

Faywood ABC Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes for Meeting – Monday September 8th, 2014

In Attendance: Courtney Weiner (co-chair), Suzanne Grant (co-chair), Elizabeth Schaeffer (Principal), Jordana Britt, Pina Perruccio, Alexis Shinewald, Steve Weiner, Shira Farber, Steve Gould, Nicole Nathan, Robin Cohen, Robyn Temins Sklar, Karen Gnat, Andrea Siegel, Kevin Siegel, Debra Kirsch, Corry Greenbaum, Elyse Sunshine, Joe Gold, Anna Gold, Alana Gordon Reznick, Lindsay Hoffman, Allison Sherman, Michael Anthony, Julie Zaldin, Charity Fejokwie, Meredith Pawlett, Debbie Donkor, Shelagh Durno, Myriam Goldman, Amit Batra, Kalima Bogdanova, Mindy Caplan, Yanjin Zhang, Tanny Fung and Rob Gray

Introduced Amina – sign language interpreter

1. Opening of meeting: The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm

2. Approval of the minutes from June's meeting: Approved by Alexis Shinewald and seconded by Robyn Temins Sklar

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 and Suzanne introduced the members of the executive council and the roles and responsibilities of each position were explained.

Overview of positions of executive:

- Chairs (currently Suzanne and Courtney) - running of meetings, prepare agendas, work with Elizabeth and the teachers, ensure minutes are recorded and distributed. Consult with TDSB staff and other members of SAC, etc.
- Fundraisers (currently Steve, Pina, Shira and Alexis) - responsible for organizing and running all fundraising activities
- Treasurers (currently Steve, Nicole and Robin) - responsible for all financial matters of council (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

- Volunteer coordinator (currently Karen) – responsible for coordinating the parent volunteers and organizing the class parent program
- b. Disband current SAC:** The current members of the SAC executive council were disbanded.
- c. Review nominations and vote to establish new SAC:** There are many parents who volunteer their time in different ways and SAC would like to express their sincere thanks. 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
 - **Fundraising** - 4 nominees for this position: Shira Farber, Pina Perruccio, and Steven Weiner will remain in current positions and Karen Gnat will join the fundraising group
 - **Treasurers:** Nicole Nathan and Steve Gould will remain in current positions. Yanjin Zhang was elected as an additional Treasurer and will perform duties for this school year as well as the following school year.
 - **Communication Advisor** - Robin Temins Sklar to remain in current position. Brian Britt has kindly volunteered to assist with the newsletter.
 - **Secretary** - Jordana Britt to remain in current position
 - **Volunteer Coordinator** – Michael Anthony was elected as the volunteer coordinator.
 - **Lunch-time and After-School Program Coordinator** – Shelagh Durno was elected for this position.
 - **Members-at-large** – Alexis Shinewald, Allison Sherman, Elyse Sunshine, Corry Greenbaum, Andrea Siegel, Kevin Siegel, Joe Gold, Anna Gold, Lindsay Hoffman, Rob Gray, Alana Gordon Reznick, Lindsay Hoffman, Debbie Donkor, Tanny Fung, Julie Zaldin, Meredith Pawlett, Amit Batra, Kalina Bogdanova, Myriam Goldman, Charity Fejokwie and Mindy Caplan
- d. Scheduling the next meeting dates:** The SAC meeting dates for the 2014/15 school year will be October 27th, November 24th, January 12th, February 23rd, April 6th, May 4th and June 8th.
- e. Parent package and forms – Class parent/directory** - There was a package send out from SAC last week with some forms to fill out. One form that went out explained the class parent/directory program. Parents have been requesting a class directory, especially in the primary grades. Please fill out the forms and send them back to the school.

- f. Friday Files form** – Sign up for the Friday files and receive weekly emails and updates on what is going on in the school from grades K-8 including info on class trips, assembly's etc. It's optional but it keeps people linked in to the school's activities. We had to scrub our list from last year because of the new Anti-Spam laws, so please send in this form even if you've been on the list in the past.
- g. Lunchtime and after-school programs** - This year we have some new and repeat lunchtime and afterschool programs. This isn't something that we vote on but we discuss it at the meetings and appreciate any feedback or suggestions. On Monday we will offer Photography for the older grades, on Tuesdays for students in grades 1-6 we will offer an 8 week program of Mad Science and chess at the cost of \$120 + HST each. Act One has already stated for the students in grades 1-8 and the cost was \$240. On Thursdays Debra Kirsch has kindly volunteer to run a no charge fitness class at lunchtime for students in grades 1-6. We will have to cap the number at 25 and it will be offered in the studio. Suzanne stated that she would like to get a parent to offer a different program each term at no charge. The next one could start in January. Since parents will not get paid for their program we would like to suggest that SAC offers to pay for the permit (approx. \$120-\$150). We would like to vote on paying for one permit (for a program at no charge) per term so that we don't have to vote on this every time. This was approved by Shira Farber and seconded by Allison Sherman. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.

Afterschool on Tuesdays there will be a 1 hour Tae Kwon Do program offered to students in JK-2 at the cost of \$114 + HST. On Wednesdays there will be a Science and Magic program for students in grades 1-6 at about \$120 +HST. On Thursdays, In the Mix will be returning for students in grades Jk-3 and the cost is \$140 + HST. All programs are on hold waiting to be finalized as long as there are no concerns. No concerns were raised. A parent asked if it's possible to offer an outdoor sport (e.g., soccer) program? It was explained that this can be difficult because we have to rely on the weather since we don't necessarily have access to the gyms. The daycare has one gym after-school and sometimes there are other sports being practiced in the other gym. We also need to have the proper number of students with comparable skills to run a sports team. However, we can look into this for the spring. Rob Gray would like to volunteer to run a LEGO club but 2 teachers have already volunteered to offer this program. Rob may also be interested in offering a no charge Robotics program. We can discuss this in more detail at a later date. Another parent asked if we could offer ukulele again and we can look into this.

