

SAC Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2024 at 7:00pm
Meeting held over Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Voting Members:

Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz, Joel Podbere, Caryn Levin, Neeral Morzaria, Jackie Chan, Carly Suppa-Clark, Belinda Baugniet, Sehrish Haider, Catherine Jones, Heather Halnan

Non-Voting Members:

Sara Kussner, Peter Boross-Harmer, Talya Feldberg, Andrew Hillier

Regrets:

Giselle Smejda, Amisha Parikh, Jamie Parkes, Elisha Jamieson, Sarah Lord, Lana Sheinbaum, Heather Murphy, Elyse Wieskopf, Warren Bodnaruk

Additional community members.

Welcome (Candice Kelamis)

- Candice welcomed all to the meeting

Approval of SAC minutes of November 28, 2023 meeting (Candice Kelamis)

- **Motion** that the minutes from November 28, 2023 be approved.
 - Moved by: Candice K
 - Seconded by: Neeral M.
 - Motion Passed.

Administration Report and Q&A (Peter Boross-Harmer)

- Attached is the full update from Peter.
- A question was asked about whether Peter receives questions about the Middle French Emersion Program. If any families come asking to be put in touch with other families interested in switching over, Talya volunteered to help facilitate those answers. Peter advised that he had not had any requests to date.

Treasurer Report (Joel Podbere)

- Our revenue is tracking accurately to the projections.
- Will likely make a small profit on the After 4s, which will cover the fact that Pizza will bring in a little less (Pizza costs going up in the new year)
- Not everyone has submitted classroom grants, budgeted \$15,000 but only received \$3,500 in submissions thus far.
- May have a little bit to spend on the Smart TV's which we can revisit later in the year, as well as other items we hadn't approved initially.

Fundraising (Catherine Jones, Heather Halnan, Carly Suppa-Clark)

- Popcorn day was last week. Did very well. Had to limit popcorn sales to 2 bags a person due to the rush. About \$775 profit (slightly overbudget). Next popcorn day will be Feb 9. Fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to bag/sell popcorn. There will be another one in March.

- Bingo Night will be Feb 29. Have a sponsor that allows us to offer this night free of charge. Maker Pizza is sponsoring Pizza. Will have a bingo caller this year, there will also be a way to project the number on a screen/board. Looking for prize donations/volunteers. There will be callouts through communications for those items. Received a lottery license for the event. Will sell 50/50 tickets on cash/debit. Have purchased 2 Square terminals so debit will be accepted.
- Valentine's Day – pause on cookie decorating kits – wasn't a great fundraiser last year. Will instead do a Spring fundraiser with Purdy's chocolatier. This will be done in conjunction with SAC at Bedford Park. Timing – end of Feb.
- Pulling together the subcommittee for the Spring Fun Fair. Always looking for more help and will do a call for volunteer. Fun Fair will take place on June 14.
- Volunteers – for any money handling, we prefer SAC members/adults.
- Some people have reached out about a parent's night out. Both the Bungo night and Fun Fair take a lot of focus/priority. Would like to poll the group if there's interest and would need a subcommittee/support from the community - Candice will circulate an email.

Pizza Lunch (Talya Feldberg)

- More orders have been coming in for pizza lunch, increasing the # of pizzas

Communications (Belinda Bauginet)

- Belinda has been managing the email deployments and social meeting since December
- Newsletter goes out weekly on Monday mornings. Any content to be submitted by 5pm Friday to Belinda for inclusion.
- Instagram posts – please provide 24/48 hour in advance, especially for longer campaigns
- Email open rates are about 60% read within the first hour of being sent. Early morning deployment seems to work well.

Extra-Curricular (Jackie Chan)

- Need more volunteers for next year. Jackie will write a blurb for the newsletter.
- Have started Winter After 4 – 217 kids signed up. Most programs are repetitive.
- T-Ball, will start the week of April 22 and run for 8 weeks.
- Babysitters a First Aid Course will likely run on the PA Day in June. This year the grad trip is tentatively May 28-30 so hopefully it won't interfere.
- Spring After 4 will likely start 2-3 weeks after March Break.

