

**WMJPS School Advisory Council Meeting  
October 28, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

Outgoing SAC (2020/2021):

Chair: Julie Bisson (JB)

Vice-Chairs: Adriana Avramova(AA), Sheila Azevedo (SA)

Treasurer: Valerie Groves (VG)

Secretary: Damon Groves (DG), Sheila Ballantyne (SB)

Location: over zoom

Time: 6:30-8:00

Present: Susanne Fata (SF), Julie Bisson (JB), Valerie Groves (VG), Damon Groves (DG), Adriana Avramova, Sheila Azevedo (SA), Sheila Ballantyne (SB), Maria Russell (MR), Kimberly Mihaychuk-Nonis, Sandra DiVincenzo, Paula Casamassima, Christina Sciortino, Jenny [*missed last name*], [*missed first name*] Clarks, Marc Dos Resi (MDR), Arash Nezafati

Minute Taker: Sheila Ballantyne

Updated: December 2, 2021 (updated information on class sizes in Ms. Fata's principal report)

Agenda Item	Decision/ Action Taken	
<i>Welcome and Introductions</i>	JB provides a very warm welcome. Thank you to all staff and parents who are joining us tonight!	
<i>Review and approval of May 2021 minutes</i>	SA made motion to accept minutes from May 2021. DG seconded.  <b>CARRIED</b>	
<i>Treasurer Report (VG)</i>	After brief introduction from JB, VG gives a review of the financials.  <b><u>Budget</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most line items in budget are correct, some items need consolidation (e.g. a fundraising cheque just came in)</li> </ul>	

	<p>Our usage of funds last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ~\$4,200 on new chrome books</li> <li>• ~\$1,900 for teacher resources</li> <li>• \$405 for Arts Express experience for gr. 5 grads (instead of field trip)</li> <li>• \$1,000 for t-shirts for gr. 5 grads</li> <li>• \$1,000 for scientist in class</li> <li>• \$500 for welcome to kindergarten</li> <li>• \$2,500 for outdoor resources</li> <li>• \$195 for artscape event</li> <li>• \$458 for Raz+ subscription</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Our current budget: \$3,000</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very low because our normal income sources were not possible during the pandemic</li> <li>• We need to fundraise to support the things we usually support, especially the June Fair and danceathon.</li> </ul> <p>JB: I am happy we spent that money last year. That's what it's there for. We'll just have to redirect our fundraising focus and maybe find ways to support our community without the money.</p> <p>SF thanks the council for supporting the school last year, particularly reallocating funds to virtual experiences.</p> <p><b>AA moved to approve the budget. MR seconded.</b></p> <p><b>CARRIED.</b></p>	
<p><i>2021/2022 Council election (SF)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received 5 nominations: DG, VG, SB, AA, and JB</li> <li>• JB nominated for chair. Everyone in attendance agreed (thumbs up on zoom screens)</li> </ul> <p>SF – great decision! Having Julie's experience this year will be an asset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG and SB confirmed again as co-secretaries</li> <li>• VG confirmed to be Treasurer</li> <li>• AA as vice chair</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Chair Report (JB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone in our school community is always welcome and has important roles</li> </ul>	<p>JB and council – find more ways to</p>

	<p><u>Outlook for this coming year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a council we should go over our roles and responsibilities set out by the tdsb</li> <li>• Hopes to find ways to improve accountability on education and parent participation</li> <li>• We want to be there for parents! We want to hear what parents need for student success. Want to find new ways to get info out to parents. How can we get more parent involvement?</li> <li>• Should we create subcommittees? E.g. about parent communication?</li> <li>• Are other schools doing other things or taking other approaches that might be effective here too?</li> <li>• Why are many Weston graduates leaving the neighbourhood for middle school instead of attending the local Middle School (C.R. Merchant)? C.R. Marchant SAC also wants to create more community and wider representation involved with SAC.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b></p> <p>MR – what’s the easiest way to reach SAC?</p> <p>JB – the Weston memorial Gmail: <a href="mailto:westonmemorialjpssac@gmail.com">westonmemorialjpssac@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Hoping to get the tdsb email running soon too.</p> <p>Jenny: new to the school. Asks how the subcommittees work.</p> <p>JB – almost any topic or issue can become a focus for a subcommittee. Examples of subcommittees that would be useful this year include: improving parent involvement, school statement of needs, updating bylaws. But anything is welcome!</p> <p>Jenny – why is there a disconnect with CR Marchant Middle School?</p> <p>JB – I don’t know.</p> <p>MR – I send my child to CR Marchant and I was very worried about it. There is a lack of information, lack of communication, and it has a bad reputation.</p> <p><b><u>Fundraising Discussion</u></b></p>	<p>communicate with parents</p> <p>JB – will have resource ready to share with parents for next meeting</p> <p>JB – will send around document with statement of needs for school (due end of November)</p>
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- The school's statement of needs is due at end of November. JB will distribute document for comment.
- Any ideas for fundraising? Make a virtual "-athon" (e.g. danceathon)? Could we do it with an event to create community as well as raise funds?
- Can we do this with cash online, adding a donation option to the drop menu on the tdsb cash online page?

SF – staff could set up something for cash online for the school. Could fundraise for an event of simple donation. Could make put a cheque from the school to SAC if necessary.

