

**SAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:30pm**  
**John Wanless Public School in the Library**

**Attendees**

**Voting Members:**

Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz, Joel Podbere, Giselle Smejda, Belinda Baugniet, Sehrish Haider, Catherine Jones, Talya Feldberg, Heather Halnan, Caryn Levin

**Non-Voting Members:**

Andrew Hillier, Heather Murphy, Sarah Lord, Sara Kussner, Peter Boross-Harmer, Jamie Parkes, Lana Sheinbaum

**Regrets:**

Amisha Parikh, Elisha Jamieson, Jackie Chan, Carly Suppa-Clark, Warren Bodnaruk

**Guests:**

Roni Felsen, Superintendent of Education

Additional community members.

**Welcome (Candice Kelamis)**

**Superintendent of Education – Roni Felsen**

- Description of area and schools served by R. Felsen.
- Fence and track – both he and Trustee Laskin have been trying to resolve this issue. Progress now rests in the hands of the City, Bell & Rogers.
- School Statement of Needs – parent consultation is included in the creation of this document. This document will be worked on shortly.
- Trustee Laskin provides thorough and in-depth communication that he recommends parents sign up to receive.
  - **Question:** How can the community help with progressing the fence?  
Recommendation is to continue to engage with City Councillor M. Colle to encourage progress with the City. Parents in the room suggest a draft email so that those who would like to send emails have a template.
  - **Question:** Why are classrooms reorganized each Fall?  
The ability to project in the Spring for Fall enrollment is challenging and harder after COVID because residence patterns have changed. There were no recommendations provided for how this can change.
  - **Question:** Where are we with lunchroom supervisors?  
Peter and Jamie are interviewing this week but are still seeking additional supervisors. This is a broad issue that many schools are experiencing.
  - **Question:** Why are there changes with ECC staffing?  
Some people are on temporary, and they are the first to be offered permanent contracts, and that can create flux for those positions.
  - **Question:** Will individual level EQAO results be available?  
Yes - EQAO results will be provided at an individual level shortly.

### **Approval of SAC minutes of September 26, 2023 meeting (Candice Kelamis)**

- **Motion** that the minutes from 9/26/23 SAC meeting be approved.
  - Moved by: Meg Berkovitz.
  - Seconded by: Heather Halnan.
  - Motion is passed.

### **Treasurer Report and Annual Budget Review and approval (Joel Podbere)**

- Joel reviews the net revenue from last year's fundraising activities.
- We dropped price on pizza lunch. Based on current pizza ordering, we are on track with Joel's current projections.
- SAC committee met about two weeks ago and reviewed requests for funding.
- We will be asking for voting on funding requests of \$58K, classroom grants (\$500/classroom) for a total of \$15K, and some general admin fees of \$2K. This brings us close to breakeven. We have some funds in reserve to potentially fund further request as the year goes on.
- There is a request for additional Smart TV (another 16 units).
- Joel reviews the various projects that SAC executive has shortlisted for funding.
- We have funds for students that may need support to afford to participate in things throughout the year.
- **Motion** that the funding requests reviewed by SAC executive and proposed for funding are approved.
  - Moved by: Caryn Levin
  - Seconded by: Belinda Baugniet
  - Motion Passed.

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

See attached.

### **Committee Reports**

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

- Direct donations to fund \$500 classroom grants. Target \$15K and we are currently at 41%. Messages have gone out via class parents. New this year: tax receipts for donations.
- Spirit wear campaign is now active.
- Poinsettia drive will be kicked off shortly.
- Bingo night planning will begin in January.

#### **Pizza Lunch (Talya Feldberg)**

- Talya updated how pizza sales are performing earlier in the meeting.
- Volunteer recruitment has been strong.

#### **Communications (Belinda Baugniet)**

- SAC newsletter is now on a weekly cadence.
- Submit any info on Friday for inclusion in the following week's communication.
- Newsletter sent on Monday.

#### Extra-Curricular (notes provided by Jackie Chan and shared by Candice)

- After 4, T-ball
- Total of 20 sessions that are now active.
- Planning for winter session will begin soon, and they are hoping to add more options.
- Looking for volunteers to help organize the programming.
- If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, please email [jwpsafter4@gmail.com](mailto:jwpsafter4@gmail.com).

#### School Support (Caryn Levin)

- Lice check, Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Community Drive (Food Drive for Thanksgiving, Coat & Winter Clothing Drive. etc.).
- Looking for help at breakfast clubs at schools that run that program.
- If anyone else wants to volunteer to help organizing these programs, we are looking for more resources here.

#### Curriculum Support (Sehrish Haider)

- Scientist in the School or \$250 per class to fund something similar.
- Speaker confirmed for Nov. 23. Olympian Sarah Wells to come and speak about resilience and determination. School was segmented into two groups: K-2 and 3-6.
- Potential to organize a parent workshop as there was positive response last year.
- If anyone has ideas for different age groups, please feel free to share.

