

SAC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:30pm
John Wanless Public School in the Library

Attendees

Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz, Eric Risen, Heather Halnan, Jackie Chan, Joel Podbere, Giselle Smejda, Carly Suppa-Clark, Belinda Baugniet Sehrish Haider, Elisha Jamieson, Talya Feldberg, Caryn Podbere, Amisha Parikh, Heather Murphy, Sarah Lord, Warren, Bodnaruk, Sara Kussner, Peter Boross-Harmer, Jamie Parkes, and other community members.

2022-2023 Chair Discussion (Eric Risen)

- Discussion on a strong turnout at first meeting and hope that participation will continue.
- Encouraged everyone to volunteer, contribute ideas and lead organization of initiatives to build and improve on the school community.

2023-2024 Council Vote (Eric Risen)

- Eric asks if anyone in the room is interested in joining the council, in addition to the people that have already volunteered. Noone comes forward at the meeting.
- Eric goes through the names of those who are volunteering for 2023-24 non-voting member positions.
- Eric goes through the names of those that are volunteering for 2023-2024 voting member positions.
- 2022-2023 council members ratify the 2023-2024 council.

New Chair and Vice-Chair Introduction (Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz)

- Candice and Meg introduce themselves and share their reasons for volunteering and their hopes for this year's SAC.

Administration Report Discussion (Principal, Peter Boross-Harmer)

- See attached administration update.

Treasurer Report: Annual Budget Process (Joel Podbere)

- The process of determining the annual budget has begun.
- Due to strong fundraising, SAC has funds from prior school.
- Each classroom teacher receives a \$500 classroom grant.
- Teachers, committees, etc. have been asked to submit proposals/requests for funding.
- Proposals to be received by Oct 6 and SAC will meet near end of October to determine distribution of funds.

Fundraising Report (Carly Suppa-Clark)

- Thank you to all that attended last Friday's field event.
- Current fundraising plan includes:
 - Spirt Wear, Poinsettia Drive, Lunch Lady, Pizza Lunch, Woodward Meats and Mabels Labels, Popcorn days, Bingo Night, Fridays on the Field, and Spring Fun Fair.
- Follow us on Instagram for updates @johnwanlessac

- Jamie Parkes describes what a lot of the fundraising efforts have been focused on: to replace Smart Boards with Smart TVs. Smart boards are no longer supported by TDSB. He has recommended Smart TV as replacement – large TV, stand, and cast from iPad, Apple pen to write with on screen. They will last for ~10 years. Some classrooms already are using these this year.

Grade 6 Graduation Committee Co-Chairs (Leanne Oosterveld, Jen Bidwell)

- Call for volunteers of parents of Grade 6 students.
- If you have a local business or any reason to speak to the community, consider advertising in the Grade 6 Yearbook.
- First committee meeting is Oct 4.

Questions from attendees:

Q: Will we have lunch programs again (like After 4)?

A: (Jackie) No – the lunch periods are too short, and the kids wouldn't be able to go outside during lunch hour.

Q: What is the plan for ongoing meetings for SAC?

A: (Candice) – the goal is monthly, considering having a remote option to make it more accessible. Format TBD.

Q: When does Pizza Lunch Start? Can you select which weeks?

A: (Talya) First pizza lunch is Oct 10. You cannot select to participate in some weeks and not others, but you can initiate it at any point, and you will be charged from that point onward. You can also change the number of slices per order. Pizza lunch requires a lot of volunteers and there are 18 weeks of lunches – so a lot of opportunities to get involved. Also, looking to test alternatives such as Subway & Freshii.

Chair Closing (Candice Kelamis, Meg Berkovitz)

- Thank you to the past chairs for their time over several years.
- Thanks to all the parents and community members for the meeting, and encouragement to stay connected and participative.

Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held Sept 26th, 2023

Enrolment Update:

We have 630 students in our school as of today.

Reorganization:

As communicated in last Friday's newsletter, during the course of last week we were directed by central staff to conduct a mini-reorganization in order to balance classes as well as to help reduce the size of the classes slightly in our kindergarten cohort and Grades 3-5 classes. The reorg entails loading up Ms. Mamann's class to match the other 4 classes. This will be coupled with the allocation of an DECE for that class. The second part of the reorganization involves the elimination of the $\frac{3}{4}$ split by removing and spreading the 6 Grade 3's who are currently in that class among our 4 Grade 3 classes. We did receive one exemption which means that one of those classes will have 22 students while the others will have 20. Fortunately by getting the exemption, we did not have to touch any of our Grade 1 or 2 classes. The elimination of the 3.4 split will allow us to load up Ms. Chau's current class with additional Grade 4 students taken from the 4/5 split (Ms. Wolk's class) as well as well as from Ms. Labell's class. We can also move a couple of Grade 5 students from both Mr. Murray's class and Mr. Sherman's class into the 4/5 split to make the class more balanced in its composition. Our respective teams of educators will carry out this process in the most professional manner keeping in mind their knowledge of students, student relationships as well as the need to create balanced classes. Parents whose children will be moving will be informed on Thursday September 28th with the actual moves being effective Monday October 2nd. There will be a total of 32 (~5%) students moving school-wide.

Staffing:

We are still desperately short as far as lunch supervisors are concerned. Although we have done active recruiting, interest is not high. We have been able to have one new person start although documentation is still going through TDSB Employee Services. We are very pleased to let you know that in early September we were given back a 0.5 clerical allocation which was taken away from us last spring and this entails Ms. Olephir (Lily) having been reassigned to John Wanless. Please note that she will be away for the next three weeks however so our office staff may be short if we cannot secure a replacement.

Volunteers

All of our teachers have been provided with the new process and forms to share with any future class volunteers. Completion of the process is mandatory prior to any adult volunteering in our school on a regular basis (Pizza lunches exempted). 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:

Grade 5 Chromebooks will be arriving after October 2nd and will be distributed to all Grade 5 students shortly thereafter as long as their parents have completed the online User agreement prior. As of today 70/72 have done so. All 10 Smart TV's that have been purchased by SAC have been set up and distributed into classrooms. We have some issues with connectivity in some of the classrooms.

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 on October 5th. Soccer tournaments are also being scheduled to take place in the next few weeks.

Facilities:

Unfortunately we still do not have any specific updates regarding the temporary fence. Heather has reached out to TDSB on a number of occasions to follow-up. Our Trustee has also requested an update with details regarding timelines. The floor tiles in the small gym have been repaired in the summer; unfortunately the same cannot be said about the first floor hallway.

We do have some great news. Facilities has found a way to externally fund a replacement component (triple slide) on our Playscape so it does not have to be funded from our school budget.

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.

Caring and Safe Schools

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