

Faywood ABC Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes for Meeting – Monday September 21st, 2015

In Attendance: Courtney Weiner (co-chair), Suzanne Grant (co-chair), Elizabeth Schaeffer (Principal), Jordana Britt, Pina Perruccio, Steve Weiner, Shira Farber, Karen Gnat, Steve Gould, Nicole Nathan, Yanjin Zhang, Robyn Temins Sklar, Allison Sherman, Julie Zaldin, Myriam Goldman, Sheri Askey, Eric Askey, Nicole Gross, Dayle Gordon, Hyacinth Bell, Danielle Dietrich, Marla Stone, Sue Schacter, Alexis Shinewald, Alana Gordon Reznick, Tanny Fung, Mindy Caplan, Thomas McLenaghan, Lindsay Hoffman, Riva Turner, Gabbi Silverberg, Nicole Pollock, Sandra Daniele-Socci, Teimuraz Keshelashvili, Hila Caspi, Mery Ann B. Sambrano, Jonathan Sambrano, Junabe Cabanela and Zuzana Kirchhoff-Kulisek

1. **Opening of meeting:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm
2. **Approval of the minutes from June's meeting:** Approved by Karen Gnat and seconded by Nicky Nathan
3. **Guest Speaker/Guest Report:**

No guest speakers
4. **Chairpersons' Report: (Courtney Weiner and Suzanne Grant)**
 - a. **Welcome and introduction – overview of SAC positions and responsibilities:** Welcome from Chairs Courtney Weiner and Suzanne Grant. Courtney introduced the members of the executive council and the roles and responsibilities of each position were explained.

Overview of executive positions:
 - Chairs (currently Suzanne and Courtney) - running of meetings, prepare agendas, work with Elizabeth and the teachers, ensure minutes are recorded, consult with TDSB staff and other members of SAC, etc.
 - Fundraisers (currently Steve, Pina, Shira and Karen) - responsible for organizing and running all fundraising activities (e.g., pizza, popcorn, t-shirt sales, dance-a-thon, etc.)
 - Treasurers (currently Steve, Nicole and Yanjin) - responsible for all financial matters of council like depositing money and writing cheques (a 2 year minimum position)
 - Communications advisor (currently Robyn) – responsible for emailing weekly Friday files

- Secretary (currently Jordy) – responsible for recording all minutes from regular meetings and subcommittee meetings, and distributing to members for review
- Program co-ordinator (currently Shelagh) – organize after-school and lunch-time programs
- Volunteer co-ordinator (currently Esther) – recruit and arrange volunteers when required
- Grant co-ordinator – manage grant applications and pursue grant opportunities
- Class parent/directory co-ordinator – manage class parent and organize school directory
- Fun Fair co-ordinator – organize and manage the spring Fun Fair event
- Members-at-large – attend meetings and have voting rights

b. Disband current SAC: The current members of the SAC executive council were disbanded.

c. Review nominations and vote to establish new SAC: The nomination forms were read and the results are as follows. Each position:

- **Co-Chairs:** Courtney Weiner and Suzanne Grant to remain in current positions
- **Secretary** - Jordana Britt to remain in current position
- **Fundraising** – 5 nominees for this position: Karen Gnat and Steven Weiner will remain in current positions and Sheri Askey, Julie Zaldin and Myriam Goldman will join the fundraising group
- **Treasurers:** Nicole Nathan and Yanjin Zhang will remain in current positions. Allison Sherman was elected as an additional Treasurer and will perform duties for this school year as well as the following school year.
- **Communication Advisor** - Robyn Temins Sklar to remain in current position.
- **Volunteer Coordinator** – Alana Gordon Reznick was elected for this position.
- **Lunch-time and After-School Program Coordinator** – Mindy Caplan was elected for this position.
- **Fun Fair co-ordinator** – Shira Farber was elected for this position (with assistance from Karen Gnat and Jordana Britt)
- **Class parent and directory co-ordinator** – Dayle Gordon and Nicole Gross were elected for this position
- **Grant co-ordinator** – Tanny Fung was elected for this position
- **Members-at-large** – Hyacinth Bell, Danielle Dietrich, Marla Stone, Sue Schacter, Thomas McLenaghan, Lindsay Hoffman, Teimuraz Keshelashvili, Rob Grey and Riva Turner, Alexis Shinewald

- d. Scheduling the next meeting dates:** The SAC meeting dates for the 2015 school year will be October 26th, November 30th. The rest of the dates haven't been decided yet but will be announced at the next meeting.
- e. Parent package and forms:** Some forms went out first week of school (e.g., fundraising and class parent form, directory form, volunteer form, pizza and frozen treats forms, etc.). Extra forms are available in the office. Please fill out and return the forms as soon as possible.
- f. Lunch-time and after-school programs:** Forms went out last Wednesday. If you need a form there are always extra in the office. No update on the programs except that Mad Science is filling up already.
- g. Grade 8 graduation:** We usually give \$1000 for the grade 8 graduation ceremony. The grade 8 students also participate in fundraising for their graduation. The amount of \$1000 was approved by Shira Farber and seconded by Karen Gnat. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.
- h. School buses:** We usually give one bus per class at \$250 and half the price for the DHH classes. The total is \$3875. Karen Gnat is concerned that if there is a strike what would we do with the money? Courtney stated that it would go back into our funds and not be spent if trips aren't taken. The amount of \$3875 was approved by Nicky Nathan and seconded by Tom McLenaghan. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.
- i. Babysitters for SAC meetings:** SAC asks grade 7 and 8 students (who have taken the babysitting course) to babysit during the SAC meetings. We pay \$7.50 per hour and most meetings are 2 hours long (for a total of \$15). The amount of \$7.50/ hour was approved by Allison Sherman and seconded by Nicole Gross. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.
- j. Coffee meet and greet:** In the past SAC has organized a morning meet and greet for parents at Faywood. It's a good opportunity for new parents to get to know each other. Do we want to do it again? Could we offer it outside so it might draw more people? Courtney and Suzanne will look into this and find a day.
- k. Pro-Grant funding:** SAC has been approved for the Pro-Grant funding for 2015/16. This year we are going to focus on nutrition and healthy eating. An outside company called "Rainbow Plate" will present to parents and Karen and Jordana have volunteered to provide more hands-on sessions

and information. Some of the funds have been allocated to food, so we can do a cooking demonstration.

