

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council

Minutes for September 29, 2020 Meeting
(Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic protocol)

Present: Vanessa Meraw, Tanya Boisvert, Emily Keller, Ghiyab Al Ali, Jessica Little, Sharon Brinkos, Jennifer Sharp, Amy Klose (Teacher Rep), Jennifer Mills, Chris Boulay

Regrets: Olivia Melle (Student Rep)

Welcome: Vanessa Meraw & Chris Boulay

- Motion to approve May 28th Minutes by Tanya & Vanessa
- Motion to approve Agenda with no changes by Vanessa & Tanya

Student Report: Olivia Melle (delivered by Chris Boulay)

- Olivia is the G7 representative for Haliburton Highschool
- School initiatives:
 - Orange Shirt Day (Inclusion & Equity)
 - Student activities being organized for next block of classes to help lighten the atmosphere
 - Unable to congregate all of the students
 - Collecting the student voice, will modify when able to (as regulations change)
 - Terry Fox Run Thursday October 1st (rain date Oct 2nd)
 - Completed by cohort; donations & t-shirt sales

Staff Report: Amy Klose

- Explained curricular shift to fit teaching into 22 days without exhausting the students
- Working on balance and reading expression through masks (changes communication)
- Focus on Social Justice, Equity & Inclusion:
 - Adding diverse images throughout the school
 - Promoting multiple abilities; each department shifting to view through same lens examples:
 - English- replacing text with updated & diverse readings
 - History- different perspective with emphasis on First Nations
 - Arts- exploring social justice (environmental, BLM) & representing artistically
- Thoughtful assessments keeping challenges & positivity in mind
 - 1 day equals 1 week; teachers mindful of turnaround time on marking assessments
 - Ensure giving students thinking time so not assessing too quickly
 - Try to capture data without testing too much

- Extracurricular:
 - Running Club with Mrs. Gervais- social distancing maintained
 - Student and staff challenges, virtual & in person
 - Terry Fox Run- \$2000.00 raised to date (t-shirts and online donations)
 - Staff adding challenges to raise more funds
 - Mr. Gaffney jumping into the lake, hair donations, running challenges, etc.
 - Equity Committee- help students feel supported & included
 - Food securities, lack of internet
 - Looking for new members to include more student feedback
 - Breakfast Club- delivered by staff and Foods classes
 - Delivered to each classroom, sterilization & distancing procedures strictly followed
 - University & College presentations- held virtually, no visits to schools at this time

Principal's Report: Chris Boulay

- Equity takes centre stage in light of current events; work on inclusion in every aspect
 - Recognizing unconscious biases & paying attention while working together
- Shut down rumour of additional 300 students enrolled in Haliburton Highschool
 - Increase between 5 and 7 families
 - 400 in school students/ 60 online
 - Approximately 15% of students are online (average across TLDSB)
- Focus on Safety & Wellbeing of Students and Staff
 - PPE, masks, signing in, enter/exit protocols
 - Planning 22 days of learning and the impacts on students
 - I.e. grade 9 students to look ahead to grade 10 but also back at grade 8 due to the way 2019-20 year ended
- Halfway through first Octomester (12 days)
 - Grade summaries (marks) out now with final marks at end of the 22 days
 - 2nd Octomester starts October 16th, 3rd starts November 17th, 4th starts December 18th and ends February 1st
 - No exams at the end of January; flexibility for the 30% exam mark
 - Teachers are chunking and/or moving this portion throughout the work/requirements
- EQAO
 - Grade 9 math and grade 10 literacy test will be administered (per Ministry)
 - Unsure of how this will be done; awaiting Board direction...possibly online
 - Last time the Literacy test was online the system crashed
 - Math is supposed to occur by the end of January 2021
- Questions for Chris
 - Q: Was there any concession for Haliburton Highschool for class sizes?

- A: no policy adjustment for TLDSB, some HHSS classes are as small as 10, some as large as 30 BUT room size is taken into account (adaptive model in other school boards due to population sizes i.e. Peel or Toronto)
- Q: Is there a need for PPE donations? I.e. masks
 - A: a donation of 300 surgical grade masks was made to HHSS. Nothing required at this time but Chris will reach out if/when resources are needed.
 - Chris assessing the PPE & Cleaning supplies on a weekly basis
 - Supplies are flowing well right now
 - Will adapt methods if required at a later time
- Jennifer Mills (Haliburton Highschool Vice Principal)
 - Shared a student feedback video with very positive message about being back in school

Business Arising from Previous Meeting:

- Changes made on Constitution as discussed in May (to be discussed with New Business)
- Parent Engagement Funding spent on self care/resource magnets mailed out to each family with a School Council information sheet

New Business:

The Role of the School Council

- Chris Boulay shared slideshow explaining the role of School Council (see Appendix) Takeaways:
 - Parent Involvement directly related to Student Achievement and positive attitude
 - Encourages communication between staff, students & parents
 - Policy created in answer to Ministry of Education's regulation 298
 - Composition of Council guided by regulation
 - Vote held if no consensus is met

Constitution Review:

- Attention to revision of section 5.7
- Discussed making changes to cap voting members at 8; won't move forward at this time
 - If we get into this situation, we can call for nominees; at this time the parents are acclaimed due to small number of parents

2020-21 Council:

- Sharon Brinkos, through Chris Boulay, nominated Tanya Boisvert as Co-chair with Vanessa Meraw
 - Tanya accepted, full support by Jenn Sharp
- Jenn Sharp expressed interest in staying in Secretary role- unattested
 - **Co-Chairs: Vanessa Meraw and Tanya Boisvert**
 - **Secretary: Jennifer Sharp**
 - **Community Member: Sharon Brinkos**
 - **Parent Rep: Emily Keller, Jessica Little & Ghiyab Al Ali**
 - **Teacher Rep: Amy Klose**
 - **Student Rep: Olivia Melle**

2020-21 Meeting Dates:

- Continue 2nd Tuesday of every other month (with exception in October) at 7pm
- Virtual meetings will continue until further notice, per the COVID-19 pandemic protocol
 - **October 20th 2020**
 - **December 8th 2020**
 - **January 12th 2021**
 - **March 9th 2021**
 - **April 13th 2021**
 - **June 8th 2021**

Closing Thoughts:

- Emily commended the school for the communication leading up to the General Meeting
- Chris thanked the group for joining the virtual meeting and encouraged everyone to reach out to him, Jennifer Mills or Amy Klose if they have questions or need support

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Next Meeting October 20th at 7:00pm (virtual invite will be sent out)