AWA2O1*NEW**)

Manufacturing: Transportation (TTJ2O1), Manufacturing (TMJ2O1), Design Technology (TDJ2O1)

I.B. (International Baccalaureate Diploma Program):

Starts in Grade 11 and enables students to graduate highschool with two diplomas (OSSD and IB)
Students interested in the program should contact Mr. Taylor, the I.B. Coordinator (dtaylor@hwdsb.on.ca). If interested, Grade 10 students should take:

- ENG2D1E (Grade 10 Enriched English)
- MPM2D1E (Grade 10 Enriched Math)
- MCR3U1E (Grade 11 Pre-I.B. Math)

I.B. students don't have room for Physics or Computer Science, students should take these courses in Grade 10 or summer school.

OYAP - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

- In high school, all co-op is part of OYAP
- Some special areas offer ACCELERATED OYAP
- This means students leave high school with LEVEL 1 training!
- Some of the accelerated fields might include:
 - Child Development Practitioner
 - Child and Youth Worker
 - General Carpenter
 - Construction Craft Worker
 - Automotive Service Technician
 - Assistant Cook
 - Hairstyling

Dual Credits

This program is a chance to simultaneously earn both a college credit and a high school credit as well as an opportunity to experience college level programming while still in high school. It is an experience that helps with a successful transition to college. The program consists of half-day dual credits at Mohawk College. The following is a list of programs offered for the dual credit program:

- Developmental Psychology & Health and Wellness
- Positive Psychology & Environmental Sustainability
- Graphic Design Layout & Animation
- Engineering Drawing (AutoCAD) & Math
- Studio Control Room Operations & Social Journalism
- Introduction to Social Service Worker & Recreation Therapy
- Introduction to Welding & AutoCAD

Special Co-op

- Centralized placements require an interview (competing with students from other school boards)
 - City of Hamilton, Hamilton Police Services, Hamilton Health Sciences,
 - Sheraton Hotel, St. Joseph's Healthcare, etc.
- Competitive co-op opportunities through HWDSB:
 - ArtSmart/Musical Theatre
 - Canadian Armed Forces Military Co-op
 - Building Careers from the Ground Up
 - Limeridge Mall
 - Healthcare Support

Parents and students can find more information on special co-op on the Ancaster High school website under Student Services – “Experiential Learning (Co-op)”.

3. Staff Report – Venetia Fletcher

Mental Health WeHelp & Emotion Coaching

Students have Mental Health and Well Being supports and resources through WeHelp HUB on their HUB main page

In-school student supports: guidance/ Student Services/ Administration team / Social Work/ Alternatives for Youth (addictions counselling)

Extreme High anxiety students also have System programs

Parents/Caregivers resources: link under WeHelp Content: how to support remote learners from home, Teen Calm Down Bin, Relaxation Exercises and anxiety-management strategies, Face Covid w/ Russ Harris

Staff resources: 8 Module Board-wide Specialized Learning Series – which is a scripted PD that is disseminated to all staff across the board via staff meetings. It is imbedded into our teaching practices: validation, understanding emotions, “Because statements”, how to connect with students who are Superfeelers/Empaths and empowering them, Support strategies are provided, too
CAMH (Canadian Mental Health Association) series of workshops for caregivers, staff & students (Anxietycanada.ca)

Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild

Learn: Education & Awareness-Raising **Disrupt:** Identify & dismantle barriers & systemic forms of oppression, **Rebuild:** active ally ship reshaping educational spaces. Progress not perfection!

Connected to Board’s *Equity Action Plan*: goal to intentionally identify and address inequities and discriminatory practices at the systems, school, and classroom levels.

Also, grassroots discussions/actions/in-school group of staff & students

Purpose: building a community of care for ALL students - identifying and empowering traditionally marginalized students (BIPOC & LGBTQ2S) - Looking at who or what was/is functionally normalized or rendered invisible

Curriculum improvements / LLC offerings

Equitable assessment / evaluations - exploring our own bias/prejudice/privilege

Facilities: beautification projects / Equity walk

Black history month Art contest / reclaiming bulletin boards / windows etc.

There are teachers who have formed a Learn, Disrupt, and Rebuild committee – gives teachers an opportunity to bounce ideas off of each other, making sure they are delivering content appropriately – it is very supportive for teachers. It is great to see a lot of teachers are involved with this committee. Students have also visited the meetings as well to share their input.

4. Principal’s report - Ms. Woof

Learn Disrupt Rebuild – We are allocating some funds to student-centered presentations, including a guest speaker, Saicha Grant-Allan. Saicha is an HWDSB grad who now plays professional women’s basketball and also spends time investing in young people with inspirational messages, keynotes, and small group mentoring sessions. Saicha met with Ancaster ‘ambassador’ students and called in from Siberia where her team is currently playing. Student response to Saicha’s message was very positive.

Report Cards for Semester 1 – unfortunately report cards could not be distributed electronically, but they are being handed out Tuesday, February 23. Any discrepancies on the report card, parents can contact the school.

Facilities Update Mr. Currie

Potential Asbestos Exposure – In the process of fixing a mechanical leak in the HVAC system, a contractor discovered asbestos when removing the display cases. The hallway was shut off to prevent staff and student access. A letter is being disseminated regarding the issue today.

Parking Lot – will be resurfaced this summer. Project will be divided up into different sections. Traffic survey is being done to clean up the traffic flow.

Graduation Commencement 2021 – A discussion is being held as to what it will look like across the district. Thought Exchange - a survey for parents, guardians and caregivers to give their opinion about their child's graduation/commencement. What we decide this year may impact future years, so parents of children of any grade are welcome to respond and reflect on others' comments. Thought Exchange link: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#517997708/hub>

Students have their own version of Thought Exchange about graduation/commencement. There are no dates set as of yet.

Any questions??? – No questions were posed by parents at this time.

Spring Break has been changed to April 12-16, 2021

Parent Teacher interviews – obviously due to COVID-19 they will not be taking place. Parents options:

- Connect with the teacher through email, phone call, or MS Teams
- Contact the admin team if you can't seem to get a hold of a teacher

Preliminary reports will be out by the second week in March.

Rosemarie: "I find that teachers are very responsive to my emails."

Fall 2021 – Destreamed grade 9 math – will be different next year – in the process of finding out what it will look like.

No reports from VPs this month

\$500 is available to school council

This money is to support parents; they can choose how they spend the money. Invitation to this council as to what we might want to do to support parents. Examples could include signage for the building especially for the main office to make it more welcoming; explicit training for parents – keynote speakers for parents - ally with other schools and have an MS Teams presentation; fridge magnet with school information. The money needs to be spent before the end of the school year. School council needs to discuss as a group. Ms. Woof will put together a list of potential ideas for school council. Any parent can send their suggestions to the secretary, Barb Love, in order to collect and discuss at the next meeting. Suggestions can be sent to bllove@hwdsb.on.ca

Any other questions??? No other questions at this time. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Next School Council Meetings:

Monday, April 26, 2021

Monday, May 17, 2021