

URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes November 26, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Co-chair: Sanja S.

Recording Secretary: Samantha Hodder

Staff: David Freedman, Barbara Wagner-Heim

Students: Jonathon G. (Student council chair), Hannah L., Zoe

Parents: 5 parents in attendance

Co-chair Sanja S. called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

CHECK

1. Opening Remarks- Sanja S.

- Low attendance. Perhaps because of the long meeting last time. Perhaps because of parent volunteers for Admissions. Also, perhaps because of the work-to-rule job action, may have confused parents about whether the meeting was still scheduled.

2. Adoption of Minutes of meeting from October 29, 2019

Motion to approve Madeleine L. Frick

Second: Sanja S.

3. Report of Student Council – Jonathon G.

Jonathon:

- Grub Day fundraising allocations – working on an action plan to allocate some funds to clubs within the school. Grub Day Grant. Goal is to increase accessibility,
- Grade Rep Initiatives. Working with Wednesday Sessions. Goals, e.g. winter clothing drives, hot chocolate
- Reminds of the Student Council Board on the wall across from Library. He wants to get it going again and have more information available there for students.
- Friday, November 29 had a scheduled Town Hall, but was rescheduled because of Climate Strike. ITINERARY for Town Hall: current matters and then the Legacy Assembly and the Semi Formal.
- Legacy Assembly: This will include a topic and a speaker under the theme: Something the students can use in their lives. Topic this year: Youth Employment: Balancing part-time job while at UFA, and student workers rights.
 - Madeleine – suggests that Starbucks might be a good fit. They employ 75% of teenagers. Often there are graduates come back to talk about their experiences.
- Semi-formal: Planning started. It's in February.

4. Report of FAA - Hannah L., Zoe

- Athletics: Finished fall season. Three students moved onto OFSAA Cross Country and did very well.

- Winter sports team try-outs are all now closed, and teams have begun to practice.
- Winter Sports are:
 - Swim Team
 - Jr / Sr Basketball
 - Jr / Sr V/ball
- Season starts for some in early December. Other sports have just finished tryouts.
- FALL Intramurals: just finished. The Baby Bros just won (Gr 11 team, won against Gr 12 team). Ball Hockey.
- Today was the last day to hand in team sheets
- Planning for the 19 December Assembly. That's when the FAA will speak about the Inside Ride and other fun things to get into holiday spirit.
- Will be selling gelt and holiday things. They will be available, in sets of 1, 5 and class sets.
- Inside Ride: Zoe is Inside Ride Co-ordinator 2019-2020.
- This year UFA will host 13th annual event
- Date is set for February 7, 2020, in the morning., 10:30-12pm Teams of 6, stationary bike.
- Register online ahead of time.
- Teams must raise min of \$50 / group. Must register online.
- Last year raised over \$18k. This year goal is \$20k
- Prizes are raffled off to top teams. In the past, they have been movie cards, gift cards and tickets. FAA is looking to the parent community for donations for this
- They are also looking for donations for some snacks – e.g. nut-free granola bars, bananas. Please no water bottles.
- FAA would love it if parents would form a team and join. Students asking us to get the word out, and asking for parents to help find and source donations.
- All money raised goes towards Coast to Coast Foundation.
- Have raised over \$150k in the past and are really proud of this.
- FAA require all donations by Feb 4.

Parent said “Just to let you know, last year I worked as a parent volunteer, and it was a super relaxed and fun atmosphere”

5. Report of Teachers -- No teachers present at meeting due to labour disruption

Principle David F advised parents to check TDSB website. This has the most up-to-date information. Also, their Twitter account is very current and has status updates regularly.

6. Report of Vice-Principal – Barbara W.H.

- Report cards went home yesterday, (Nov 25). Reminder that to sign up for parent-teacher conferences parents first need an account. Each year the accounts are all renewed. This

opens at 6am tomorrow – Wednesday Nov 27. Conferences are happening Dec 5, Dec 6 – which is also a PA Day.

