

January 25th 2022 SAC Virtual Meeting Minutes



URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes, January 25, 2022

Chair: Kira

Recording Secretary: Sarah

Administration: Petra Petal Farquharson

Teachers: Heather Strupat, Luke Wintjes, Tiina Paris, Alex Peters

UFA SAC Meeting via Zoom (virtual)

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Agenda:

- **Welcome (Kira)**
- **Parent Information on course selection – Guidance team (Heather Strupat, Luke Wintjes, Tiina Paris)**
- **Reports of Student Council, FAA, PALS**
- **Digital Wellness presentation - Alex Peters**
- **Report of Teacher/staff report - Heather Strupat**
- **Report of Principal - Petal Farquharson**
- **PAO group - Shone**
- **Ward 7 Update – Anne**
- **Adoption of Minutes of last meeting - Kira**
- **Reminder - Next Meeting - March 22**
- **Motion to adjourn**

Welcome (Kira)

Guidance presentation – Parents' virtual course information night

- Guidance team reviewed course selection process, including graduation requirements; math pathways and course offerings at UFA; use of Myblueprint.ca for students; dates for course selection (opens Feb. 3; closed Feb. 25) and importance of including alternatives.
- Q&A session included series of questions from parents, including whether grades for Grade 9 and 10 count for university admissions in Canada (no; for U.S., overall GPA); value of summer school credits; recommendation to earn seven Grade 12 credits for buffer course

Reports of Student Council student reps, FAA, PALS

FAA (Sadie and Ethiopia)

- Provided updates on initiatives during first semester, including organising candy cane and gelt sales with ~10K as part of fundraising; organised holiday assembly (school spirit/community) and wellness events; held Terry Fox Fundraiser.
- Shared what's to come in 2022 (tentative): sports drive of sports equipment; fundraiser for wellness charity; athletic banquet (hoping to be in person; fundraising activities, including Valentine's Day, pancake eating; UFA Idol in April and spirit days. All events will be run safely and follow TDSB guidelines

PALS (Maya and Artemisa - Dr. Franklin Unplugged Coordinators)

- To be held Feb 28 - March 4 – held off so could be in person (usually held in October; will revert to virtual if required)
- Annual event explores and encourages mindfulness surrounding technology with student pledge to engage students and encourage participation; topics this year will include how mental health is affected by technology
- Team is looking for donations of gift cards (prefer hard copies) within next three weeks – great incentive to encourage student participation.
- This year's charity is Jack.org

Union of Students – Lily and Solenne

- Provided update of initiatives in first semester and what's coming:
 - Shoe Box project was a big success and hope to run next year
 - Spirit Week was a success and hoping for more spirit days to come
 - Newsletters (separate from News Flash)
 - Ask of parent committee for ideas for replacement activity for end of year Carnival: with uncertainty with pandemic, would love new ideas and will revisit at next SAC meeting to hear about ideas from parents.

Digital Wellness presentation - Alex Peters

- Alex reviewed digital wellness initiative, including: review of definition of digital wellness; review of parent survey; tips and resources (presentation posted in News Flash as resource)

Report of Teacher /Staff - Heather

- Upcoming Math/Computer Science and Science contests (sign up via Tony)
- Guidance: with semester coming to an end, course changes currently happening for senior students
- Grade 12 graduation in June (date TBD; awaiting board approval): plan to hold event on field (tents if needed) rather than in foyer; ask: parents of Grade 12 students to join committee (activities to include fundraising)
- Course Selection Fair Jan. 26 (Grades 9-11)
- Q&A (whether there will a prom – tentative outdoor event; hope that extracurricular starting soon – nothing official but something to look forward to)

Report of Principal - Petal Farquharson

- Thanks to staff and students for hard work and successful semester
- Budget update – good financial position:
 - Student Activity Fee (2021-22) breakdown: Yearbook 43% (\$13,106.40); Student planner, Student Council Funds and Athletic Association 10% each (\$3,048); Retreat (not overnight this year, format TBD) 27% (\$8,229.60). TOTAL: \$30,480
 - Student Union Association 2020-21 and Wednesday Grants: Opening balance (Aug 1, 2020): \$19,437.30; Total Income \$57,544.91; Closing balance (July 31, 2021): \$24,083.51; Anticipated 2021/22 Wednesday Grant Budget: \$3,000. Balance: \$21,083.51
- Next semester: 4 courses, finalising timetables now – due Jan. 28 per collective agreement (no current plans to explore UFA moving back to non-semester school)
- Exciting time: running lottery and admissions over next couple of weeks; maintaining gender balance
- Credit recovery days – to be held virtually Jan. 28, Jan 29 and Feb. 1
- Per Board directive in December 2021 memo: semester 1 marks could not go down after Dec. 17 - ask parents to encourage students to continue to work as material is foundational for next year
- Pandemic-related update: HEPA filters in all rooms throughout the school; encourage students to wear masks when not eating during lunch period/cafeteria; 100% compliance for daily online health screen (smartphone not required)
- Semester 2: moving to traditional four courses per day; as of now, school has not received clearance from board for in-person Wednesday programming – will know in February before next session kicks up.

PAO group – Shone

- **Group successfully applied for parent outreach grant (\$1,500) – will use to organise anti-racist virtual workshop during Unity Week in April (led by Shauna and Demore Barnes). PAO will collaborate with other West End high schools to widen reach.**

Ward 7 Update – Anne

- **There was no meeting in December 2021, next one TBD – topic is parent engagement**

Adoption of minutes of last meeting: Motion moved by Julie Dossett moved); seconded by Kira

Reminder - Next Meeting (March 22nd) and Motion to adjourn – Kira