

**Meeting Minutes
Preston High School
School Council
January 27, 2021.**

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Jeevan. Apologies for the last minute switch of date to accommodate the presentation.

Student Update:

Ashley and Jacob from Student Activities Council updated parents on what has been happening and is planned to continue connecting with students. They discussed:

- How students are being supported via social media.
- Focus this week on Mental Health. Bell Let's Talk Day is coming up. Sharing resources.
- "You are not alone" student video with clips from SAC members and teaching staff.
- Students are feeling "apart" from each other. Now offering weekly google meets. Try to emulate school environment in a virtual format as much as possible.
- Now offering virtual clubs (book, baking, chess)
- Trying to connect staff and students as to emulate non-pandemic times.

Q: Are students connecting w/ each other? Yes, via weekly Google Meet

Q: How to join clubs? Figuring that out now. Staff sponsor and maybe a Google Form to sign up.

Q: What social media platforms are being used? IG, YouTube, Tik Tok

Q: Where can SAC share info for distance learners? Mrs. Brennan will be posting some links re distance learning. Social Media references can be linked there.

Comment from Chat: Grade classrooms are a good connection as well.

Guest Speaker:

Paula introduced WRDSB Psychologist Indrani "Rani" Reddy who is part of the school success team who meets weekly. Very timely presentation.

Please refer to the copy of the presentation.

Questions and discussion following presentation:

Q: Being present and being there for teens, but also for oneself?

As parents we cannot always be present. Too much of an expectation to expect of ourselves. Be intentional about making time to be present.

Q: Should we be concerned about grades?

No. There is more to life than grades. Our kids need to hear that. It is a time that is a struggle for all of us. You will catch up. Confirmed by Mrs. Bender and Mrs. Brennan as well.

Q: How may I be present when my teen doesn't seem to want me around?

Ask them. Suggestions from the chat: Try car rides, walks.

Q: My son has the opportunity to renovate a house for three weeks in May.

What do you think? It's a small time in a big picture. How does it fit in? What do you think as a parent?

Consider a 5 year graduation plan.

What subjects are occurring at a time? How well are they doing? Would you consider splitting the school work with construction time? How much can they miss and still keep up? Don't want experience to affect the granting of school credits.

Tech courses are difficult to do virtually.

This is just an unfortunate reality right now.

Remember. We are in a worldwide pandemic. This will pass.

Guidance Update: Mrs. Brennan.

Please see attached for more info.

Course selection time. Guidance Counsellors creating videos

Feb 16-19 Students will be asked to select courses using MyWay. Teachers will give time in class to do so.

Counsellors will publish Google Meet times.

Q: Are Enhanced Programs still cancelled?

Enhanced programs are not offered in the distance learning program. That being said, courses will still be counted as an enhanced subject. They will choose the next enhanced course code.

Q: How do you choose Grade 11 courses when you don;t know what you want to do?

Only Math and English are mandatory. If they think they might like a science career, choose two as Grade 11 program. You can always reach back for science if you need to.

Q: Will there be Summer School this year?

Summer School will be offered for the month of July. One credit as a new credit.

There were a number of good comments and questions raised throughout the meeting. Parents were encouraged to reach out to school staff if they have questions or would like further guidance.

Rani was thanked for her presentation and the meeting was adjourned.