#### Education Advocacy (notes provided by Elisha Jamieson and shared by Candice)

- We act as the link between School Council and the TDSB by actively attending Ward Forums and Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meetings, and reporting back on what we learn.
- 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 October PIAC are:

- The Better Schools and Outcomes Act, 2023: The Trustees confirmed that the Ministry of Education is moving ahead with this Bill, including on regulations and next steps. Some areas that may impact the work of Trustees include Director of Education Performance Appraisals, Sale of School Properties, and Setting of Strategic Priorities. They are keeping a close eye on this and more updates will follow.
- Math: The Trustees confirmed that the TDSB received funding for two Superintendents of Education to support student success in Mathematics for the 2023-24 school year through a Priorities and Partnership Fund as part of the Ministry's four-year implementation of the provincial Math Strategy. Two Superintendents were selected to oversee this initiative. They will support educator teams and administrators by facilitating professional learning opportunities.

- As a next step, we will be watching out for any updates on the two initiatives above, and will be attending the next PIAC meeting on November 3rd and the next Ward Forum on November 16th as well. We will report back on any information we believe may impact our school, including initiatives which may impact learning or staffing."

#### Voting in Neeral Morzaria as Education Advocacy Co-Lead (SAC members)

- **Motion** to vote in Neeral Morzaria as Education Advocacy Co-Lead.
  - Moved by: Candice Kelamis
  - Seconded by: Joel Podbere
  - Motion passes.

#### Q&A

- Leanne introduces herself and her role as co-lead for Grade 6 graduation. Strong turnout of parents to help with Grad planning and fundraising.
- Andrew offers if anyone would like to join the first strategy and long-term planning session. The first session is next week.
- Belinda requests for committees to send any wins. Heather Murphy suggests including when things we've funded takes place and including in newsletter.

#### Conclusion and Adjournment (Candice Kelamis)

- Candice thanks everyone for attending.
- The next meeting will be end of November, or potentially early December.
- May try January session as a virtual meeting.

## **Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held Oct 30th, 2023**

### Enrolment Update:

We have 634 students in our school as of today slightly up from our last meeting. All new students are in the junior grades.

### Staffing/In-school:

Lily has returned from her leave so we do have our full complement of office staff. We are still looking for lunch supervisors as we are still short. We have managed to secure two addition LRS since our last meeting.

### System/School Update:

58 Grade 5 Chromebooks arrived on October 17th and were distributed to students. Unfortunately many of our parents completed the 1:1 User Agreement after the deadline and therefore we are missing 12 laptops.

During the month of November, our primary Grade teams will be coming together on several days to learn more about the use of Mathology Resources. Progress reports will be distributed electronically to all families on Nov 14th with interviews taking place the evening of the 16th and the morning of the 17th.

### Extra- Curriculars:

We have just completed a very successful cross-country season. Next up on the schedule is girls' basketball, boys' volleyball (tryouts this week) and co-ed ice hockey. Currently TDESSA (the organization of volunteers who coordinate all athletics) is experiencing quite a shortage of coordinators, convenors and executives. Should these positions not get filled, there is an inherent danger that many activities that students are used to having will not be offered.

### Facilities:

Unfortunately we still do not have any specific updates regarding the temporary fence. We have also not had any subsequent updates as to when our slides will be replaced. We had a crew show up to fix the missing tiles the first floor hallway. Two days after the tiles were replaced, a number of the old tiles started to come up yet again. The entry card reader problem has still not been resolved by TDSB tech Services even

though a tech has been out three times. Security Services needs to activate a link before cards come back on line.

### Student Voice/Issues Arising

During the course of the past three weeks, we have been dealing with a proportionally far greater number of conflicts among our students. A number of these conflicts involved/entailed the use of derogatory comments relating to body image, homophobia and race as well as retaliation in a number of cases by those who were on the receiving end. What is even more perturbing is the amount of glee/joy exhibited by some of our students when another student is hurt/suffering. As a staff, we are working together as a team to educate our students and to exercise more vigilance when supervising them outside. Our daily announcements as well as messages focus on these issues and we have a number of assemblies scheduled in the near future. We also ask for all parents' help to monitor what students are watching/listening to at home and in environments outside of the school. We support our students in learning how to cultivate meaningful connections with others in their lives and we always convey to them that good friends are not afraid of your success and accomplishments. Great friends in fact celebrate your successes instead of belittling you and try to bring you down and conversely you should also do the same for them. One of our goals is to make our yard and our classrooms schadenfreude-free zones quoting the great Ted Lasso.

### Equity Committee Update

The Equity Committee started the year by observing the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. On Thursday, we hosted a performance by TAPS (Teaching Awareness through Puppetry) for our K-2 students that was specifically aimed at building support and understanding for neurodivergent students. We are hoping to host a speaker addressing the same topic for our junior students. We are looking forward to hosting Diwali Days in the library the week of November 6th for our entire primary division. We have a community member coming in to share their expertise about Diwali and share some of their family's traditions with our students. We have applied for additional funding from SAC to host a variety of Equity

focused presentations throughout the school year. The Equity Committee continues to evaluate and gather resources that reflect diversity and inclusion.

### Health Matters

Unfortunately we have had a number of cases of covid recently among our staff and it is very likely that a number of our students have had it as well. 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 committee will meet at 8:00AM on November 3rd in the library. The agenda has been sent out to members.

### Remembrance Day

As a staff we agreed on the following: Given the circumstances many in the world are experiencing and the violence that may be triggering to many in our community right now, we that feel this year a quiet, solemn acknowledgement of Remembrance Day (on the 10th) in each classroom may be best. Teachers will make a determination individually as to how they carry this out.

### 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