- Admission assessments next Wednesday Dec 4 and Saturday Dec 7.
 - More than 800 students writing the test, the most ever.
 - The Open House had 2000 people. Very thankful for parent volunteers.
 - Also, many overseas applicants. They are Toronto residents who are currently abroad.
 - The Open House new reorganization worked. It was the least stressful in years. Administration capped it at one parent one student to keep the numbers done.
- Climate Strike on Friday, Nov 29. Kids leaving school at 10am. There was talk about the last one being perhaps disorganized. The student reaction is that they hope this year they can hear the speakers. This is not a TDSB sanctioned event
- Friday November 29: there will be a Newsflash from Administration. Friday will be a No Assessment Day. Students will need a note to be dismissed.
- Friday November 29 was also supposed to be a Grub Day, but it's now moved until the following Monday. Uniform on Friday otherwise. School doesn't want students in uniform downtown.
- Dec 12, 13, 16, 17 will be M-Week. This allows for longer periods. Or for teachers to take a field trip or do longer labs. Schedules have gone home with students, and teachers have been posting their specific schedules. Please check into these. M-week has very important assessments and exercises for the students.
- Pass Club. Peer Tutoring. Tony runs this. Tues-Thurs at lunch. Drop in.
- Open House this year turned out to be the best. Revamped it. Teachers got students to present instead of talking for four hours. Split the sessions into two presentations. It was the most successful event.
- Board is conducting review of Specialized Programs, and Optional Attendance – not been reviewed since 2009.

Discussion around increasing diversity at UFA.
How has this been done in the past?

1 - Had admissions review in 2013 and again 2018. Do this activity with Staff, Students, Parents.

Brought groups to library and walked them through with an activity.

2 - Previously UFA had a Sibling rule. But this became an issue. Now, no sibling rule. That was part of diversity discussion.

3 - Grade 7, 8 report card inclusion. Are they important?

4 - Timelines for applications: This can impact who can apply.

5 - Communications: With parents and with the community. Website, etc.

6 - Outreach. Do we? Where do we? What is the best way to do this?

7 - Social justice involvement / gender split / technology

8 - Discussion around the Statement of Purpose. This is required in the Admissions test. Is it still relevant in the same way? It was changed it in 2018 from long form essay to now just short form. It was felt that students were too prepared and had boiler plates coming into the exam.

Now it's just: Why this school? Please tell us in four sentences.

Barbara presented two maps that she has created

These maps actually depict the diversity of students in UFA based on home address.

- There was one map that shows data for student applicants. Its mapped schools that had more than five applicants. Barbara has data for the last four years. It indicates a strong preference for the schools closest geographically to the school that apply.
- The second map depicts where the students live, based on who is in the school now.
- This map shows that while most of the students come from the closest area, there are a number were students travel from, however, this doesn't seem to reflect the actual diversity of Toronto. UFA wants to make sure this school feels and acts accessible and reflect the diversity of Toronto.
- Q: Why aren't more diverse families applying here. Is it a reputation? Is it about comfort? Is it about sports programming?
- Point was raised that if you raise Grade 8s, maybe it's too late. They've already decided. Now looking at bringing in Gr 6 – remember UFA in 2 years.
 - There was a discussion about how maybe Gr 7 might be a better year to reach out to, because they have already transitioned to middle school if they had to.
- Just to be clear, UFA already has invisible diversity, but it's not accounted for: E.g. those on the autism spectrum. And, proudly, we are a welcome home for the super-nerds.

Sanja: do we want to continue to have a sub-committee to continue the work of diversity and inclusion for UFA?

ANSWER: Yes.

7. Report of Principal – David F.

Window replacements are continuing. Almost one-third of the way through. Moving efficiently. Testing the rooms after each one in installed, and it's coming along.

