**LN21 Sir Alexander Mackenzie Sr. P.S.**

**Parent Council Meeting**

# Oct 17, 2017

# M I N U T E S

**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 7th, 2017 ~ in the Library at 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance: Alison Gassi, Jack Levy, Dwayne Khan, Devin Khan (student), Susan Lou, Gibran Ally, Mohammad Aslam, Rizwana Aslam, Moaz Jivraj, Melanie Clarke, Ramesh Dasoju, Cherry Chen**

Meeting start time = 7:08pm

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| **AGENDA ITEM** | DISCUSSION | **ACTION** |
| Principal’s Items | | |
| Welcome and Introductions | -Alison started with an introduction and welcome  -Mr. Khan followed by introducing and sharing information about the positive climate of the school  -each attendee introduced themselves to the group | Sign-up sheet was passed around |
| Principal’s Report | -Alison shared the various sports activities happening around the school (e.g. bordenball, cross country, girls basketball, girls football, co-ed football, soccer)  -the Grade 8 Girls Bordenball team won the City Finals, Grade 7 Girls were Conference finalists  -girls and boys soccer, and flag football are still in league play  -Sudbury trip is upcoming on October 19  -Alison explained the format of the parent council meetings  -Alison informed parents that at SAM students do all the fundraising and council meetings have traditionally been about learning how to raise a healthy teen  -council meetings have included workshops and guest speakers  -Parent Council portion of the school budget has traditionally been used to support graduation expenses  -Parent Council has traditionally had the minimum number of meetings which is 4 per year  -Alison shared the school budget and explained that some items are “sweatered” items; meaning that the money is pre-allocated for that particular category in the chart  -our budget went up because we went from 385 – 415 students  -Jack shared information about the new STEAM lab that we received funding for last year  -the school applied for, and received $15,000 to build a STEAM lab  -the lab is up and running and students have received training in coding from Hatch Canada  **Some questions were raised: Q and A**  How do students manage sports teams and homework? Alison shared that the teachers are cognizant of all the extra-curricular activities SAM students take part in, and that parents and students work with their teachers to ensure homework and assignments are completed  How much homework should there be each night? It was noted and discussed that on the school website it states the TDSB’s expectation is 40 –75 minutes of homework per night for this grade level.  Are there opportunities to learn about transitions to high school? It was shared that on October 25 at 7p.m. in the cafeteria there is a workshop for parents; the students will have a presentation during the day on October 25 |  |
| Cross Walk Update | -Mr. Khan discussed the history of past attempts to get a crosswalk in front of the school  -Mr. Khan talked about the fact that he submitted a petition  -the city has not agreed to put one in  -a report from the city indicates there is not enough traffic to warrant a crosswalk  -the report was shared with attendees  -Mr. Khan feels the city is being negligent and will continue to work towards having a crosswalk installed  -Alison mentioned she had contacted our community liaison police officer to see if we can put pylons out in front of the school to show where the no stopping zone is located | Mr. Khan to continue to update at each council meeting |
| Executive School Council Election | -Alison discussed the role of the council chair (that they are the liaison between the community and the school)  -Mr. Khan discussed how a member can nominate themselves or another person for any role on the council  -Mr. Khan nominated himself to be chair; as there were no other nominees, Mr. Khan assumed the role of Chair  -Alison expressed that there is a vacancy for vice-chair; Mr. Aslam agreed to be vice-chair  -Mrs. Gassi expressed that there are two other positions, namely treasurer and secretary  -traditionally the VP has been the secretary | For the 2017/18 year Mr. Khan will serve as Chair and Mohammad Aslam as vice-chair.  Jack Levy (VP) will be the secretary. |
| Caring and Safe Schools Parent Representative | -Alison discussed that we need a parent representative for our Caring and Safe Schools Committee that consists of Principal, Vice Principal, teachers, students and a parent volunteer; Moaz Jivraj volunteered to be the parent rep |  |
| School Budget | -Alison explained the distribution of money to the various school departments  -the budget was passed around and shared with all present |  |
| Principal/Vice Principal SSON | -the School Statement of Needs (SSON) was shared and passed around for added input  -this document is used by the Superintendent and school trustee as a reference guide of desired administration attributes by the SAM staff and parents should there be a change in administration at SAM |  |
| PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) | -Mr. Khan shared that the Parent Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC) is an organization where parents can learn about schooling and learning  -there is a PIAC Conference on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at Earl Haig Secondary School in North York  -Our school Trustee is Abdul Hai Patel and he hosts local parent meetings; these are communicated through his website or on our school website on the homepage |  |
| Guest Speaker Topics of Interest | -there was some discussion around topics the council would like to investigate for presentations  -it was suggested that we should have a police presentation on internet safety; last year, this was done by Officer Gary Gomez of the Toronto Police; parents expressed interest to have him back to speak  -a suggestion was made for a G-Suite workshop; it was discussed that this could be done at the Winter meeting and we could invite teachers and possibly high school students as presenters  -it was suggested that for curriculum night we move to separate 7s and 8s and tailor the information accordingly  -it was suggested that to increase turn out for events held by council that perhaps we could have an incentive for parents to come  -Mr. Khan suggested we allocate $150 towards incentive prizes to encourage parents to attend the Parent Council meetings and also suggested the students be present, and the gift could go to the student (this was decided by a vote) | Alison will connect with Officer Gomez to see if he can come to the next meeting which may be in late November.  Susan Lou will help to send an invite to sessions for mandarin speakers. |
| Mail | -council mail is delivered to the school  -Chair receives mail at the school |  |
| Other business | -Alison shared some handouts for parent learning sessions offered by Public Health  Camp Muskoka:  -the grade 8 Camp Muskoka trip is held at the beginning of the year and has been a very positive experience for the students  Next two meetings:  -meetings will be in November and February (attendees stated that Tuesdays nights and Thursday work best)  TDSB Equity Survey:  -two Parent Council members volunteered to complete the survey with Jack | Ms. Lou will help with invites and translation for mandarin speakers  Jack to connect with the two Parent Council members that volunteered to complete the equity survey. |

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01pm