Sometime soon, 2 DHH teachers will be offering a sign language program at no charge. This program will probably be capped at about 20 students.

- h. Grade 8 graduation:** We usually give \$1000 for the grade 8 graduation ceremony. The grade 8 students don't always contribute their time but for the past few years they have worked harder to help fundraise for their own graduation. The goal would be to involve the students again this

year. The amount of \$1000 was approved by Pina Perruccio and seconded by Corry Greenbaum. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.

- i. **School buses** – SAC pays \$255 per bus (based on a full size bus). Every class gets one bus paid for by SAC. Shelagh, a parent of a DHH student in grade 2, asked how the DHH students will be accommodated? She explained that the DHH students sometimes join other classes and sometimes take a trip together on their own. It was decided that we would pay for 13 buses and 2 buses for the DHH classes at \$255 per bus. The amount of \$3825 was approved by Andrea Siegel and seconded by Elyse Sunshine. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.
- j. **Baby Sitters 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 Joe Gold and seconded by Nicole Nathan. Voted on and approved. Motion passed.
- k. **Pro Grant** – We have been approved for the Pro Grant and the topic is “Mindfulness”. We are planning on offering several sessions during the year with an expert speaker on Mindfulness and then possibly a yoga class and a nutrition class.
- l. **Morning Coffee Meet and Greet** – SAC is organizing a morning meet and greet for the parents at Faywood. Coffee and muffins will be served in the staff room on Tuesday September 23rd at 8:45. Everyone is invited.
- m. **Faywood Facebook** – SAC has started a Faywood Facebook page as another way to communicate with parents. Please join.

5. **Principal’s report: (Elizabeth Schaeffer)**

Welcome- Elizabeth Shaeffer – She was previously the vice-principal at Ledbury Park.

- a. **DHH program** - 18 staff from Davisville moved to Faywood as well as 30 students. We now have deaf staff and staff that use American Sign Language. Community agency set up to teach the staff more communicators.
- b. **Reviewing the emergency evacuation plan** - Fire practice procedures to accommodate all students. White lights attached to Fire alarm and a speaker box with flashing lights as well as announcements and bells. Deaf teachers will be texted if there is an emergency. Staff designated as response team and floor captains. We need to ensure that everyone is safe. Fire drills will begin next week.

- c. **Safe and Caring School Committee** - Need a parent volunteer and community member sit on the Safe and Caring School Committee one morning a month for a short meeting. Thanks to Andrea Siegel and Steve Gould who volunteered.
- d. **Student drop off** – The loop is off limits. 16 smaller buses plus the big bus that goes to Summit all use this loop (which includes 38 students). We need to make sure that every student is safe. Designated drop off in back. Can we have a cross walk or crossing guard? A traffic study may need to be done but it may not change anything. There is a community agency which may be able to provide training to parents to help out with this.
- e. **Construction update** – Some construction has occurred in the summer but it will continue during the year as well. One washroom needs to be completely accessible in the middle hallway. Some of the doorways need to be accessible. Bulk of the work will be done in teacher's lounge to add in a wheelchair lift, making the whole first floor accessible.
- f. **Numbers and Potential for Reorganization** – TDSB has been looking at our numbers and on Friday they will determine if some classes have to re-align. For example, 30 students in JK/SK with ECE, grades 1-3 20 students, grades 4-8 no caps and the class size averages at 26-35. After realignment day we may have some internal changes to help out in the older grades where the class sizes are larger - for example extra teaching times for 2 teachers to be in the room working with smaller groups, etc. The school population was projected to be at 351 and we are currently at 362. We want to encourage more people to come to Faywood because the higher our numbers, the more resources we will be allocated.
- g. **Curriculum night** - Sept 22nd is Curriculum night. There is will a corn roast and a welcome in the gym and the class rooms will be open.

Elizabeth is happy to have meetings and phone calls with any parent

Shira asked how Elizabeth pictures the arts-based curriculum? It is her understanding that the arts are integrated into curriculum. However, we do need to focus on Math in the classes as well as guided reading. Art is important, but can't come at a cost of the high academic expectations. The way schools change their focus is that it needs to be regulated and done through the board. There is going to be a focus on the mental health and stress of our children.

6. Fundraising Report: (Shira Farber, Pina Perruccio, Karen Gnat and Steve Weiner)

- a. **Fun fair** – Shira and Joe discussed the Fun Fair. One specific project that is difficult to organize is the silent auction. They need someone to be in charge of the silent auction. Robin Cohen and Rob Gray kindly volunteered and if anyone else would like to help then please let them know.

- b. **Courtyard** - Last year we raised a total of \$613 for the courtyard. We have 3 teachers who want to take the project on and work with Elizabeth to do more work there. The upcoming Popcorn sale on Sept 19th will be allocated to the courtyard. We usually raise between \$170-\$200.
- c. **Playground update** – We are trying to get the playground updated and have been allocated \$110,000 from the city has been towards building a new, all access playground. Steve is working with the board to get the installation organized and get the cost of the install covered.

7. Treasurer’s Report: (Steve Gould, Nicole Nathan)

A few minor things are still coming in from Fun Fair and cheques cashed.

8. New Business:

Andrew - Trees in the middle of the playground need lots of work. Is there a gardening club? Path in the back is also over grown. Facilities have been contacted but we are on a list- not sure when they will be here.

Chain for the parking lot has been broken for over a year. Need to have a specific work order to get it repaired. Elizabeth will look into this.

Amendment- April 6th meeting date needs to change since it is Easter Monday. We will follow up.

9. Good and Welfare: nothing

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.