

John Wanless Public School - SAC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 1 2024 at 7:00pm
School Library

Attendees

Voting Members:

Candice Kelamis, Joel Podbere, Giselle Smejda, Belinda Baugniet, Sehrish Haider, Catherine Jones, Trina Lambe, Caryn Levin, Jackie Chan, Rebecca Greaves, Heather Murphy.

Non-Voting Members:

Sara Kussner, Peter Boross-Harmer, Talya Feldberg, Nissa Shariff, Sarah Lord, Meghean Northey, Lana Sheinbaum.

Regrets

Sara Kussner, Heather Halnan.

Additional community members.

Welcome (Candice Kelamis)

Approval of SAC minutes from May 21, 2024 meeting

- ***Motion that the minutes from 05/21/24 SAC meeting be approved.***
 - Moved by: Belinda Baugniet.
 - Seconded by: Sehrish Haider.
 - Motion is passed.

2024-2025 Council Member Votes (Candice Kelamis)

- Candice describes the role of the grade representatives: attend council meetings, bring forward any grade-level feedback, help with communication to class parents.
- ***Motion to vote in 2024-2025 council members.***
 - Motion: to approve 2024-2025 – Joel Podbere
 - Seconded by: Catherine Jones.
 - Motion is passed.

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

See attached.

2024-2005 Council Member Vote for Sehrish Haider for Curriculum Support Approval of SAC minutes from May 21, 2024 meeting

Motion for Sehrish Haider to resume role of curriculum support

- Moved by: Candice Kelais
- Seconded by: Belinda Baugniet.
- Motion is passed.

Council Annual Budget Process (Joel Podbere)

- Achieved \$107K in fundraising last year.

- We are starting the year with a healthy surplus.
- Donations, school lunches and events contribute to the SAC fund.
- Each teacher receives \$500 to use for classroom resources.
- Evaluation of submitted projects in the next few weeks.

Committee Reports

Communications (Belinda Baugriet)

- Responsibilities include weekly emails, IG account and portions of the website.
- Google calendar that includes all key dates can be linked to personal devices.
- Any updates for inclusion in Monday newsletter to be submitted Friday evenings.
- Recommendation: create awareness about Google calendar.

Co-chair (Belinda Baugriet)

- Support chair, administration and council members.

Fundraising (Catherine Jones)

- Following COV19, the goal was to create community events.
- Events include: silent auction, spring fair, popcorn days, spirit wear, pizza parties, bingo, poinsettias.
- Adding movie night in January.
- Fundraisers raised \$43K
- Passive fundraiser with Woodward Meats, Lunch Lady, Mabel's Labels – approx. \$5K
- Fundraising forms typically asks for volunteers.
- Donations request will be sent to parent community shortly. Tax receipts are available.

Extracurricular Activities (Jackie)

- Responsibilities include managing After 4 activities and T-ball.
- Consider volunteering a few hours each session to help manage workload.
- This is Jackie's last year, and it would be good for parents to shadow her for succession planning.

School Support (Caryn & Heather)

- Responsibilities include organising school-wide lice checks, organising community donations (food drive, coat drive).
- Grade 6 and potentially Grade 5 can sign up to volunteer for breakfast club at Baycrest a few mornings a week.
- Organize staff appreciation events.

Curriculum Support (Sehrish Haider)

- Responsibilities include organizing presentations, events and workshops for the school community.
- Support each class that wants to host a Scientists in the Classroom.
- Paul Davis is an internet and social media safety expert and he will be coming to JW on Oct 15. There will be three parts: a presentation for grade 4-6, a 30 min presentation that will be viewed in classroom for grade 1-3, and in the evening, there is a presentation for parents.
- Behaviour Matters – focus on anxiety and stress management. Will include student and parent workshops.

Education Advocacy (Rebecca Greaves)

- Role includes attending TDSB meetings and providing updates to the parent community, finding opportunities for parents to get involved, and communicate the various parent workshops that are offered by the board.

Pizza & Subway Lunch (Talya Feldberg, Trina Lame)

- Last year pizza lunch raised \$36K net
- This year's participation is tracking close to last year
- Grade 4-6 will come to pick up their pizza and return to classroom, delivered to childcare. Grade 1-3 will pick up and eat in the gym.
- Extra food is given to staff, crossing guards and is frozen in case children forget lunch.
- Volunteering is very flexible – you will receive an email asking if you can volunteer each week and you can say yes when possible.
- Subway has been added and sign up is strong with 200 orders so far.

