

URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY



URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2021

Adoption of Minutes, May 25, 2021 – deferred

Report of Vice-Principal (Lindsay): Moved up on agenda to accommodate schedule

- Great to welcome students every morning, with masks and COVID-19 protocols.
- Pleased to work with Petal and staff.
- School calendar updated on school website – go-to place for information on late starts, early dismissals, PA days. Note that exams are credit recovery days for students to catch up on work.
- Petal's weekly news flash on Friday provides week at-a-glance
- School had first fire drill

Report of Student Council:

- Grade 12 students Lily and Jasmine provided update on Orange shirt day activities; Grade 9 welcome; and activism group with Kyle. Council is planning events for the rest of the year.

Report of Teacher /Staff:

Tony Zappitelli (Math ACL)

- Provided clarification with respect to volunteer hours/activities.
- Mandatory guidance sessions beginning with students in Grade 12, followed by students in Grade 9 during Wednesday programming (session three).

- 24 peer volunteers available for 1:1 tutoring, drop-in peer tutoring – great peer to peer program.
- Family night to be held Oct 7 virtually – event will not be recorded; acknowledge conflicts with some parents' schedule given time of day (workday).

Greg Saylor

- Provided Wednesday program update – virtual is not the desired structure of program, hoping to bring it back in-house/in person in near future.
- Based on current schedule, program will provide 96 different sessions over four years, great opportunity to build relationships.
- Welcome parent/community engagement if topics/skills to contribute.

Report of Principal - Petal Farquharson

- School year in full swing; 27 teachers; 513 students; five students virtual (down from eight and working to get others back in).
- Reporting 90% attendance each day – pleased with this.
- Holding 160 minutes classes. As part of mental health/wellbeing, this provides students with two 10-minute breaks to get air (mask/nutrition break).
- School has been informed that it can say yes to extracurricular teams, including tennis shortly, and hope for indoor activities to return soon.
- As Greg hinted with mixing of cohorts, planning to pivot back to in-person for Wednesday program, but as of right now, virtual and in cohorts.
- Held grade assembly Sept. 28: reviewed dress and school code of conduct; encouraged students to get involved in school activities; running a bit late in the morning (~six minutes, largely because some students don't have app to fill out COVID-19 health form, so school is encouraging use of the app to speed up process).
- Grade 9s received individual chrome books week of September 27, 2021.
- Held successful photo day with COVID-19 protocols in place, even as some schools could not execute; plan to move up grad photos to late October to ensure Grade 12 students get opportunity.
- Not yet given directive from board to collect student activity fees; may have to revisit if prices adjusted and will continue to update.
- There are about seven new teachers; the school has asked the board for .5 teacher to satisfy class sizes to adhere to ratios (had to wait until the end of Week Three to review the numbers).
- Excited about the tone of school – great buzz and hopeful; students getting involved.

Principal Q&A

Q: What proportion of UFA staff has submitted TDSB attestation related to vaccination?

A: Board handles this process and the principal does not have visibility - although the board provided the school with take home kits and none have been distributed, so a good sign.

Q: Is there a shortage of French teachers?

A: Because of the way course selection occurs, if there are five or six late registrations, school cannot add a new French class so school looks at students' second choices (taking into account ratios and course selection). Based on the process, there probably is a shortage but that's how school staffing is done.

Q: What is the plan for roll out of extra-curricular and sports?

A: There is a plan, and hoping to get there sooner rather than later.

Q: What is maximum number of students allowed in class?

A: It depends on the course and level of course. For example, for Science course in a lab, can accommodate a certain number of students in that setting (25-27 to 29). For English/Social Sciences, it can go up to 30. For Physical Education, it depends on equipment. In summary, it's course-dependent and school gets direction from board – for example, board allows school to go one-over but with COVID-19 restrictions of social distancing, school has to adhere to that.

Q: What is the average class sizes?

A: ~28 as average; may have class of 30.

Q: When could there be a return to regular class schedules – potentially next semester?

A: Do not know.

Q: What happens when no break is given in class?

A: Will resolve and follow up with staff as needed

Q: How long will window construction last, given disruption to the learning environment?

A: Project is expected to be completed in May 2022. Not pleased with the situation and very frustrated, as construction started in September just as in-class learning returned after school was not being used for months. To date, two teachers have been moved because of dust and guidance space is almost unusable.

PAO group – Shone Joos

- Parents' anti-oppression committee is a small, but growing group.
- Meeting on Tuesdays; real kick off is week of Oct. 4

Ward 7 Update - Anne Keary

- No ward meeting to report on.
- Highlighted items in the newsletter included Sept 20 mental health/wellbeing supports and Oct. 16-17 Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference (virtual)

New SAC Executive Team Election

- Communications: Kira
- Recording Secretary: Sarah and Samantha
- Vice-Chair: Saiva
- Other positions remain open and can revisit at next week following further consideration

Dates for the 2021-2022 meetings were adopted:

- October 26, 2021 – 7:00 pm
- November 23, 2021 – 7:00 pm
- January 25, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- March 22, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- April 26, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- May 31, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned (Kira) ~7:50 pm