

# Ancaster School Council Meeting - Monday October 4, 2021

## **ATTENDEES**

Beth Woof (Principal)  
Venetia Fletcher (Student Success Teacher)  
Kate Kim (School Senator)  
Sophia Kouroukis (School Senator)  
Barb Love  
Pauline Boulos  
Caroline Ho  
Natalia Bourenane  
Joanne Thompson  
Tahisn Nadir  
Yar Fawq  
France Clarke  
Deana Worne-Laing  
Susan Carter  
Eric Cone  
Megan Cox Misawa  
John Dickenson

## **REGRETS**

Shelly Ferney (Vice Principal)  
Mark Currie (Vice Principal)  
Scott Rancourt (Math Teacher)

## **Welcome**

- Land acknowledgement
- Introductions of Beth Woof, school principal, Venetia Fletcher, student success teacher, and the two new student school senators: Kate Kim and Sophia Kouroukis
- Ms. Woof outlined the purpose of school council which is to advise the principal on matters pertaining to the school in service of the students. It is typically run by parents: leader/president, secretary, and members at large. Since there currently isn't a leader for school council, Ms. Woof will assume the role. Barb Love has volunteered to continue as secretary.

## **Reports**

### **1. Student Council – School Senators: Kim Kate and Sophia Kouroukis**

Kate and Sophia introduced themselves. Kate is a grade 12 student and Sophia is a grade 11 student.

#### Updates:

- Transition back to school
  - A lot of students were unsure about what school would be like, and there are many changes, like the quadmesters and the protocols. But I feel like everyone has gotten used to it by now and has adapted!
  - Happy to be back!
  - It's nice to have all the students at school! And not have cohorts!
  - A lot of students are enjoying the breaks in the middle of class, and going outside for some fresh air, it makes it easier to be in the classroom for so long
- Student Council selection
  - We now have a group of around 40 students that are part of the Student Council.
  - There is a Student Council, but also general members that help out.

- Student council consists of presidents, vice presidents, administrative admins, student senators, student trustees, grade reps, grad chairs, etc.
- There were over 100 applications and each role was chosen carefully by the selection committee through an application process
- Clubs and Sports Teams
  - Football, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer
  - Debate club
  - Healthy Action Team
  - Equity For All
  - Chess Club
  - New clubs this year like Fashion club and Medlife
  - And more!
  - This year many students are joining clubs and there has been big turnouts at club meetings which is great to see!
  - Having these clubs and sports teams back this year has lifted school spirit
- Fall Festival and Spirit Week
  - There are many exciting events that are going to be happening at Ancaster High that are planned for the week of October 25th.
    - That week is a spirit week, so each day there's a different theme that we're going to all dress in, which will be fun.
    - There's going to be a costume contest on Friday.
    - The Fall Festival that week is going to happen over two days, and classes will come outside and participate in fun games and challenges. Many clubs are participating in this festival and are organizing different activities. It will be a great time to bond with your class!
- Conclusion
  - So those are the main things that have been going on at the school, from the perspective of students.
  - It's great to see that a month into school we already have so much going on, it makes me excited for the future months!

## **2. Staff Report – Venetia Fletcher (Student Success Teacher)**

Ms. Fletcher presented a wonderfully detailed staff report that outlined the following topics:

- Reengaging Students – Wellness initiative; Grade 9 virtual games night, Terry Fox run hit goal
- Orange Shirt Day – informative announcements, wellness activities
- Learn Disrupt Rebuild (\*see below for more information)
- De-streamed Math – teachers working hard to meet the needs of ALL math learners

For the full power point presentation, you can click on the following link:

[October 4 School Council Staff Report Deck.pptx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

\*Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild is a website that has been developed as a part of HWDSB's plan to commit to developing safer, more equitable and more inclusive learning environments. The website is for staff, students, and parents and has a series of topics related to human rights, equity and mental health during the pandemic. There are informative videos and engaging discussion topics. This resource is for Ancaster

High School students to engage with different voices, identities, experiences, and ways of thinking. Parents might be interested in viewing the topics as well:

<https://sites.google.com/hwdsb.on.ca/ahsldr/home>

### **3. Principal's report - Ms. Woof**

#### School Updates

Discussion is taking place regarding the length of lunch break – it is appropriate and helpful for clubs and activities to take place, however, there are some students who are finding it is too long. Staff are looking for ways to help those students manage their time including encouraging them to join clubs and activities. In addition, the staff are figuring out/sorting out additional indoor and outdoor spaces for students to have their lunch. The staff and administration expect high standards from Ancaster students and remind those students who leave the school to eat at establishments in the community to be good citizens and be positive ambassadors of Ancaster High School. Parents are encouraged to help support this high level of standard by reminding their children of this if they are going to be eating in the community.

