

**ECOLE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes December 12, 2019- 12:00 pm**

Attendees: Rajiv Rawat, Dean McInnis, Audra Donison, Cathy Tumoth

1. **Agenda** – approved as circulated
2. **Minutes**- approved as circulated
3. **Standing Reports**
 - a. **Anaphylaxis Committee** – this committee can be removed from standing reports, as its duties have been completed.
 - b. **Grad Council** -
 - i. Christmas potluck was Dec 11;
 - ii. Grads will be singing at Assembly on last day (unbeknownst to them);
 - iii. Gingerbread house making is Monday Dec 16;
 - iv. January there will be no events
 - c. **Student Council** –
 - i. sold cupcakes for YK FoodBank fundraiser, with Green club assisting;
 - ii. Assisted at Santa Claus parade with serving hot chocolate.
 - d. **Trustee Report** – Board meeting last night:
 - i. Janitorial staff union contract (USW) was successfully negotiated;
 - ii. ECE requested a public meeting re JHS architectural plans,
 - iii. Board is also considering a Town Hall meeting at end of January to discuss various issues incl the mandate of the new government, new positions, and the possible early school year end for JHS students to accommodate the move.
 - iv. Board is having a retreat Feb 7-9 for strategic planning;
 - v. Superintendent hiring – Jan 31 is application deadline;
 - vi. YK1 website to be revamped.
 - e. **Principal's Report**-
 - i. The ads for academic achievement awards were in the newspaper, will be presented at Assembly (11-12 on Friday 20th, followed by a luncheon);
 - ii. last week's Christmas concert was sold out;

- iii. Mental Health summit last week went well;
 - iv. Dean is reinforcing with students esp Gr 12 to use their break to be ready for the end of the semester as diploma course exams will be 2nd week of January while classes still in session;
 - v. The staff had a PD day for mindfulness presented by Christine Lewdinski from Aurora College, it was really good and staff learned how to “be the best person in the room” they can be, Christine will return for the next level. The goal is 3 PD days /year.
- f. **Chairperson Report** – Meeting was Nov 26: YK1 Board is requesting parent input on policies posted on the website. See website for more information.

4. **Topics for open discussion:** High risk students, ESL students, special needs students, gifted students, students with unique talents/interests, Knowledge & Employability (K&E) student issues.
Parking Lot Items: Keys to Success, Screens and Teens

5. Old Business

a) Discussion Topic: Homework Article

: <https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/homework-high-school/>

There are a wide variety of opinions out there on whether homework is helpful in high school. This article’s main point is that homework is an important part of high school, but it must be purposeful, it needs to have value and not just “busy work”. This is also Dean’s stance. He included this to educate parents on the middle ground. The article has links to other articles with other viewpoints. Even at ESJF there are different opinions on this. How homework is administered is not always consistent. In 30 level classes the goal is to give some guidance but not spoon feed. Topics can be briefly presented with an expectation students may need to go deeper on their own time. One parent commented the transition from middle school to high school can be steep in amount of homework given, the school is aware of the need to work with WMS staff on this.

6. New Business

a) **Staff appreciation** - to be held January 31st. Further discussion at January meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, January 16, 12:00 pm