

Islington Junior Middle School
School Advisory Council Minutes
November 12, 2018
Minutes recorded by Lauren Tedesco

Welcome & Introductions

- Alex Song, Co-Chair, led round of introductions and thanked attendees
- Amendment of October 12, 2018 SAC minutes by Principal Coluccio – next meeting is December 10, 2018
- Approval of minutes from October 12, 2018 meeting – carried

Principal's Update – Rocco Coluccio

- **Update on master plan for school yard:** new funding secured for Phase Two, work will start in Spring 2019, drain pipe to be installed by TDSB (resolve flooding and pooling), old baseball diamond to be removed, new labyrinth path/cricket field/walking circle/quiet play area and community garden to be created, trees to arrive in the spring, community sponsors and eco team to work together
- **SAC suggestion:** kick-off event or ribbon cutting for each phase, will regroup early 2019 to look at dates
- **School communication:** primary forms are newsletter, website and Twitter. Exploring options for messenger system/voice app for parents about school-wide events, TDSB-approved vendor, office staff to be trained
- **SAC suggestion:** look into text message options, Principal Coluccio will report back in December after webcast
- **Introduction of student parliament:** Prime Minister, Waeyes Ibrahim, and deputy Prime Minister, Maria Syed, who spoke about importance of integrating student voice, highlighted key events and their success, asked parents to encourage their students to get involved in leading, especially grade 6-8 as they make up the ministry

Communications

- Discussion on best methods for school communication with parents
- **School website:** TDSB owned, content created by school staff, template format so access restricted to uploading information and editing, link to SAC webpage available
- **Parent suggestion:** background in coding/web development, opportunity to look at analytics and website permissions, parent to meet with Principal/Vice Principal to discuss and provide update in December
- **School sign:** Principal Coluccio provided update that discussions in place to update outdoor sign to digital, permits pending, potential for spring 2019 due to winter, digital sign would allow for more content and updates, long-term investment for school
- **Single communication app (teachers/parents):** suggestion to get all teachers on same app to streamline parent communication, Principal Coluccio noted that TDSB has preferred vendor due to privacy and security of information concerns, in addition it is the decision of the teacher on what app best serves their abilities/needs, he will be taking the discussion to teachers about the possibility of using one app amongst all classes
- **SAC suggestion:** write letter of support for SeeSaw app to Peter Singh, Executive Officer, IT Services at TDSB
- **Municipal election:** SAC to reach out to Councillor Grimes and Trustee Nunziata for introductions

Fundraising

- **Grants:** SAC suggestion to look for grant opportunities to provide funds for school, looking into past successes
- **School shirts:** SAC looking into options for school spirit shirts for purchase, to be used for gym/field trips/competitions for sports
- **Ordering/cost of shirts:** only one vendor of record for TDSB available, \$8 cost and sell for \$10, profit could offset costs for students with limited financial resources, option with STEAM teacher for silk screen project but labour intensive
- **SAC suggestion:** artwork and motto contest for students, Principal Coluccio recommends Prime Minister and Deputy develop the contest, to provide update in December, contest in January, order shirts for February

Enrichment

- **New focuses:** open discussion about new opportunities including skating and the arts workshops (drumming, visual art, dance)
- **SAC suggestion:** reach out to Arts Etobicoke about partnership, workshop opportunities
- **Parent suggestion:** involvement in Hour of Code in December, curriculum is available, need access to computers, Principal Coluccio noted the school participated last year and will reach out to staff about volunteering noting the tight turnaround, coding currently takes place in classes from JK to grade 8
- **SAC suggestion:** new enrichment programs could open the door for new grants/funding

Parent Engagement/Volunteer Recruitment

- **Snack program/family breakfast:** SAC to volunteer with program to gain experience/insight, SAC would like to approach teachers about potential parents for engagement in the program, program needs volunteers from 7:30-9:30am for prep and distribution, discussion on options to have volunteers prep night before – due to personal schedules – and ways to better support the program operations
- **Principal suggestion:** last year food fair money covered some costs, this year would like to return to the donation letter to help supplement nutrition program, any additional funds can be carried forward
- **Police checks:** mandatory for volunteering in the school, opportunity to purchase bank drafts to have available in school office to reduce barriers, parent would be required to pay fee but no trip to the bank required, SAC to coordinate options with Principal Coluccio
- **Volunteer forms:** discussion on updating the form, look for new information relating to availability and areas of interest

SSON

- Will review at end of the school year for feedback for 2019-20 submission

Next Meeting Dates:

- December 10, February 11, April 15, May 13

Updates to be presented at December meeting:

- **School communications:** school-wide voice messenger system for parents/guardians, including text option for those not using landlines (Principal Coluccio)
- **Website:** update on meeting with parent to discuss website capabilities, available data (Principal Coluccio/VP Emiliani)
- **Single communication app (teachers/parents):** decision to write letter to Peter Singh, Executive Officer, IT Services at TDSB about support for SeeSaw app in the classrooms (SAC), discussion with teachers about using one preferred app for communication with parents across all classes (Principal Coluccio)
- **Municipal election:** out to Councillor and Trustee for introductions (SAC)
- **Enrichment opportunities:** outreach to Arts Etobicoke to arrange a meeting, look into cost/coordination for class skating opportunities (SAC)
- **Parent volunteers:** look into options for making bank drafts available in school office for police checks (SAC/Principal Coluccio)
- **Snack program:** options to better support operations of snack program to encourage volunteers (SAC/Principal Coluccio), donation letter for snack program (Principal Coluccio)