VG – donated recently and is easy. Just go to <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/457/153/false/true>

Select Weston Memorial JPS. The initiative just says "general". We could change the "general" to something specific. Just need a name. Maybe we can create an incentive to kids if certain fund levels are reached.

MDR – what are the tdsb policies around doing events during COVID now?

SF – same as last year. Everything must be outdoors, no visitors, cohorts can't mix.

MDR – can we do something after school hours?

SF – can't have students from different cohorts mixing.

JB – I think there is an urgency here to raise funds. Let's get the cash online sorted, change the drop down menu from only general to something specific.

SA – I don't think that's an issues. I'm open to giving and we're all used to giving to SAC initiatives

JB – I agree. Though the events were first to bring families together and second to fundraise.

SA – I don't think it hurts to ask. I think parents will understand.

JB – want to make sure we all agree

	<p>MDR – from my experience in fundraising it helps to have a specific need or target. Something for the community to work towards.</p> <p>SB – agree. We could send a gently-worded letter home explaining where funds raised by SAC usually go and what we want to raise money for now. Explain we only expect parents to give who are able at this time.</p> <p>SF – we need to make a plan with intents on how the raised money will be spent. All the money raised needs to stay in the school. When funds are donated through the cash online portal donors get a tax receipt.</p> <p><b><u>Monthly calendars discussion:</u></b></p> <p>JB – can we send them out again? Can we print them for families or just email them?</p> <p>SF – we would like to send them home digitally</p> <p>JB – we would like them printed. Somethings we can stick on the fridge. Showing PA days etc. Could we bring them back?</p> <p>MDR – I agree. I don’t have a printer at home</p> <p>JB – I can take that on again if it’s helpful</p> <p>SF – there is not too much information we can add at this time</p> <p>(unresolved)</p> <p><b><u>Next meetings</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Thursday December 2, 2021</b></li> <li>- <b>Thursday January 20, 2022</b></li> <li>- <b>Remaining meeting times tbd</b></li> </ul>	
Principal’s report (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to Sandra DiVincenzo for being the SAC Teaching Staff Representative, and Kimberly Mihaychuk-Nonis for being the Support Staff Representative for 2021/2022 SAC!</li> <li>• Agree that a letter could be sent out to parents asking for funds. It must be very sensitive of course, as some families have struggled significantly through the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Shared screen:</p>	

Kindergarten	13+13=26	Frate
Kindergarten	10+13=23	Costa
Kindergarten	9+15=24	McLeish
Grade 1	16	Malic
Grade 1	17	Reece
Grade 2	19	DiVincenzo
Grade 2	19	Sciortino
Grade 3	18	Casamassima
Grade 3	17	Sovran
VirGrade 3	18	Carter
Grade 4/5	15+9=24	Malone
Grade 4/5	14+9=23	Lynch

Note: original minutes had different information on class organization. The above table was added on December 2, 2021

- Had to re-org classes based on number of students.
- Re-org happened 1 week later than usual because the board is very busy with figuring out virtual school and making accommodations.
- Our students need a lot of help with reading, writing, and math. These small classes help support them getting this help.
- All safety drills for the year are complete. On the first day we had a false fire alarm. Everyone cooperated and was successful. Our evacuation plans are updated, with students going to Weston Secondary, CR Marchant, or Pelmo in the event of an evacuation.
- Tech update: some of the devices tdsb are not yet returned. We have received about 50% of the devices lent out during the pandemic, which is average across the board. When the student returns the device, tdsb ITS wipes them and then returns them to the source school. Have plans to buy more. TDSB wants every student in Gr 5 to have their own Chrome book at school, and these chrome books follow them into subsequent grades. Our grade 3, 4, and 5 classrooms have

	<p>one chrome book per student. Grades 1 and 2 have approx. 12 per class. We have extras in the library. Our school is in excellent shape as far as tech goes. Short on charging cords and storage carts, both are very expensive!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID 19 notes: protocols are still all in place. She appreciates everyone in our school community understanding the short notice she receives and abundant updates.</li> <li>• Facilities: the heating update is nearly complete. Despite early access to the building, some unexpected issues have lead to delays. Two new boilers are now installed, converting the building from steam to a much more efficient water system. All classrooms and gyms are complete. Hallways and stairs should be complete soon. Staff has been remarkably understanding and flexible. The PA system will be replaced sometime in November. Large windows on east and west will be replaced. Windows are very similar to existing ones, and should be a quick job. More painting is planned in classrooms and basement washrooms.</li> <li>• Budget: it was just received before this meeting. Will establish a budget committee and make a list of priorities. A lot more interest in digital subscriptions, particularly with COVID.</li> <li>• Terry Fox: We raised \$755 (an increase from last year!), with big thanks to Mr. Sovern and Ms. Garits for organising the walks and runs</li> <li>• Report Cards: sent home November 18. We're holding parent teacher interviews on November 19, booking them with an online system for the first time.</li> </ul> <p>MR – can parents weigh in on the school improvement plan?</p> <p>SF – yes. I'll get that to you all in advance. Would be good way to make fundraising goals and improve parent involvement.</p>	
<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p>JB – thanks to Ms. Fata for the report! The school improvement plan likely has a lot of overlap with our statement of needs. We should get more parent feedback. Maybe make another survey? Thank you again to Ms. Mihaychuk-Nonis and Ms. DiVincenzo for volunteering with the SAC!</p> <p><b>JB motions to end meeting. MR seconds. Meeting ends at 8:00 pm</b></p>	