

Ursuline College School Advisory Council Virtual Minutes Tuesday, February 22, 2022

1.0 Welcome - Lisa Harnarine (Principal)

2.0 Prayer - Ray Power (Vice Principal)

3.0 Agenda and Minutes of November 30, 2021

4.0 SAC Executive

Chairperson - Melissa Jackson

Board Advisory Rep. - Joanne Munroe, Colleen Janseen, Erin Bourdeau

Community Rep. - Renee Handsor
-Renee shared community updates with Mr.Power.

Secretary - Jen Chickowski

Safe School Rep. - Becky Arnold, Colleen Janseen

5.0 Principal Report - Lisa Harnarine

- Ms. Harnarine shared a brief description of her journey. She is a former student, classroom teacher, Guidance Department Head, VP, and now Principal. She is quite excited to take on the role of principal and is looking forward to collaborating with SAC in the future.
- Administration: VP Responsibilities
Mary Anne McCrae - Gr 9 Rick Baggio - Gr 10 Ray Power - Gr 11/12
- Student Life - We are experiencing a bit more normalcy at UCC with the return of 4 classes per day (regular semester design), and the availability of the cafeteria for lunches. We now have 3 different lunch periods to be able to accommodate the large number of students.
Lunch 1 - Gr. 11/12 10:53 - 11:33am
Lunch 2 - Gr. 10 11:34am - 12:14pm
Lunch 3 Gr. 9 12:14 - 12:54pm
- Facilities Update: Lancer Commons (old 'library') - Construction has been ongoing for the past year. The area is now completely remodeled and is a large, welcoming space for students to work and learn comfortably. The furniture is designed to be flexible. There is a variety of seating opportunities for both individual work, and for class visits. There are charging stations available for (responsible) student use. The students have been so respectful of this new space.
- Outdoor Classroom Project - Currently planning and designing another learning space to offer a collaborative outdoor space. Of course the current weather conditions play a role in the timeline of the project. The focus is to ensure that a space is developed which honours the Ursuline Sisters, and Indigenous groups as this is the area that was attached to the former chapel and remains part of our school history.
- The bulletin boards and display cabinets in the hallways are being revamped to highlight the many clubs, sports, and extracurriculars that are available at UCC. It is also a good opportunity to share school news with the students. This is especially useful for the current student body, as some may be unaware of all the awesome experiences available within their reach.

6.0 Lancer News - Lisa Harnarine

- Ursuline Sisters - Students met a group of Ursuline sisters outdoors and delivered cards made by UCC students. The gifts were well received and very much appreciated.

- Canadian Food for Children - Group raises funds and collects items which are shipped to various destinations where students are underprivileged. These donations that we may toss out or recycle make the world of difference in these developing countries.

7.0 **Coming Events and Information (February/March Updates)** - Lisa Harnarine

- Black History Month - Thomas Dula (school chaplain) and Mark Broadbent (teacher) have organized a guest speaker visit (virtual presentation) to help students develop a better understanding of history and culture.
- Guest speaker, Paul Davis (Social Media & Internet Safety Expert) will be presenting about vaping to the school.
- Lancer Vision - Daily morning announcements include profiles that highlight various Black Canadian heroes.
- Human Connection Challenge Week - To support diversity, anti-bullying, and inclusivity. There will be class challenges to highlight or advocate mental health initiatives including:
 1. Pink Shirt Day (Feb 23/2022) - Students are encouraged to wear pink shirts/uniform bottoms to support anti-bullying and to recognize healthy school climates.
 2. A guest speaker (Jack Org) will be speaking with a focus on inclusivity.
 3. There will also be a senior virtual presentation on Feb.24 profiling youth leaders who will share what mental health means to them and how to support their mental health.

***Everyone stands to benefit from understanding mental health and its impact on our community. The focus is on erasing the stigmas associated with mental health so that more people talk about it.

- Course Selection / Guidance Visits - destreaming and eLearning
 - June of 2021 the Ministry of Education unveiled a new mathematics course that emphasizes real-world applications and financial literacy. The new de-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics course (MTH1W) was implemented in September 2021.
 - Beginning in September 2022, all Grade 9 subjects (Science, English, Math, Geography and French) will be offered in one-stream.
- ELearning - *These courses are designed to be self lead. There are no specific times set for these courses. Students are to complete these courses and manage their time independently. Students in Grade 10 are required to do one more elearning course before they graduate - given credit for one course due to school closures in March-June 2020. Current Grade 9s will be required to complete 2 elearning courses (unless they opt out). Guidance teachers will be walking students through all the options available to them. UCC has chosen to start elearning courses in Gr.11.

8.0 **Inclement Weather Days** - Ray Power

- There have already been 2 full days and 1 half day lost due to buses cancelled/inclement weather.
- The expectation is that students will continue their learning on days when they are not in school. When buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, students are invited to attend the physical building if they can do so safely. If they are unable to attend the school in person, students will work asynchronously online (no live Google Meets).
- Assessments will not be completed by the teachers until the course material has been taught/reviewed in person.

9.0 **Covid Related Information** - Ray Power

- It is imperative that students and staff use the Ontario Self Assessment tool prior to attending each day. (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>)
- Students who report illness at school related to Covid symptoms will be sent home.
- Isolation requirements are mandated by the Public Health Unit.
- Masking and physical distancing are still important (on the bus, in the bus line, in the building).
- Families/students will be informed ASAP if any changes are made to the current screening tool.

10.0 Uniform Discussion - Mary Ann McCrae

Ms. McCrae shared that the administrative team has been having discussions with the students and understands that many students have shared that they are not comfortable in their pants, specifically. Administration is working closely with McCarthy's and are asking for parent volunteers to be a voice and help approve some upcoming potential uniform changes from McCarthy's. Ms. McCrae will reach out to the volunteers identified from our last SAC meeting (Melissa Jackson, Erin Bourdeau, Carrie Cook, Jen VanderVeen) to begin work on this important issue. If others are interested in being included in these discussions, please email Ms McCrae(maryann.mccrae@st-clair.net). All parents are asked to have discussions with their children to remind them that they must dress appropriately based on the weather. ****Reminder: Wearing non-uniform pants over uniform shorts is not approved.** Administration is trying very hard to reach common ground with the students. McCarthy's is very motivated to listen to the concerns and possibly create new pieces which will be more comfortable and stylish for the students.

11.0 UCC Goal/Focus -Lisa Harnarine

- Youth Wellness Conference - School wide - Discussions centred around our school climate and school culture based on school climate surveys that were conducted in the fall.
- Work ahead is to address needs and concerns to help build and sustain a positive school environment.
- Imperative to continue to include student/parent voices going forward.
- To use input and to make informed decisions about programs
- To promote a safe and inclusive learning environment at UCC

12.0 Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, Apr 26 from 6-7pm.

- **Meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice.**

Future Meeting Dates: Tuesday, May 31 2022