School Support (Caryn Levin)

- Holiday staff party was a hit.
- Working on volunteers to help out at Baycrest with Breakfast Club. Half the slots have been taken by grade 6s so will open it up to grade 5s. Will report back.
- Request to include this in newsletter, for now it's only going out through class parents of grade 6 classes and grade 5s.

Curriculum Support (Sehrish Haider)

- Sehrish is in touch with Behavior Matters Inc., a company that does workshops for adults/kids. Looking at behavioral management workshops – helps parents manage kids' behavior. There's another social/emotional workshop. Sehrish looking into offering the workshop and potentially having it in the gym.
- Some teachers have booked Scientist in the School.
- Talya will reach out to Mr. Parkes about other inclusivity opportunities.

Education Advocacy (Elisha Jamieson, Neeral Morzaria)

- Elisha and Neeral act as the link between the SAC and the TDSB by actively attending Ward Forums and Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) meetings, and reporting back on what is learned.
- The purpose of the Ward Forum is to network and build relationships among school communities in the ward with their trustee and superintendent; to share information and to discuss the needs and issues of common concern to the school communities in the ward; and to act as a forum for school community consultation and input on educational policies, programs and service.
- PIAC supports parents as partners in education. PIAC is provincially mandated. PIAC aids access to information and resources for parents, to support more effective engagement in their child's learning and to enhance the accountability of the education system.
- As an update, some of the highlights from the December 2023 PIAC meetings are as follows:
 - New PIAC Trustee: Trustee Matias de Dovitiis was elected as the PIAC Liaison Trustee, replacing Trustee Debbie King.
 - PIAC School Council Empowerment Conference: As per Peter's note to the school community, the PIAC conference will take place on Saturday February 3, 2024, from 10AM to 3PM, at Earl Haig. Registration is now closed.
 - Results of 2023 Student Census: The results of the census are now available here --> <https://t.e2ma.net/click/81iuqf/0f8gtebb/w48e6h>
 - General information on PIAC/minutes of previous meetings: For anyone interested, minutes and information on PIAC can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Statutory-Advisory-Committees/Parent-Involvement-Advisory-Committee>
 - Next PIAC meeting: February 20, 2024 (Virtual)
- Virtual Ward Forum – Feb 1.

Q&A (All)

- As part of lottery license, need current by-laws. Updated By-laws will go to SAC committee shortly and will be up for approval at the next meeting. Until then, current by-laws are in effect.
- How easy is it to put dates in the calendar on the website? Can Jeff add some of the fundraising date (popcorn day and remaining pizza lunches). Jeff generally goes by Peter's newsletter. Catherine will send email to Jeff with all the dates for the calendar.
- Can Square terminals be used or things other than fundraising (i.e. music committee?). For 50/50, funds must go into the trust account. Catherine will review and report back.

Wrap Up

- Grad is scheduled for June 25.
- There likely won't be a SAC February meeting. Will circulate future meeting date shortly.

Admin Update for VIRTUAL SAC Mtg to be held Jan 29th, 2024

Enrolment Update:

We have 626 students in our school as of today slightly down from our last meeting.

Staffing/In-school:

Our lunch supervision is still a challenge with a number of LRS being absent with greater frequency. Our rotations and coverage changes daily as a result. Ms. Zhang (DECE in Room 101) is still on leave.

System/School Update:

Term 1 Report Cards will be distributed electronically on Feb 14th. Should any parent not receive the reports, once again they will be asked to contact the office staff so that we may remedy the situation as quickly as possible. As indicated at the previous meeting, our staff continue to focus on collaboratively developing math lessons using digital math tools.

Registration for English Kindergarten programs begins at TDSB schools in February. For September 2024, children who will be four by December 31, 2024, can start Junior Kindergarten. Families may choose to register using the online registration system or by booking a face-to-face meeting directly with the school. More information and a link to the online registration form (beginning on February 1, 2024) is available at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Extra- Curriculars:

Currently we have several teams in action including Grade 5 & 6 boys' basketball and girls' volleyball with the hockey season half completed. Our Kids Lit Team will be competing at Runnymede on Feb 8th. Our ECO Club continues to do wonderful work with recycling, waste reduction and the upcoming sweater day initiative. The Yearbook Club has also started-it runs at lunch on Thursdays in Room 218.

