



Central Toronto Academy School Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday October 25, 2017

1. Attendees:

Iwona Kurman (Principal, CTA)
Oma Boodoo (parent Grade 11)
Andrew Brown (School Council Treasurer, parent Grade 9)
Carmen B Cheekock (parent Grade 12)
Rebecca Dileo (Teacher, CTA)
Maryjean Lancefield (parent Grade 11)
Rosalee Lowe (parent)
Becky McMurray (parent Grade 11)
Amna Mullick (parent Grade 11)
Eunice O'Mahony (Teacher, CTA)
George Parkinson (School Council Secretary, parent Grade 9)
Stephanie Tonks (parent Grade 9)
Ed Van Hooydonk (School Council Co-Chair, parent Grade 12)
Sasha Whiting (parent Grade 9)
David Wong (School Council Co-Chair, parent Grade 9)

2. Approval of CTA School Council October 25 Agenda (all)

Meeting started at 6:07 pm

3. Approval of September 27 CTA School Council minutes (all)

- No changes to the drafted minutes

4. Principal Report (Ms. Kurman)

- Departure of 1 French teacher from CTA as the individual was hired for Semester 1 at CTA but has since obtained full time employment in the Peel Region – CTA will cover in the interim with a supply teacher
- The Grade 12 Commencement occurred last week, was well attended, and very successful

- Mr Gleeson has launched our new school website that has been re-designed, has included a student gallery, better and more comprehensive
- The renovations to our auditorium have been completed
- The renovation to our 2nd Drama room is near completion
- Two music teachers have committed to increasing the music programs at CTA
- Spirit week is occurring this week with the "Halloween Spirits" in the basement that includes "zombies" for this Friday
- CTA continues to be included as part of an "Urban Priority School" and should remain in this status for a few years. There are about 150 such schools province-wide and includes:
 - Partnering with Central Technical High School
 - About \$70k for CTA that includes a social worker in the school
 - Homework club
 - Financial assistance to some students
- Sasha Whiting offered to liaise with the school and her employer to obtain some potential social health services for CTA if there is a need. Ms Kurman will follow up with Sasha to explore this possibility
- There is a need to reach out to Grade 8 feeder schools to promote CTA as a high school choice. Suggested activities are:
 - Ms Kurman will host a light breakfast with the feeder school Principals to provide some information about CTA
 - November 30 CTA Open House for Grade 8 Students
 - Planning needed to strategize on how to further promote CTA to the community

5. Teachers Report (Ms Delio and Ms O'Mahony)

- December 7 fundraising event from 6:00 to 10:00 pm to launch the "CTA backpacks"
 - Skirtline fashion designer
 - Will be "pop up" event
 - At Super Wonder Gallery
- Eco Club has gold status and is going for platinum
- Red Dress Project for murdered and missing indigenous girls project awareness
- GSA very active – going to the Envision Conference at Central Technical High School on November 17
- Bring Your Grade 9 to Work – some students will be going to Queen's Park on November 1 to spend the day with the Minister of Education or the Minister of the Environment

- There continues to be a technology focus at CTA that includes the student rental program for 80 Chromebooks (laptop computers) but the higher grades are running out
- Mentoring – every Grade 9 student has been assigned a teacher mentor that has been received very well by the Grade 9 students
- Bloor Bike Lane event on the television showed two CTA students participating

6. School Council Purpose/ Objectives (Dave Wong)

- School Council is a mandated (by the Ontario Minister of Education through Regulation 612) advisory group that is meant to support and help enhance the student experience at the school
- School Council is not supposed to be a substitution for the education provided by the school nor be an oversight or governing group for the operations of the school
- School Council comprises of the school management (Principal and Vice-Principal, teachers, other staff, parents, caregivers/ guardians, and community members
- As the mandate and regulation is for School Council, Dave suggested that all reference to the former “Parent Council” be discontinued. All agreed.

7. Ward 10 School Council Meeting Report (Dave Wong)

- Ward 10 Council is all of the TDSB schools in School Trustee Ausma Malik’s area that includes CTA
- All are welcome to attend these meetings that are held monthly
- Meeting was held on October 3 at Beverly School
- The session was a “School Councils 101” and addressed any questions that anyone had regarding the function and operations of School Councils

8. Treasurer Report and School Council Bank Account (Dave Wong, Andrew Brown, and Ed Vanhoodonk)

- School Council did not fundraise in the 2016/ 2017 school year and, therefore, does not any bank account or balances
- Funds deposited into CTA’s account last year were re-distributed to the CTA for its various events and initiatives

9. PRO Grant (Ed Van Hooydonk)

- CTA has been granted \$975 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for the 2017/ 2018 school year to be spent on “teenager mental health and social media”
- Open to ideas that can be tabled at our next School Council meeting in November

10. School Council Insurance and School Council Funds with the School (Dave Wong)

- All schools have been approached by Aon Insurance to ask whether the school wants to participate in the School Council Insurance program (\$151.20 per school year). This would include coverage for School Council for any events or activities outside of the school or in the absence of school management (Principal/ Vice-Principal)
- CTA School Council feedback was that it does not foresee any events that will occur offsite or without the school's management. Therefore, School Council has decided not to participate in this insurance program until such a time exists where it is decided to be needed
- School Council funds with the school will be used for food for the School Council meetings, presentations, promotion of events or other endeavours for School Council. Any remaining funds will be re-distributed to the School for its initiatives

11. School Council Section of the CTA Website and School Council Email (Dave Wong)

- Dave Wong has asked Mr Gleeson to post some School Council materials on the CTA website. Examples would be approved School Council meeting minutes and information on upcoming school community events, including Ward 10 events
- School Council will create an email address for the CTA community to send their queries or comments to School Council

12. CTA School Statement of Needs (Dave Wong)

- The CTA School Statement of Needs (SSON) is a document that is filled in by School Council and the CTA Principal and submitted to CTA's Superintendent (Mike Gallagher). The purpose of the document is to outline any specific attributes or considerations if CTA's Principal or Vice-Principal departs from the school. The document is not supposed to be an evaluation of the Principal or Vice-Principal's performance. Ms Kurman advised that she has no intent to depart from CTA in the next few years but this remains to be an important document
- The SSON from the last school year was printed and distributed to School Council for review. School Council agrees that the document remains valid and does not necessarily need updating but may do so should there be any future developments or initiatives within the school that should be taken into consideration for this document

13. CTA School Council Members – Student Council (Dave Wong)

- Dave asked that with an active CTA Student Council, whether an invitation should be extended to it to have a representative attend the School Council meetings. Ms Dileo will liaise with the CTA Student Council to discuss

14. CTA Cell Phone Policy (Ms Kurman)

- School Council asked whether there is a CTA cell phone policy for student usage. Ms Kurman advised that while there is a policy, private and inappropriate materials are not to be accessed on school premises. She sometimes intervenes when offenders are identified but this only occurs rarely

15. Sexual Abuse of Minors (George Parkinson)

- George provided his views that the CTA school community must remain vigilant to look for signs of sexual abuse of minors and to seek remedial actions (i.e. contact the school Principal or Vice-Principal) when potentially identified

16. Committees (all)

- Outreach Committee – focus on information to Grade 8 feed schools, poster for November 30 Grade 8 Open House, and potential events
- Fundraising Committee – point forward to next meeting

17. Ideas, Objectives, Concerns, Issues, and Other Items for School Council (all)

- None presented

18. Next School Council Meeting (all)

- The attending participants agreed that the next CTA School Council meeting will be held (at CTA) on Tuesday November 21, 2017

19. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.