

SAC Meeting Minutes
Monday September 27, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Ron Felsen- superintendent
Rosa Lio
Eric Risen
Heather Halnan
Andrew Hillier
Cathy Meles
Talya Postan-Feldberg
Farhan Haji
Valerie Trifler
Janice Passmore
Jackie Chan
Jennifer Moad
Leanne Oosterveld
Chris Davenport
Paul Drekolias
Kelly Dell Apa
Sarah Kussner
Peter Boross-Hamer
Caryn Podbere

Principal Report

- 659 students- while higher than last year, it is lower than many previous years.
- There are smaller kindergarten classes, however we have greater than 20 students in a lot of primary classes.
- Full staff compliment in place, 7 lunch supervisors (2 to be coming on shortly), staffing/reorganization. Changes can take place until first week of October.
- Grade 5 chrome books have all been dispersed for a new pilot 1:1 project.
- In the process of organizing usable/damaged laptops.
- Currently have enough tech to provide all students (partially coming from prior SAC purchases).
- Upcoming curriculum night. Some teachers might record their introductory session to accommodate for parents with multiple students/times.
- Photo day organized for this Friday with special attention to Covid safety protocol.

Questions from Community/Parents

- What is the role and function of the superintendent for our school?
 - o Tdsb has a document called “who does what” for further information re: roles
 - o Supervises 24 schools (401 to Eglinton/Bathurst to Leslie)

- Decisions at the school level continue to be with principals (classroom organization, class assignments, suspensions etc.)
 - Supervision regarding whether principals following are board policy
 - Takes appeals related to such things as suspensions
 - Provide resources and support to principal/meeting goals etc.
 - Trustee role: develop/create policy (and superintendent make sure policies are being followed through with).
- Question brought up around the JW cohorts in place and why our school has different cohorts when others of similar size do not have cohorts in place.
 - There has always been a 25 mins gap between the rest of the school and kindergartens.
 - Every child gets 5 hours of education
 - Pre-pandemic- had a dedicate prep teacher for kindergarten, but now things have changed. School had to limit movement and prep teachers were lowered. 240 prep time to each teacher presents a challenge.
 - Last year, TPH praised JW safety protocol, due to very low #'s of covid cases.
 - 200+ kids vs whole school in the yard at the same time creates much more space.
 - Our prep time teachers were cut, led to challenges around staffing.
 - Of note, there is supervision in school yard in the morning and afternoons to allow for kids from different cohorts to be dropped off/picked up at the same time if needed.
 - French is mandated 200 mins week/doesn't fit evenly into teaching minutes required. Very difficult to organize.
 - If we go to virtual, this process can be streamlined to have same start/schedule.
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- Fence repair/completion
 - Wooden fence was falling apart; started repair in Jan; repair team removed the whole fence, but only finished 100 m in NE school yard. When they got to the metal boxes/rogers hub they ran into serious difficulties with lines existing underground (not known to TDSB). Work was put on hold.
 - Perimeter fence put up in the summer, Hydro work was backlogged (couldn't be rushed, could lead to safety issues and electrical downing).
 - Mike Cole's office was contacted
 - Response received Sept 21-
 - Superintendent in process of trying to get Brookdale side addressed asap prior to winter weather limiting work.

More Comments/questions around Covid/protocols from parents. Answers :

- Superintendent : Schools would close if unsafe to operate; JW has big classes because parents want in person learning but ministry hasn't provided additional staffing to lower class averages put in place prior to Covid (20/24/29 kids per class).
- Peter: every classroom has the same hepa-filter system. Still on target to receive 6 more. All designed 1500? sq feet (our classes are not close to this size in actuality). All

windows open as well. Still looking for filters for other rooms (gym/library) and these are expected to be coming. Donations of Hepa filters are not permitted and there is no need.

- JW ventilation system is advanced. There is an air intake system/filter in new wing (NE). Ventilation system is up to date and filters are being changed more often than recommended. Can forward questions about air quality to caretaker etc. for more details. Air is not stagnant/moving well.
- Should there be a greater push to have more children go home for lunch ? As it stands, more kids went home last year for lunch than this year. Of note, it is not mandated to wear masks this year outside especially with larger distance and as such, kids are getting some breaks from mask wearing when they remain at school.
- JW has a public health nurse attached to the school (covers 32 other schools as well), and she was astounded that kids are allowed to go home for lunch (which apparently is less common in others schools).
- When looking at student # averages, it does take into account many classes with lower numbers either due to area or learning needs (ISSP etc). JW classes are very robust in size but they are not the largest in the area. Reorganization will happen around Sept 29th to Oct 4th (later than usual/expected) and then Oct 4-9, the outcomes should be determined. Based on actual numbers, JW will be made aware of what they can and cannot do. Now all primary are straight classes, except for 3/4 split. Issue is that 2 grade 3 classes are over the cap number. Current reorganization is happening to address this concern.
- Extracurricular – TPH; will gradually re-introduce 12+ yrs into extra curricular.
 - o Primary schools present with different challenges; if vaccines roll out in November, as is possible, then more options might be available for Jan.
 - o Planning event for oct 8th school wide event/terry fox (cohorts will remain in place)
 - o Some sports may be allowed based on ability to safely distance (badminton allowed vs Basketball wouldn't be allowed).
 - o Grade 6 will not have an overnight trip with unvaccinated kids (perhaps vaccinations will change this).

-Accessing a COVID test kit: Please refer to school website for further info. If child is exhibiting symptoms the child is removed from class and parents pick up outside school. At pick up parent provided to kit. If student is kept at home with symptoms, parents can come pick up kits outside Fairlawn doors. Parents drop off kits at the Fairlawn doors (basket is picked up Sickkids courier). Once parents know results, they are to let school know. 12 kits given/received last week but all negative. Child's name is entered sickkids system and monitored.

- Bussing: for any child placed into a special program, a TDSB transport form needs to be completed by the SENDING school. If any modifications to the schedules, the transportation service contacts the parents first and then the school which the child attends.

-Issues is that there are not enough drivers and so there are concerns that exist. JW has limited ability to reconcile.

- Vaccine: Will the vaccine be added to the TDSB mandatory vaccines to attend in person? TBD by TPH

-Why are snacks being consumed inside VS outside when the weather is mild?

The reason being that it is more controlled re: using sanitizer before/after. Eating in class is part of the directive for sanitary purposes and due to wasp issues.

-Is there a better way to organize pick up on Brookdale due to significant congestion and children/caregivers in the road etc.?? Due to increased space now due to fence being moved, parents and caregivers really should move down on the fence to create more space. There is lots of room to do so and a see through fence for your children to see you.

-Questions around strategic plan/policy to address racism and inclusion (this is more of a board issue more than the school coming up with own policies etc). Work that has been started continues to follow TDSB policy. A position of responsibility on JW staff was created (Ms. Hunter). More information has been and will continue to be included by Ms. Hunter in the regular newsletter.

-Question around process of preventing out of school area attendees. There is a policy that JW principle can follow up on children's addresses to ensure they are in the area and if not, staff will follow up. If parents are aware of students not in the area, they can call/anonymously to notify school.

-Questions around teacher vaccine status. Privacy laws make it impossible to provide parents with information about teacher's vaccine status.

Closing comments by Eric

- Discussed importance of getting new people involved to bring new ideas/energy to SAC. Please let SAC know if you would like to hold a position.
- Really looking to optimize new parent involvement in the SAC for perhaps a new reality post pandemic (ie. Fundraising, community events etc). SAC members to take place in October so we have a better idea of those who want to run etc.