Facilities:

The new outdoor slide was installed on Jan 24th. Here is the last response we have received from TDSB on Jan 24th regarding the fence:

I am pleased to report that we have been informed that the encroachment agreement has been approved by North York Council. A huge thank you to the Councillor's office for making this happen. City staff are preparing the agreement for signature. Our landscape consultants can now finalize the detailed design. We understand that we will have the final drawings from the consultant the week of Feb. 5. Our design department will then issue the drawings for tender by our Construction department. It's our construction department that is responsible for tendering. Aileen and I will continue to advocate for this project to be tendered as soon as possible for construction this year. Once the project is tendered, then the next step is that a "contract awards" report has to be approved by our Board of Trustees. Once that happens, then the successful contractor gets the contract. Then there will be a pre-construction meeting with the Principal to discuss start date and timeline.

Student Voice/Issues Arising

We continue with our efforts to ensure that overall student behaviour improves. Our daily announcements involving a number of staff members focus on community building constantly. Our efforts seem to be paying dividends as the number of portal entries has gone down significantly.

Equity Update

Thanks to the support of SAC, the Equity Committee hosted Caring Concerts for all students in K-6 with singer/songwriter Errol Lee our first week back in January. It set a great tone for the second half of our

school year with the message that we are all responsible for making our community a caring, kind space. As a school community, we have continued to emphasize messages of kindness and respect, as well as reinforcing positive problem solving strategies.

John Wanless was also very fortunate as we were invited to take part in the live broadcast portion of the Ministry's Holocaust Education Curriculum launch held in conjunction with Holocaust Remembrance Day. While Mr. Gaunt's class was at the event, our other Grade 6 classes took part online.

We will be continuing our Primary Holiday Celebration Series with the celebration of the Lunar New Year. We are thankful for the members of our community who have volunteered their time to teach our students about this special holiday. Presentations will be held the week of February 5th in advance of the Lunar New Year. The Grade One team will again be planning our Lunar New Year Parade which will be held on February 15th.

Njacko Backo: African Voyage Junior students will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive performance depicting everyday life in Cameroon, Central Africa. Our students will learn the important role that music, dance, and storytelling play in this community and experience the true way that traditional dance and drumming is played. It will include a variety of instruments and demonstrate how each person has to learn how to respect the other parts and find their own place in the music. This performance will take place in celebration of Black History Month.

Caring & Safe Schools Committee Meeting Notes for Jan 12th, 2024 at 8:00

In Attendance: Peter Boross-Harmer, Jamie Parkes, Joe Sturm (POR), Neeral Morzaria (parent rep)

Regrets: Johnny Frazer (Head caretaker)

Issues for Discussion:

- **Entrance/Access Card update-** All parent access cards have been collected and Childcare is awaiting dates when the intercom system will be installed.
- **Student Support/Issues-** Number of significant issues have been reduced. We have had zero portal entries since our last meeting. Character Education is being reinforced on a regular basis- we have just had Erroll Lee in to deliver messaging for all of our students.
- **Construction/School Grounds Update:** On December 21 we received word from City of Toronto staff that North York Council will have to provide approval for us to put a new fence in the same location as the old wooden fence, and to make the fence slightly higher on the east side of the property to help keep balls from going onto the road. City staff do not appear to have the authority to provide the approval without the go ahead from North York Council. On a more positive note, we have had very positive dialogue with the Councillor's office since Dec. 21. We are hopeful that the Councillor can help expedite this matter going to North York Council.
- **Winter Hazards including reduced visibility/parking issues:** Unfortunately salting of the field is prohibited. Caretakers will do their very best to create a wide path for access, salt steps and exposed pavement areas. This is the number one priority during heavy snow falls/storms. Sightlines with much more snow on the ground will be greatly reduced outside of the schoolyard and drivers are asked to exercise the utmost care to ensure the safety of all.
- **OTHER-** Event Management protocol questionnaire has been distributed to all schools to ensure that expectations are consistent for participants as well as spectators and that these are reinforced at all schools including ours by administration and organizers.
- **Community concerns:** As we included in the school newsletter, concerns/discussion points may be brought to the attention of school administration or the SAC rep at nmorzaria@gmail.com

- **Staff Concerns:** These should be brought to the attention of school administration or joseph.sturm@tdsb.on.ca

Next Mtg- March 8th , 2024 at 8AM