#### School Safety

The new parking lot has helped with the flow of traffic of parents dropping students off, students parking their own cars, and the transportation of students on school buses. Parents are reminded that from 8:05 am to 8:15 am the traffic coming in and out of the parking lot is quite busy, so everyone needs to be patient with this process.

There are some students at lunch who are making poor choices off campus. Students, and parents, are reminded that anything that students do off school property is still of concern to administration as certain behaviours can affect the school climate negatively.

The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) has paid for extra staff to be available at school in order to make sure there is a caring adult available for those students in need. Mr. Bauer, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. Fletcher are always in the halls watching to find those students who might be lost, distressed, or in need of counselling.

#### Facility Update

The HWDSB has invested a lot of money in the physical building of Ancaster High School: new windows and a new turf field. The turf field is a sports field for everyone to use including field hockey, soccer and football. Shout out to Ancaster Girls Field Hockey team for their first win of the season! The first football game will be played this Thursday at 3:30pm. Over 60 students tried out for the team ranging from grade 9 to grade 12 students. The coach is Roger Dunbrack, a former TiCat and Argonaut football player. There will be new bulletin boards and a fresh coat of paint to help with the update of the interior of the school building.

#### HWDSB Focus

Learning and Well Being is the focus of Ancaster High School – making sure that no students are being left out. To facilitate this focus, Ancaster offers as many pathways as it can in order to celebrate all students' strengths and interests. See attached outline of the different pathways available to HWDSB students.

#### Grade 12 Students

There is a virtual assembly tomorrow, Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, for grade 12 students which will review the application procedure for university, college, and trades.

#### Bullying

Since the tragic death of the HWDSB student from Sir Winston Churchill, Devan Selvey, the board completed a review of bullying and created a report which outlines firm direction of how to approach and deal with bullying at the school level.

**Questions posed by parents during the meeting:**

**Q:** Question regarding the lack of crosswalks for students both on Jerseyville Rd. and Meadowbrook

**A:** Ms. Woof explained that there will be a pedestrian initiated crosswalk on Jerseyville Rd. – this is a city responsibility and has been put on hold at the moment. Ms. Woof said she would look into contacting the city regarding placement of a cross walk across Meadowbrook Rd.

**Q:** Question regarding where and how parents can receive communication about events and activities taking place at the school.

**A:** Ms. Woof explained that the Ancaster High School website is a work in progress. Ms. Woof has set as her priority to be available to students and staff so as a result she spends a lot of her time working and communicating face to face with students. Ms. Fletcher further explained that it often is an adjustment period for parents of grade 9 students as the focus of communication is generally directed at the students. Students are encouraged to listen to morning announcements, check their classroom Hub home page, as well as the Ancaster High social media accounts. Parents are also encouraged to follow the social media accounts as a way to find out what is happening at the school:

School Instagram	@ancasterhighroyals
Healthy Action Team Instagram	@hat_ancaster_high
Athletics Instagram	@ancaster_royals_athletics

**Q:** Question regarding parent teacher interviews

**A:** Ms. Woof explained that due to COVID parent teacher interviews are not allowed. However, parents are encouraged to reach out to their child’s teachers by email. Teachers’ emails are located on the home page of Ancaster High School’s website.

**Any other questions? No other questions at this time.**

**Ms. Woof finished the meeting by saying that a topic for next school council meeting’s agenda will be a unified communication strategy. In addition, parents are encouraged to let her know if there are any topics they would like to learn about and to bring them up at the next meeting.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm**

**Next School Council Meeting:**

TBD in the New Year, 2022.

Different Pathways Available for Ancaster High School Students:

## Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)

Three Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) 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](mailto: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)”.