

## School Council/Parent Voice In Person Minutes of the Meeting

SAC Meeting Date: April 28, 2022

SAC Meeting Time: 5:30PM – 7:30PM

SAC Meeting Attendance:

1. Sherron Grant
2. Paul Charles
3. Sheyi Momoh
4. Janelle Baetiong
5. Aara Vive
6. Melissa Reeves
7. Charlene Pierson
8. Cecelia De Souza
9. Dhekra Aljadasi
10. Rumana Yasmin
11. Moya Taylor
12. Felicia French-Marsh
13. Romiza Khan
14. Jeneen Hamilton
15. Fetemeh

Discussion Items:

- Principal's Report
1. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to give feedback on what is working and what is not as this will help for the improvement of our school. Although the principal will be the one to make the decision regarding the extra-curricular activities that needs to be approved, the principal will work with the input of the stakeholders. Parents, caregivers, and teachers can have a say on what the principal can do.
  2. Confirming that Ms. Grant and Mr. Charles will be back in September. Mr. Charles will be a full-time vice-principal by then.
  3. School improvement plan is categorized into following:
    - a. Achievement
    - b. Well-Being/Equity
    - c. Indigenous Education
  4. Although we are nearing the end of the school year, teachers are teaching until the end. The learning continues.
  5. EQAO for Grade 3 and Grade 6 in-person students is coming up. It will be from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) is PA Day. For those students who missed the EQAO, they will be doing it on June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>.
    - a. It's advised not to put pressure on the child on this test. The test results that will come out in Fall will be helpful for planning purposes. This can help determine on how the children can be improved on where they are struggling and which area they need help with. This data will help the staff on how to help the children.

- b. EQAO for Grade 3 will test their knowledge from Kinder to Grade 3 and EQAO for Grade 6 will test their knowledge from Kinder to Grade 6.
  - c. EQAO is going to be executed online this year. Everyone will have access to devices. The devices will have headphones and for those with special needs, the headphones will have microphones. The test will be shorter this year.
  - d. For virtual students, it is optional for them to write the assessment but they must come into the school physically to do so
6. Safe and Caring Schools - One of the struggles we have this school year are with our primary students from Grades 1 to 3. This could have been because there were a lot of interruption among the little ones due to the pandemic and we continue to work with our students and to build a culture of high expectations for the students.
7. Ongoing extra-curricular activities in school
  - a. Leadership group on Wednesdays with Sharmin Hasan
  - b. Basketball Program with Coach John
  - c. Drop-In Before and After School basketball Program with Mr. Shapiro
  - d. Cricket for Grades 5 and 6 and with Mr. Ramkisoan and Mr. Shapiro
  - e. In September, we will get things going with more extra-curricular activities that includes academic, arts and athletics.
8. The community violence that has been happening in the community lately are affecting the children. There should be a counsellor that can help the children in this situation.
9. The superintendent figures out the schools who most need additional help. Our school is in need of additional staff or help and we got the data to show and support and point to this need. We got anecdotal data, ABC logs (antecedent, behaviour and consequence) logs that the teachers keep, academic performance and different pieces of data that goes to TDSB system. One of the most effective ways so that the superintendent hears the needs of the school is through the voice of the parents. The council chair has an ability to request meeting with the superintendent to discuss the needs of the school and to work together and set what is required. The superintendent does not ignore the voice of the parents. Emailing the superintendent will be good enough to setup a meeting.
10. The school's Child and Youth Worker is only supposed to stay for 3 weeks but will be staying until the end of the school year. The payment of the CYW will be coming from the school's budget. We're getting emergency SNA and the superintendent is paying for that. We don't have a secretary right now because Miss Ayesha got a full-time position at Cornell. We're sometimes borrowing the secretary from Tecumseh.
  - a. Our goal is to meet the needs of the students internally and treat the needs of the students accordingly with just the help of our regular compliment of staff and not always needing of additional help.
11. Willow Park has always been a challenging school, but this year has been extremely difficult. The stigma of the school is not always good, but our goal is to turn it around. What is important is that the kids are enjoying and learning and to have more parents/caregivers involved.
12. Suggested activities to have the parents come out to come to the building and join:
  - a. D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) morning
  - b. Grandparents' morning
  - c. Potluck

- d. Mr. Gus to do DJ music
  - e. Volunteering
  - f. Fun Fair for next September
  - g. Fundraisers such as patty sale, pizza sale
  - h. Cultural shows / cultural fashion show
  - i. Games that involve parents and teachers (soccer, cricket, basketball)
  - j. Talent shows in the fall (drama)
  - k. Raffle
  - l. Cooking shows for Moms or caregivers to present culture where the kids can come and enjoy the food.
- a. Aara, our CSW to engage with parents to ask for their ideas on more activities and how to put the suggestions into action. He will also create a sign-up sheet for the activities and he will connect with other CSWs to check on how other parents are doing it in other schools.
  - b. A WhatsApp group has been created as a form of communication among the parents. It's called Willow Park Wizard Parents. Please approach School Council Chair Sheyi Momoh if you want to be included in the WhatsApp group.
13. It's Spirit Week – Mental Health Week first week of May.
14. Progress on school's problem with Language, Behaviour and Bullying
- a. There is a decrease on the number of incidents.
  - b. Parents, teachers, and admin staff needs to work hand in hand
  - c. The kids are improved, we are seeing kids calm down faster
  - d. Ms. Grant is always talking with parents involved and continuously working with them
15. Staffing for September
- a. We are down to 18.5 teachers.
  - b. Student enrollment across TDSB is going down because of COVID, we don't have as much immigration as we once did, the people are moving outside of GTA, not having children, etc.
  - c. COVID funding will end in August and in September we will back to normal numbers.
  - d. Right now we have 25 teachers and we're going down to 18.5 because the projection for student number is 301. Right now it's 378 including virtual students. The numbers have been steadily going down. Out of the 301 students, there are 12 who opted for virtual learning. There will be no virtual class for Willow Park.
  - e. With the 18.5 teachers allocated to us, it means that we have 7 teachers declared surplus.
  - f. We are down 0.5 EA, down 2 lunchroom supervisors and our secretary got a fulltime elsewhere
  - g. We also have 7 teachers from Willow Park who are transferring out and decided they wanted to move to a different school next year.
  - h. Today we got 2 new teachers, in the event that we will be need to fill vacant teaching spots daily.
  - i. We can call the 7 that we declared surplus to come back due to the transferring out of other teachers

16. ASE1 is an alternative high school that will be moving to Willow Park in September. This is an alternative high school for Grades 11 and 12 and right now they are located at St. Andrews school in Brimorton and Brimley. St. Andrews school population is going up and Willow Park school population is going down thus this change.
  - a. There are expected to have 120 students.
  - b. The architects and contractors are bidding right now and on May 3<sup>rd</sup> or May 4<sup>th</sup> and we will find out who the contractors are, and we can discuss when the construction will begin and plan on which rooms to relocate. This will be in May and then there will be communication that will be sent out for this.
17. The first in-person SAC meeting for the school year is successful. The number of attendance that we have right now given that it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last meeting is really good. This is the highest number we got.
18. Next and last meeting will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Every parent in attendance is encouraged to invite one more parent in the meeting. We will be doing something special in our last meeting. We'll let the council know.

Minutes of the meeting prepared by:  
Janelle Baetiong  
April 28, 2022