

Islington Junior Middle School
School Advisory Council Minutes
December 10, 2018
Minutes recorded by Lauren Tedesco

Welcome & Introductions

- Co-Chairs kicked off meeting with welcome remarks
- Approval of minutes from November 12, 2018 meeting – carried

Principal's Update – Rocco Coluccio

- **Introduction of new Trustee:** Principal Coluccio provided introduction to SAC and parents
- **VP Emiliani's departure:** joining Humbercrest Public School as Principal and her last day will be December 21. Alessandra Faraone will be joining Islington as new VP on January 7, 2019.
- **Winter concert:** a big success that was well organized and well attended by parents/guardians
- **School breakfast:** over 350 parents and students attended on December 5
- **905 Raptors:** 200 students in senior grades attended the 905 Raptors game
- **Master plan for school yard:** Principal Coluccio to meet with planners on pricing for Spring 2019 work, back of the school yard closed off due to flooding and freezing (will be fixed as part of master plan), continue to work on communicating with developer of neighbouring site who has blocked off local path through back fence (high traffic area for parents and students in their daily walk to and from school), developer owned property
- **School website:** continue to make updates with parent volunteer who has identified high traffic webpages and redesigned site to be more user-friendly with goal to increase parent traffic to site
- **Parent workshops:** first two on dealing with stress were successful, third one on December 14, partner with Public Health and social worker

Nutrition Program

- **SAC update:** participated in snack program to understand how it runs, need for more volunteers in order to provide relief for two volunteers currently running the program daily, actively working with teachers to identify parents who might be available 8-9am initially, a goal for the new year is to revamp the program to increase efficiency in preparation and reduce hours needed for volunteers.

School Spirit Shirt

- **SAC update:** SAC to put together plan to outline details, expectations and timeline for design contest
- **Principal Coluccio:** once approved, will move ahead with coordinating with student parliament
- **SAC suggestion:** include certain elements into design like panther, school name or crest. No restrictions on colours. Motto should be short, a few important words. Will check with vendor on any limitations.

Website Update

- **Principal Coluccio update:** new video links have been added to the website to promote PBS feature on Islington's LEAP and ESL programs. Parent volunteer has made it easier for school staff to update the website with information. If parents have ideas for website, can connect with Lauren from SAC

Teacher Survey:

- **SAC Initiative:** voluntary survey to teachers to assess needs at the classroom, school and extracurricular activity level at Islington. Confidential. Purpose is to inform SAC's decisions in applying for grants, direct funds and build community partnerships.
- **Principal Coluccio:** will distribute to teachers on Tuesday with a deadline end of week

Grants

- SAC shared TDSB list of possible grants with school, next step is for teachers to review if any are applicable to their needs or current programs/extracurricular activities. SAC (Daman and Lauren) offered to assist any teacher or admin wishing to make a grant application.

Teacher Communication Apps

- **Principal Coluccio:** connected with school staff and IT to discuss preferred app. Conclusion is varying levels of comfort with different apps for parent/teacher communication. School will move in direction of Google Keep. Not mandatory for teachers but will be recommended and school will offer lunch and learns to build more comfort and awareness among staff. Targeting end of January for implementation.

Next Meeting Dates:

- February 11, April 15 and May 13

Updates to be presented at February meeting:

- **Nutrition program:** status update on volunteer recruitment (SAC)
- **School spirit shirt:** SAC to provide plan for approval by Principal Coluccio before holiday break, rollout of contest to start early January, status update to be provided at February meeting (SAC)
- **Teacher survey:** present a summary of survey results along with next steps (SAC)
- **Teacher communication app:** status update on implementation (Principal Coluccio)
- **Grants:** update on teacher/administrator interest (Principal Coluccio) and applications (SAC)