ONLINE AGENDA

- Had conversation today regarding the online agenda issue.
- Students have been testing an app, which requires a paid subscription, but they were concerned about the reliability of this app.
- David wasn't very impressed with it either.
- There has been a delivery issue with the agenda, and David reminds that many students don't walk around with paper agendas, but they do walk around with phone in their pockets. So, they have been exploring options.
- The only reason for pushing it now, if they still have paper agenda, and then they could compare the two systems.
- Testing it now with a group of students. Publisher isn't interesting in reducing the cost of it even though they will only use it for half the year.
- Cost is about \$3k – which is about the same as the paper agenda. Will only know which one is better after they try it.
- Does the app crash? Is it worth it?
- This app would allow parents to have access to the general platform (like GC).

- And then there would be private channels with specific teachers and their students.
- This company currently has 200k students using their platform.

Paper Agendas have been available for the last few weeks. Heads up on that one.

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Now that the volunteers are in place, the conversation can take place.
- The Lockdown Procedure is a big part of this.
- Barbara met with some folks: two students and teacher. Spoke about last year's lockdown drill.
- Barbara will have a script that she will share, for what is in the DRILL.
- This script will be sure to contrast with what she would say if it is a **real** event, she will say something different.

Teachers: Opportunity to see what makes sense.

- Every class now has a bucket: It has water, sugar, shower curtain for privacy, can be used to latrine, rubber gloves, tourniquet. The lid of the bucket has the address of the school, and a map of school with exits listed.
- Students will speak about this on Monday and Tuesday – so each student will be familiar as to where they are in each room. Wednesday sessions will also put these buckets in place.
- The Goal of a lockdown: Don't be seen, don't be heard. EG Can't have phones making noise, so students need to understand to put phones on silent.
- Toronto Police have been involved in the Drill procedure.

8. Co-Chairs update – Sanja S.

- Spoke already about diversity committee.
- [Robin Pilkey](#) publishes communication updates. They are helpful and will always include information about job action, and other important Board matters.
- Also, want to draw attention to [West End Parents for Public Education group](#), PIAC. They are doing some important advocacy.
- TDSB has a [Mathematics Action Plan](#)
- Barbara and Sanja attended public consultation meeting Regarding Optional Attendance Policy and Secondary Program Review
There is a survey to participate in:
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review>
- They can have a big impact on decision making.
- Next Ward 7 Meeting – the topic will be on Mathematics education.
- Ward 7 – every meeting has agenda set ahead of time. They cover 1-2 subjects.
- They are currently looking for meeting topics for the meeting with will be held at UFA in March.
- If UFA has a topic to consider, please do in time for the meeting in January.

- Dec 20, there will be the Alumni Lunch. Usually need volunteers for this. 11:30am - 1:30pm
- We are asking for donations for food. It's a potluck. Require about 12 parents to help with this. Require finger food to cover a group of 100 people. Can also be drinks and veggies.
- Previous students and teachers come back. UFA students come back from University and it's a big love-in and it's happy thing.

- **9. Ward 7 Report update** - * Ward 7 meeting is scheduled for same date
- One of their agenda items is mathematics curriculum
- We will follow up on that that meeting at the next UFA SAC meeting in January.

- Next meeting is scheduled for:
January 28, 2020

- Motion to adjourn meeting: 9:20pm
Madeleine L. Frick
Second: Andres L.

Important links

Ward 7 Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TDSBWard7Coucil/?ref=bookmarks>

West End Parents For Public Education Toronto

<https://www.facebook.com/WEPPEToronto/>

PIAC – How to get involved

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Statutory-Advisory-Committees/Parent-Involvement-Advisory-Committee>
<http://www.torontopiac.com/>

TDSB Mathematics Action Plan

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Your-School-Day/Curriculum/Mathematics/TDSB-Mathematics-Action-Plan>

Secondary School Review update & survey

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review>

Policy consultation – Optional Attendance

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>