

Earl Haig Secondary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: October 20th, 2020 at 7pm
60 participants

Location: Online Meeting

Co-chairs welcome everyone back for another school year

Executive Committee - introductions

- Co-chair – Susan Kenny and Susan Lee
- Vice Chair Collegiate – Farveh Ghafouri
- Vice Chair Claude Watson – Alice Ko
- Treasurer – Abbas Khayyam
- Secretary – Jennifer Lee & Ling Chen
- Ward Rep – Albert Wong & Khalil Sivjee
- Virtual Committee – Wendy Beal
- Members at Large: Sheri Kermani, Marina Matskevitch, Richard Teicher, Elaine Chung, Shiva Petersoo, Amy Charette, Kevin Hon, Ionoa Simion, Farzana Haque, Mehran Khansari, Liesha Earle, Meltem Gundogdu

Principal and VP Update:

- Introduced her team and thanked them for amazing support
- Sacha Noukhovitch received a Prime Minister Award for Teaching Excellent, the Ontario Certificate of Excellence Recipient. He teaches Computer Science, Computer Engineering in Grade 10 to 12.
- Nutrition Program at Earl Haig is up and running with grab & go options for students. Toronto Foundation for Student Success, President's Choice Student Nutrition Grant and other funding supports this program. Due to Covid, all food is being distributed in single serve.
- Student survey being conducted for all Grade 9 & 10 students in first week of November regarding their experiences and feelings with the different school climate. The objective of the survey is to determine what additional supports can be offered.
- Mid-term marks will be sent by all teachers to students mid-October. Ensure your contact information is up to date as this will assist teachers to reach you. There will be no official mid-term report card. Marks will be based on 100% course work. If you have any questions, contact your student's teacher or guidance counsellor or vice principal
- Parent conference October 24 and 25 through Board website
- If student is graduating this year, the volunteer requirement is 20 hours. For remaining students, suggestion is to aim to complete the 40 hours before Grade 11 if possible.
- Student council elections were delayed, they will take place end of October
- Grade 12 Zoom meeting to discuss with Alumni regarding university selection and some of the activities to support applications
- Optional attendance forms available Nov 2nd and deadline is Jan 29th for those that want to switch schools for 2021/22

Presentation: Guidance and Quad Tips from Christine Z

- Some guidance counsellors have changed letters and 1 shift of counsellors
- Big thank you to students for following the rules and requesting appointments instead of the drop-in. Some meetings are being held by phone or ZOOM which is also assisting follow Covid protocols

- A lot of information from the Guidance Office is shared with the students from Instagram at @earlhaiguance and Guidance Newsletter with links
- Announcements daily are also shared
- Quad 2 is set to go with courses and once complete, move onto Quad 3 & 4. A lot of changes took place so each Quad is being handled properly and timely
- University & College information is being shared and posted as links. Most information is up by end of October. A reminder that students cannot apply to University until they receive their PIN number. This year, they will be mailed to student's homes directly from OUAC. Ensure the school have a correct mailing address and they should receive the number by mid-November. OUAC 101 begins the process. Ontario Colleges.ca is the process for College Applications. In November, the council will cover this information and detailed application process.
- Quad 1, 2, and 3 in addition to Grade 11 marks will be the focus for OUAC as the Quad 4 will have just started in April (the traditional time for marks to be shared with OUAC). This should not penalize any student as all students are in the same situation.
- Be kind to yourself, realize that you will need to take care of yourself to succeed but nothing will be perfect
- Self care is critical in these times – monitor the stress levels and embrace the positives
- Benefit of 2 courses at a time is the ability to concentrate
- Feed your passions, hobbies, interests, sports to replace what isn't possible at school
- Communication is key – on-going conversation with teachers for understanding content, or deadlines, will help. Communicate with each other regularly too – parents and students.
- Use a calendar to map out each quad and ensure you keep organized for the 9 weeks
- No exams – 100% course – so the stress of exams is lifted but means you need to do your best for classwork, labs, etc.
- Online resources can augment like Khan Academy and University of Waterloo for Math
- Reach out to guidance, admin, or the teachers for any support so that everyone is successful

Questions & Discussion

- Quad 2 schedules will be posted in November
- Flexibility for switching courses is still difficult as many options are full. Continue to work with your Guidance Counsellor. The target is to ensure no spares for the junior years.
- Hybrid options and other options were discussed at the Committee of the Whole. At this point though, no change for TDSB had been offered
- If you switch between virtual and in-school, it is not guaranteed that the same courses will be available and the timetable won't change. As of this meeting, no direction was available about switching
- Claude Watson students have a 3rd course for the Quad to cover Geography (G9) and Civics/Careers (G10)
- All parents are encouraged to check the website regularly

Closing

- Thank you to Christine for the outstanding support presenting tonight. We look forward to hearing from you in November.
- Thank you to Ricky and Lorena and all of the VPs for presenting.
- If there are any questions that weren't answered, reach out to her office.
- Thank you to all of the council members – we will aim to continue the normal activity
- Next month we'll have Alexander Brown, our trustee
- Thank you for attending tonight

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 at 7:30pm

The actions and activities of the EHSS School Council are authorized by the Principal