

SAC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30pm
John Wanless Public School in the Library

Attendees

Voting Members:

Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz, Joel Podbere, Giselle Smejda, Caryn Levin, Elisha Jamieson, Neeral Morzaria

Non-Voting Members:

Sarah Lord, Sara Kussner, Peter Boross-Harmer, Jamie Parkes, Lana Sheinbaum, Talya Feldberg

Regrets:

Amisha Parikh, Jackie Chan, Carly Suppa-Clark, Warren Bodnaruk, Belinda Baugniet, Sehrish Haider, Catherine Jones, Heather Halnan, Andrew Hillier, Heather Murphy

Additional community members.

Welcome (Candice Kelamis)

Approval of SAC minutes of October 30, 2023 meeting (Candice Kelamis)

- **Motion** that the minutes from Oct 30, 2023 be approved.
 - Moved by: Candice K.
 - Seconded by: Joel P.
 - Motion Passed.

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

- Attached is the full update from Peter.
- Janice provided a brief update on the holiday concerts: the website will go live Dec 4th 9 AM/10 AM for ticket acquisition. Two tickets per household due to limited capacity in the gymnasium.
- A question was posed about the variability of homework assigned to students in different classrooms. Peter responded that there should be consistency within grade levels. A guideline is approximately 10 minutes per day per grade level.

Treasurer Report + additional expense approval (Joel Podbere)

- Budget was approved last meeting and many of the approved funds have been released for the purchase of activities and materials.
- **Motion** to approve the overage cost of purchasing Smart TV of \$241.30.
 - Moved by: Meg B.
 - Seconded by: Giselle S.
 - Motion Passed.

Fundraising – updated via Co-Chair

- Classroom Grant campaign is complete. It successfully raised \$12,500, exceeding goal by \$500. Each teacher will receive \$500 for their classrooms.
- Poinsettias arrive on Friday and an email has been sent with instructions for how to pick up the plant. Achieved \$850, exceeding goal by \$200.

- Spirit Wear has arrived and is ready for distribution. Achieved \$1100, exceeded fundraising goal.
- Fundraising is complete for the term. Activities will resume in January with popcorn days, a bingo night in February, and possibly a family movie night.

Pizza Lunch (Talya Feldberg)

- 142 pizzas per week, up vs. last year and therefore we are raising more than the prior year despite the price decrease.
- There was a charge issue for those that were ordering an extra slice, impacting 15 families and 19 transactions. Sagoto reversed the charges and there was no expense to JW. Talya reached out to all the families impacted and this issue is now resolved.
- Maker pizza has reached out to try to become a supplier. Talya has been speaking to Maker about the logistics required (# of pizzas, timing of delivery, etc.). We are committed to Panago for the rest of the year. We will consider Maker for other events or for a similar fundraising partnership like Woodward Meats.

Communications – updated via Co-Chair

- Instagram account is now under Belinda's management.
- If you have any news to include in the weekly newsletter, please send on Friday for release on Monday.

Extra Curricular – updated via Co-Chair

- Jackie is in the process of planning the winter After 4 session, with registration starting mid-Jan.
- She would like other volunteers to help.

School Support (Caryn Levin)

- There is a clothing drive with drop-off in the school foyer and pick-up from various locations in the neighborhood. Items will be donated to Breakfast Clubs of Canada
- Working to clean up Lost and Found. Bins and a clothing rack have been provided. Parents at the meeting volunteered to help.
- Dec 13 – link going out to the school community to sign up to donate foods, drink and decoration for the teacher and staff appreciation event.

Curriculum Support – updated via Chair

- Candice shares her experience regarding the Believe assembly with speaker, Olympian Sarah Wells. The first assembly was 30 min for K-Grade 2 and the second assembly was 45 min for Grade 4-6. The speaker spoke about resilience and persevering even when obstacles are in your way. Candice shared that she felt that the message resonated with the students. A big thanks to Sehrish for organizing this impactful event.

Education Advocacy (Elisha Jamieson, Neeral Morzaria)

- Elisha and Neeral are splitting up the duties to cover the various meetings they attend.
- The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee took place in early November.
- Among other topics, the committee spoke about a Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, which will include current and upcoming studies and that may impact ward programs and boundaries. It also spoke about the TDSB formally communicating its affirmation of support to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of Ontario of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's request for a provincially led anti-hate strategy.

- Another workstream is to improve the work of School Councils. A School Council working group has formed that will discuss parent involvement in multi-year strategic plan, how school councils can engage families, parent council toolkit, and training for principals and administration on how to engage parent councils.
- A checklist has been developed for applying an equity lens to the work of school councils.
- Neeral provided an update on long term strategy planning session led by Andrew H. A focus will be on developing ideas on how to mark the school's 100th anniversary.

