



AURORA ACADEMIC CHARTER SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

12050 - 95a ST, Edmonton, AB T5G 1R7

780-540-9400

auroraschool.ca

Secondary School Council

Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024

6:30-7:30 pm

<https://meet.google.com/ogb-vtay-oxx>

(please use a gmail account or your student's school account to log on)

Ms. Dunford and Dr. Gill - co-chairs

Attendees:

Ms. Dunford - co-chair

Dr. Gill - co-chair

Ms. Harman - Principal

Nandika S. - School Council voting representative

Mrs. Tomkow - Teacher representative

Bino Prabhu - parent

Deborah Miller - parent

Mrs. Alzobi - parent

Otega Erhurun -parent

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gill at 6:37pm

Important Dates:

- Dec 6: Junior High Speech Regionals hosted by Aurora
- Dec 11: Grade 9 Parent/Family Night
- Dec 18: Field Trip day
- Dec 19-Jan 6: School Closed
- Jan 16: New Parent Information Night
- Jan 24: Science Fair - parents invited
- Jan 28 - Start of Term 2 (new classes g 10-12; new options g 8/9)
- Jan 31 Report Cards
- Feb 7: Honour Roll 2:00 (in-person); Cyber Extravaganza 3:15—>

- Mar 5 6:00 next School Council meeting

1. Land Acknowledgement and Purpose of School Council - Ms. Harman
 - The purpose of the meeting is to deal with issues that concern the school community as a whole. If you would like to discuss issues specific to your child, such as your bus stop or an issue with a teacher, please make an appointment to speak directly with the Principal
 - Members must adhere to the code of conduct to model respect and empathy to all members of the school community. The Chair may impose time limits.
 - To have a meeting, there must be enough parents for quorum and the Principal must be in attendance, otherwise the meeting is adjourned and no motions or business may be carried out. Quorum is a minimum of 3 parents/guardians of Secondary School students and/or the designated voting student representative
 - All parents/guardians of students in the high school have a vote and the right to propose items for the agenda
 - The Student Council Representative has a vote on behalf of all students; other students may attend but are not allowed to vote
2. Call to Order and Introductions - Dr. Gill
3. Teacher Representative (Mrs. Tomkow) will record minutes of motions. The meeting will be recorded to help verify the minutes.
 - Student Representative from Student Council Nandika S.
 - Parents
4. Motion to Approve Agenda - Dr. Gill
 - Motioned by: Mrs. Dunford
 - Seconded: Mr. Prabhu
 - Any changes: none
5. Motion for Approval of the Minutes - Dr. Gill
 - Motioned by: Mrs. Dunford
 - Seconded: Mr. Prabhu
6. Principal's Report - Ms. Harman
 - a. University & Academic
 - i. 19 students have been accepted to multiple universities so far

- ii. University Fair for 15 institutions - about 100 people came; parents also found programs that they can enroll in themselves
 - iii. Grade 11 & 12 students all finished one-on-one coaching; moving to grade 10 students in new year
 - iv. Dual Credit students: 19 students accepted to LEthbridge Polytechnic
 - v. Lunch tutoring in math, science, and English; after school tutoring in g 10-12 math and physics
 - vi. Library open at lunch every day and after school for an hour every day for quiet studying or tutoring
 - vii. 7 different clubs running
- b. Extracurriculars
 - i. Basketball leagues are starting: Jr and Sr High
 - ii. Open gym after school every day
 - iii. Improv Club signed up for drama tournament
 - iv. Speech sending 14 students to Regionals
 - 1. Won 11 medals so far this year
 - v. Apega Science Olympics teams in full swing
 - vi. Library club recommending books and decorating
 - vii. Music club getting started - piano
 - viii. Leadership fundraising for Ben Stetler Foundation
 - ix. Bake Sales for Foods program
 - x. Lunch Canteen - noodles and lunch items, as well as junk food
 - xi. Grade 9 Trip to Red Deer in October - huge success
- c. Building / Programming Upgrades
 - i. Professional glass basketball hoops in gym and new scoreboard coming
 - ii. New outdoor basketball hoop
 - iii. \$2000 worth of new books in library
 - iv. \$2500 on Science equipment and specimens
 - v. \$10,000 on new photography equipment
 - vi. New clocks in hallways to help with tardiness
 - vii. \$4000 toward new music program!
 - 1. Bought a piano and 3 guitars
- d. Funding - looking for donations before tax season