5. Principal's report: (Elizabeth Schaeffer)

a. Numbers and Potential For Reorganization

The numbers in primary and middle school are such that we may be instructed to realign our classes (Gr 1-8). We were projected at 353 and we are currently at 389. We have a number of people who are on our Optional Attendance List and we have not been able to accept anyone at this point. Should our numbers allow for new students we will conduct a lottery.

Notification date: Monday September 21, 2015

Realignment completion date: Friday September 25, 2015

All changes will be made with the least possible disruption to students in mind. Parents of students who will be moving as per realignment will be notified in advance.

b. Safe and Caring Schools Committee

-I need a volunteer/volunteers from the parent community to sit on this important committee. We will meet once a month from 8am to 8:30am on Tuesdays. Gaby Silverberg and Mindy Caplan have volunteered to sit on the committee.

c. Student Drop Off

- We ask that parents and caregivers please drop students off at the back of the school and on time.

-Please do not use the daycare doors from the parking lot to bring students in- they should line up. We do this to maintain a safe school environment for all students.

-Please walk and use one of the many safe entry ways for pedestrians or use the back parking lot where there is a student walkway to the school yard.

-Please do not park in no parking zones as this creates an unsafe situation for all of us.

Try to communicate to your child's teacher using the agenda or via phone or email message. It is disruptive to students and teachers to have parents in the school in the mornings.

d. School Evacuation Plan

-Updated to include new exits and plan accommodations appropriately for new student/staff needs

-Reviewed evacuation plan

Each class now has a dedicated spot on one of the two fields. The teacher will hold up a red or green card to alert Elizabeth if there is a missing student.

Immediate evacuation school is Dublin, then John Polanyi and Northview.

e. School Nutrition Program

- Possibility to apply for new partially funded program. Provide a morning meal that contains 3 food groups to all students. Can be everyday or only selected days. Costs would be about \$0.30 per meal. SAC may have to subsidize program so that it is available to all.

-If parents are interested I can pursue- follow up with the coordinator and have her come and speak at the next SAC meeting.

-Requires a commitment for volunteers/parents to pay for program etc.

-Concerns raised regarding nutritional choices and allergy awareness.

Next Steps:

Send out interest survey

Invite facilitator to our next meeting

f. Budget

- Our budget remains the same as last year (\$ 86,219)

-Will be adjusted to reflect increase in numbers

-One change is we are now allocated as per pupil amount for technology- we will not be provided any technology centrally as was past practice (\$3,332)

-Budget priorities are technology, levelled text and text books

- Due to work-to-rule last year some of the budget was able to be reallocated and some new furniture was purchased.

g. New Health and Physical Education Curriculum

-Curriculum guides are available on the ministry website for parents (and handed out at this meeting)

-The updated curriculum supports students developing the skills and knowledge to:

- Understand themselves and others
- Think critically, make and promote healthy choices
- Develop and maintain healthy relationships
- Be safe, physically and emotionally
- Be physically active for life and thrive

h. Suicide Protocol

Review TDSB Suicide protocol

- Involves intervention with any verbal or written threat of harm.

i. Website

We have an updated website - please use it for information

j. Start Up

We have had a great start due to the professionalism and quality of teachers and staff working in the building. Caretaking did an amazing job of cleaning the school.

Drum Fit- new program- instructor to come into the school and hold classes.
Incorporates fitness and music.

West African Drummer- coming to do a 1 hr assembly for grades 1-8

Arts with Children and Youth program- Master drummer and drum maker- will be working with grade 7 students to make drums. The students will learn how to use them and they will remain at the school for the music program

Curriculum night is postponed until further notice- we will not be charged for the corn that was pre-ordered. All Curriculum requirements are on line for parents to see.

Making a woodland exploration garden in the back corner of the kinder garden area. With plants that will attract butterflies. Will need some parent volunteers in the spring.

Shira - are we still doing Stem? We are still a STEM focused school. Will have a coach coming in and working with classes. Teachers are still expected to do STEM.

Shira – Since Ms. Uribe is no longer a gym teacher, she is no longer doing yoga with the little kids. Kinder teachers might be interested in implementing yoga in the class. Can we do an evening class? Temo Keshelashvili - Yoga teacher, has offered to help with a program. We would need to ensure that there was no cost involved.

Shira - what is happening with students IEPs? – There are normally a number of days that they are supposed to be completed in. Working hard with teachers to make sure that IEP's are followed. Waiting for instruction from organizations to know what can be done. Keep you posted.

6. Fundraising Report: (Karen Gnat, Steve Weiner, Myriam Goldman, Sheri Ashkey and Julie Zaldin)

a. Popcorn - this Friday

7. Treasurer's Report: (Nicole Nathan, Allison Sherman and Yanjin Zhang)

Nicky will hand out a balance sheet at the beginning of each meeting. Lots of money has already come in from pizza, etc. Money that hasn't been used from the teacher's wish list last year will be put back into the account.

8. New Business:

None

9. Good and Welfare: nothing

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.