Graduation Committee – updated via Co-Chair

- Grad sweatshirts have been received.
- Group grad photo is complete.
- The first fundraiser will kick off in December. Grade 6 students are selling tickets for the Shop Local Draw with gift cards and items from local retailers.
- A winter bake sale will be organized. Details to follow.
- Consider advertising your business in the Grad Yearbook.

Co-Chair Update (Meg Berkovitz)

- Meg and Candice have been working to update the by-laws for the council as per TDSB requirements. There are no significant changes to operations. This will help to clarify our process, roles, and responsibilities.

15 min Q&A (All)

- Discussion around attendance – reflection on turnout. Suggestion that virtual meeting may improve attendance. Candice shares that we will try virtual next time to see if turnout is impacted.
 - Further discussion from community members.
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ATTACHMENT: Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held Nov 28th, 2023

Enrolment Update:

We have 637 students in our school as of today slightly up from our last meeting.

Staffing/In-school:

Currently we are up to 7 LRS (out of a total of 9) and are typically able to cover kindergarten classes. Unfortunately the number of daily absences have increased, often leaving us short. Ms. Zhang (DECE in Room 101) is still on leave; Ms. Wolk has returned from her leave.

System/School Update:

By all accounts the electronic distribution of Progress Reports has gone well. We were able to carry out Mathology training for all of our Grade 1-6 staff during the month of November-more sessions are to follow.

Currently teachers of grades 1-6 are involved in long-term PD planning with Mathology. Using school data, teachers are looking into a problem of practice, and will be planning a collaborative grade unit in January (grades 1-3) or February (grades 4-6). These units will help the teachers further explore this excellent resource, as well as experiment with "Thinking and Building Classrooms," which is a major component of the new mathematics curriculum. Information on the components of a thinking and building classroom can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsb-mathematics-for-educators/tdsb-math-strategy/building-thinking-classrooms>

CCAT (universal screening) results were shared with parents of all Grade 3 students-we have 25 students moving forward as part of the process. EQAO results from last year were shared with all current Grade 4 parents and last year's Grade 6 results were sent to middle schools. Our EQAO results from 2022/23 were as follows:

Grade 3: R 89% W 86% M 83% Grade 6: R 90% W 96% M 84%

When compared to the previous year, it is interesting to note that in 2021/22 the percentage of students achieving Level 3 or 4 were:

Grade 3: R 94% W 93% M 93% Grade 6: R 90% W 92% M 82%

Our Grade 6 scores are about the same or slightly higher than in the previous year whereas our primary scores are significantly lower in all three areas.

Extra- Curriculars:

Currently we have several teams in action including Grade 5 & 6 girls' basketball, boys' volleyball with co-ed ice hockey starting in January if we have a goalie. Our holiday concerts have been scheduled for Dec 12th (primary) & Dec 13th (junior) with both starting at 6pm. Seat allocation will be coordinated by the Music Committee in the same manner as last year.

Facilities:

We are still waiting on an update regarding the fence as well as the outdoor slide. Here is the last response we have received from TDSB:

We have approval from Urban Forestry, but we still need approval from Right of Way Management. The landscape consultants have addressed the comments made by Right of Way and re-submitted the drawings. We are still waiting to hear back from Right of Way Management. The consultants are following up again.

Student Voice/Issues Arising

We continue with our efforts to ensure that overall student behaviour improves. Last week Mr. Parkes had the opportunity to visit all grades 1-6 classroom to design a success criteria around being a good "outdoor" John Wanless student/citizen. Working together, classes came up with three categories or areas of focus. 1. Zones- Students need to stay in their own zones for 2 different reasons. First, this helps protect the safety of our smaller students, who are in danger of being knocked over, or struck with fast-moving soccer balls. Second, they may hear conversations or words that they are not developmentally ready for. 2. Words- Students should not be making comments with respect to individuals' race, skin-colour, hairstyles, weight, height, sexuality or gender. 3. Contact- John Wanless is a non-contact school. Students should not be "playfighting" as this has led to injuries, and they must ask permission for any other form of contact that invades one's personal space.

Health Matters

Respiratory illnesses are once again on the rise among children. We once again ask that if your child is unwell, please keep them at home to limit the spreading of infections.

Caring and Safe Schools

The next committee meeting will take place on Jan 12th at 8:00AM in the school office. The agenda will be sent out to members in advance. Our in-school team is currently working on the Ministry-mandated School Workplace Violence Program which when completed, will be shared with all staff as well as community members.

Holiday Concerts

Our Primary Holiday Concert is scheduled for Tuesday Dec 12th and the Junior Concert is scheduled for Wednesday Dec 13th with both starting at 6pm.