- i. Parents can donate to the school and designate where they would like it spent and will receive tax credits
- ii. Received \$60,000 in furniture from Investor's Group to equip Skyrattler campus

e. Volunteering

- i. Dec 18th for g 8/9 field trips chaperones
- ii. Jan 24 for Science Fair - can't be family members of g 8/9 students
- iii. Someone strong to set up cable weight machine
- f. Registration for next year
 - i. Skyrattler: grades 5-7
 - ii. Waitlist for grades 8-12 has grown 150% - if have friends, need to get on list now
 - 1. Adding extra class of grade 8 & sprinkle to other grades
 - iii. G 9 parent evening - preparing for PATs and High School
 - 1. December 11 @ 6:30 pm
 - iv. Current families have priority - February re-registration
 - 1. If enroll in 2 schools, have until May to make up your mind
 - v. New family Information Nights begin January
 - 1. Assessments for new students starts Jan 29
- g. Annual goals from parent/student/teacher surveys
 - i. Incredible PAT results again
 - ii. Goal 1: Expand Program of Studies, Club/Course Offerings, and Academic Activities in Arts
 - 1. Film studies and drama classes
 - 2. Drama Improv Club
 - 3. Music Club with new instruments
 - 4. Dual Credit in Art Digital Animation
 - 5. New art teacher with new, exciting projects based on students interests - graffiti art with winning student designing mural; soapstone carving
 - iii. Goal 2: Strengthen Accountability, Respect and Responsibility Among Students
 - 1. Work Ethic and respect report card - reporting to parents and holding students accountable
 - 2. Leadership Class - helping in the community
 - 3. Leadership Club - volunteering in school

4. New BASE resource to teach Social-Emotional skills and
5. Suspension Re-integration Program - involve counsellors and teaching to help kids learn from their mistakes
6. Psychology 9 class

iv. Goal 3: Improve Access to and Awareness of Non-Academic Support and Resources

1. Increase referrals to OT/SLP/counsellors
2. Bring counsellors and OTs to Parent Teacher Interviews
3. Increase parental involvement in deciding on supports - parent-led cyber safety night!
4. Train teachers in how to access supports and simplify referral process

7. Questions for the Principal - open to the floor

8. Student Council Report - Nandika S.

-bullying awareness

-pumpkin decorating

-Friday fun night

-planning new after-school event (magician or performer)

9. Extended Absences Question - Dr. Gill

- More students taking longer absences (7 this year vs 2 in all of last year)
- Quiz about parent thoughts around absenteeism
 - i. Presentations, communication, deal with underlying issues, maintain interest in school
 1. Some causes are anxiety and social issues
 2. Need more communication and better mental health support
 - ii. Parents don't know about supports for students who are frequently absent
- Parent thoughts
 - i. Communication with those parents about expectation
 - ii. Students can stay caught up on Google Classroom
 - iii. Get study buddy or paid tutor from High School
 - iv. Parents need to take initiative to catch up kids and take responsibility
 - v. There's a cost to pulling out kids for longer time on the other students and the teachers can't spend time with other students who have been there

- vi. Other schools have buddy system - confide in them, check in on them, different angle of support (not just from the teachers) - senior students with junior; students have to apply to become buddy and submit explanation of why they are interested
- vii. Research shows that absences affect

10. Volunteers for Fundraising Committee - Mrs. Dunford

- o skipped

11. School Council Engagement Grant -Mrs. Dunford

\$500 School Council Enhancement Grant for...Parent engagement about cyberbullying/online-safety

- o Subcommittee: Lori Dunford, Binoy Prabhu, Dr. Gill, Yuki Seto
- o Set date: Friday, February 7 @ 3:15 pm
- o Use \$500 for audio-visual capacity to live-stream Cyber Extravaganza and record for website
 - i. Motion by: Dr. Gill
 - ii. Seconded by: Mrs. Alzobi

\$500 School Council Enhancement Grant for...Parent engagement about healthy eating and body image

- o 7. Examples of non-allowable expenses include:
 - i. • entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food;
 - ii. • no capital asset purchases;
 - iii. • activities that have already taken place;
 - iv. • organization memberships;
 - v. • fundraising events;
 - vi. • prizes or incentives to parents and/or students;
 - vii. • payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts;
 - viii. • entertainment activities such as barbeques, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances,
 - ix. concerts or performances, etc.

12. Next Meeting Date: March 5, 2025 @ 6 pm

Motion for Meeting to adjourn: Mrs. Dunford
Meeting adjourned: 7:41 pm