Open Roles (Candice Kelamis)

- Grade 4-6 class representative.
- Curriculum Support
- Education Advocacy
- Grade 6 Graduation Committee Chair
- There are many ways to volunteer – can be for a role, for some hours here and there, for an event.

Conclusion and Adjournment (Candice Kelamis)

- Candice thanks everyone for attending.
- The next meeting will either late October or early November.

Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held October 1st, 2024

Enrolment Update:

We have 602 students in our school as of today. This is marginally down from last year but very close to projections.

Reorganization:

As communicated on numerous occasions to our community, during the course of last week we were directed by central staff to conduct a mini-reorganization in order to reduce the size of 5 of our primary classes, all of which were over the Ministry-mandated cap of 20. Our primary team along with all rotary teachers came together on a number of different occasions to create the new class. Parents whose children were moving were informed via letter and e-mail on September 26th as mandated by TDSB. We were fortunate to secure an exceptional teacher in Ms. McCrimmon who spent the entire week setting up the new class. We put support measures in place to ensure that all students were supported throughout the transition. We were not required to make any changes to our kindergarten or junior classes. There were a total of 22 (~3%) students moving school-wide.

Staffing:

We are still short as far as lunch supervisors are concerned. We have continued our active recruiting and will do so for the foreseeable future. Our new lunch structure and routine seems to work quite well. As far as our clerical position is concerned, Lily remains with us only for the mornings. Our caretaking staff has also been very short-on many days we only have 2/3 out of our allocation of 4 as they are not replaced due to shortages.

EQAO

We have received our preliminary EQAO results for the past year.

The following represents the percentage of our students who have achieved a Level 3 or 4 and are therefore met the Provincial Standard.

Grade 3: Math 93% Reading 96% Writing 95%

Grade 6: Math 80% Reading 89% Writing 88%

Budget

Our school budget allocation has been reduced slightly yet again to \$83K for the year. This basically means that we once again rely on the generosity of SAC and our broader community to supplement this in order to best serve our students.

School Improvement and PA Day Foci:

For 2024/25, we have been tasked with creating an Indigenous School Improvement Focus. For part of the PA Day, our staff worked in Grade groups on embedding Indigenous Education into all areas of the curriculum. Other activities included group work focusing on combatting Hate and Racism as our student learning strategy. Teams looked at all areas including classroom instruction, caregiver engagement and learning, cyber safety and digital citizenship, student leadership, tools for response taking action, educational partnerships for learning. Our work will continue all year. We have also focused as a staff on how to better serve autistic children in our classrooms.

Volunteers

All volunteers are also reminded to sign in at the office upon arrival so that we can keep track of who is in the building in case of an emergency.

System/School Update:

All Smart TV's that have been purchased by SAC have been set up and distributed into classrooms. We have had a number of lunch and learn sessions with most of our staff attending and this has benefitted the newer users greatly. The Grade 5 1:1 device rollout will occur in October. The first rollout will be Oct 22nd for those students whose parents completed the on-line agreement in time. There will also be a second rollout.

Extra- Curriculars:

Cross- Country has commenced involving many of our students. We had a very successful Terry Fox run last Friday. The first cross-country meet will be tomorrow. Soccer tournaments are also being scheduled to take place in the next few weeks. Choir practices have been ongoing and both band and strings have been running on Days 3 & 5. Our Eco Club has been very actively involved in school-wide initiatives as well.

Facilities:

Our exterior fence project has mostly been completed. Some touch-ups are required, especially in relation to the asphalt on the Brookdale side. The next small project will involve TDSB installing motion sensors within the building. The purpose of these will be to increase efficiency and reduce costs. As soon as a room is vacated after a permit, the sensor will indicate this to the system and ventilation/heating will be reduced to the location.

School Bus/Transportation-related issues:

For those parents who are new to the bus-related transportation challenges, bussing is arranged by the sending school when a student's parents accept placement into a program housed in a different school. Updates regarding any changes to the transportation arrangements made come directly from the transportation company. This may include messaging about delays/route changes and the occasional cancellation due to weather conditions. Unfortunately we are once again dealing with issues on a daily basis although not to the same extent as last year. Most of our challenges stem from having to re-route buses due to the ongoing construction and projects city-wide.

Caring and Safe Schools

We are looking for parent representatives to join this committee. It meets typically 3-4 times/year-dates TBD.