York Meeting Agenda

School Advisory & Accountability Committee

Thursday, November 11 (5:00-6:30)

SAAC Purpose:

The SAAC at York International takes pride in working collaboratively with families, students, teachers and administration to inform future planning, problem solve, and work on continuous improvement.

Committee Norms:

1. **Expectations -** Assume positive intent that all decisions are being made in what's best for students. Focus on a solution-oriented mindset to make actionable decisions; above all else **show respect**.
2. **Time:** Purposeful use of time:
   a. Start and end on time
   b. Stick to an agenda
   c. We will use our time purposefully by collaboratively identifying high priority and meaningful topics.
3. **Participation**: Respectfully engage in each meeting honoring opportunities to take risks, disagree, and hear all voices.
4. **Listening:** We will assume positive intent while actively listening and will remain open-minded to new ideas and perspectives, mindful of the K-12 lens.

Today's Meeting Objectives:

- ~~Parent Shout Outs & Celebrations~~
- Student Engagement Initiative
- Educational Supports at Home
- Open Forum

VISION

As an International Baccalaureate School, the York International Community firmly believes that through each educator's unyielding commitment to academic excellence and personal growth, **all students will be empowered to lead purposeful lives.**

MISSION

In partnership with the community and families, York International commits to:

- Fostering the unique potential of every child.
- Ensuring that all students are challenged and supported in their pursuit of academic success.
- Implementing engaging, rigorous instruction.
- Building on a foundation of meaningful relationships and joy in learning.

Time	Topic	Details	Notes
~~5:00 – 5:10~~	~~Parent Shout Outs & Celebrations~~	• *In this meeting we jumped into our topics of discussion right from the beginning.*	• n/a

5:10 – 5:20	Student Engagement Initiative	**Goal – How can staff at York partner with parents at home to encourage and support improvements to student engagement in the classroom K-12?**	**Parent ideas/comments:** • How can the adults (parents and staff) set the tone for the day / at the beginning of each class in a positive way? • Parents can ask specific questions about their student's day at school. – Make at least one question academic and one question social.
5:20 – 6:15	Educational Supports at Home	**This conversation merged with the topic above, but continued to deepen our focus into cell phone policies at York K-12**	**Cell phones at school conversation** • Cell phones being a distraction is not an issue in K-5 • Cell phone usage in class is not a major issue in grades 6-8 within the classroom, but has become a distraction in the halls and at lunch. • We have noticed throughout the pandemic impacted last two years that the rules around cell phones in class have become very lax at the high school level. – This has resulted in cell phones being a major distraction for many high school students leading towards disengagement with their lessons. • How can we show them that we care and we value them. • Take away fears of the "unknown" • Set the tone that teachers/parents are approachable. • Set the why and the purpose to all of our academic actions. • What is the possibility of surveying students on the topic of engagement? • How can we set the tone of the school culture we are working to establish post-pandemic impacted year. • Ideas for celebrating students and their accomplishments throughout the building more. • Start a random acts of kindness initiative. • Could York host more "Homework Nights" to support families in supporting their students. • Are there resources within the community that families could call into or go online for academic support in the evenings? • Supporting parents with finding appropriate resources for them to learn and engage outside of the classroom. • Supporting parents in ideas for setting up a morning, afternoon, evening, and bedtime routine for their students. • Allow for flexibility but keep similar regimen. • Support parents in printing student schedules or writing down all teacher's names to then ask specific questions about each class. • Parent commitment – I will tell words of encouragement to my child every morning/couple times per week.

6:15-6:30	Open Forum	**Group discussed timeline of SAAC focus and meetings for the remainder of the year.**	**December** • Discuss timeline for cell phone policy steps. • Discuss timeline for possible student engagement supports. **January** • Address cell phones first step – no headphones or earbuds in class. **February** • Start construction of York SAAC website for communication. **March** • Conference engagement **April** • End of Year Planning

Action Steps before Next Meeting: • All SAAC members spend time looking into the following resource regarding possible policies to help support cell phone usage at York. - https://www.awayfortheday.org/	**December Meeting Agenda Topics:** • Continue conversations about semester II timelines. • Bring ideas for important information that could be included in a SAAC website.