

School Council/Parent Voice Virtual Zoom Minutes of the Meeting

SAC Meeting Date: February 24, 2022

SAC Meeting Time: 5:30PM – 7:00PM

SAC Meeting Attendance:

1. Paul Charles (Vice-principal)
2. Aara Vivekanathan (Community Support Worker)
3. Sheyi Momoh (SAC Chair)
4. Janelle Baetiong (SAC Secretary)
5. Durward Anthony (Nutrition Liaison Officer)
6. Mary Maduapera (Office Administrator, CUPE Member)
7. Vivian Wang (Parent/Guardian)
8. Charlene Pierson – (Special Needs Assistant, CUPE Member)
9. Unknown attendant (with zoom name: Galaxy Note 10+)

Discussion Items:

1. Principal's Report as discussed by Mr. Charles on behalf of Ms. Grant.
 - a. The school loaned out over 100 devices during the school closure that followed immediately after winter break. Willow Park has 300 students and a third of the school requested for devices. 83/117 or 71% of the loaned devices have been returned. There are some students who are enrolled as in-person students but are currently in Short-Term Virtual Learning Plan where the teacher produces work through the virtual platform that the student needs to complete.
 - b. Transfers to in-person from virtual and in-person to virtual have been completed as of February 22nd.
 - i. There were 18 students who transferred from in-person to virtual.
 - ii. There were 5 students who transferred from virtual to in-person.
 - iii. There were late requests:
 1. 3 students from in-person to virtual
 2. 1 student from virtual to in-person
 3. 3 students cancelled the switch requestThe 3 requests to cancel the transfer have been approved, but we are still waiting to hear back on the other late requests. After speaking to the parents, most of them thought that decision is made in the school level, but it's coming from a higher level. We are hoping to hear the result by next week.
 - c. Professional Learning – the school is continuously working with Student Equity Program Advisor and with Behaviour Regional Services team. Willow Park had a social worker from Avi Magidsohn that presented to our teachers regarding sexual gender and diversity. Willow Park has had a number of homophobic slur incidents, and staff want to address the situation and provide education to our students. There is a tool called Speak Up and this will help teachers understand on how to address issues on prejudice and stereotype. Next PLC is scheduled for March 23.
 - d. Ms. Grant and Mr. Charles had a meeting with the Central Staff regarding the Calming Room on how to put it together and to get it up and running. The purpose of the calming room is to better support students to help them get in back to the green zone. To help them with distressing, the

calming room will have a coloring area, an emoji area, meditation, calming music, fidget items, pop-its, Lego, sand, and various items the school is purchasing.

- e. A number of central staff, social workers, community support worker came together to support Willow Park to hold a Parent Circle.
 - i. Mr. Aara Vivekanathan explained that the vision of the Parent Circle is to have parents share their thoughts and feelings toward the community and the school, learn from parents on how the school can get more parents to participate, find out what parents want. There is no structure to this meeting, it's an open-ended discussion. Flyers will be sent out to provide more information about the parent circle. Flyers will be given to parents, promoted through childcare, go around the neighborhood to give flyers etc.

A Social worker, the Behavioral Regional Services team , a child and youth counselor, and a special education consultant came together to hold this event to support the school and to work with parents and the community to help find ways on how the school community can be improved.

Virtual Parent Circle

Dates:

- March 23 (Wednesday) 10am-11am OR 6:30pm-7:30pm
- April 6 (Wednesday) 10am-11am OR 6:30pm-7:30pm

Free giveaways such as gift cards and more to attendees.

- f. Staffing – Additional SNA allocation has been provided. The school is currently hiring. We are waiting for an EA to be placed in the role and redeployment of central staff to cover absences. There are 2 lunch supervisors who have expressed their interest to be an emergency replacement person. We have an allocation of 5 support staff, but we currently have only 3 in the role on a daily basis, so the lunch supervisors are filling in for now.
- g. Budget – the school will continue to spend money in support of SIP such as the common room and PLC.
- h. Extra-curricular activities – the government has given green light for certain extra-curricular events.
 - i. A flyer has been sent out on behalf of Coach John for the Homework and Sports Club. The deadline for registration is on February 25 at 3:30 PM. This is an after-school program from 3:15-5:15. Every Monday for Grades 4, 5, and 6. Every Thursdays for Grades 1, 2 and 3. A \$20 deposit is required upon registration.
 - ii. There is also a before school Basketball Club that is organized by Mr. James Shapiro. This will be held every Mondays and Fridays from 8:15am-8:55am.
- i. ASE1 – Alternative Secondary School – will move on September 2022. The architects have already been in and there are ongoing monthly meetings.
- j. School Uniforms – a survey will be sent out to parents regarding school uniforms.

2. Question from Parents:

- a. Ms. Momoh asked about more information regarding the extra-curricular activity. Before the pandemic happened, there were parents who paid \$20 for an extra-curricular activity for that

school year, however, the lockdown happened. What happened to the money that has been paid? Can this be applied to the extra-curricular activity that is available right now?

- i. Mr. Charles responded that he would connect with Coach John, Miss Navratil and Miss Mary to ask more details about this since we are not sure if it's the same activity.
 - b. Miss Momoh asked about proper use of language. There have been incidents where a student was heard swearing a lot and the other children are feeling uncomfortable about it. Is there a system in place to address that or a way to deal with it?
 - i. Mr. Charles responded that this concern needs to be addressed by the teacher first. Refer to the school's code of conduct and one of them is the use of appropriate language. The teacher can speak to the child and speak to the parents directly. If it's escalated the principal/vice-principal will talk to the child and parent.
 - c. Miss Momoh asked about the issue of lunch. During the first SAC meeting, there have been incidents where student lunches have been stolen. What is the update or progress if the kids' lunches are still being stolen by other kids?
 - i. Mr. Charles responded that it hasn't been brought to the administrators' attention since and therefore does not believe it is still an issue. If it was still ongoing, this would have been reported but it hasn't come up. Mr. and Mrs. Ramkissoon have not reported that they have had to replace lunches because of theft. So far, the only issue that they have reported is that some students do not have a lunch. The Ramkissoons always meet the need for cases like this, they step up every time and the don't refuse any children. All they ask are the normal questions like if there are any known allergies. The Ramkissoons step up every time.
 - ii. Mr. Durward Anthony expanded on what Mr. Charles mentioned and said that he has been to the school several times last week and he noticed that some of the students did not have a lunch and it broke his heart. Mr. Anthony talked to the Ramkissoons and they said that no child would be turned away regardless of the ability to contribute. Mr. Anthony gave kudos to the Ramkissoons on how the program is delivered.
 - d. Miss Momoh asked about why the walkway from the crossing where the traffic officer is located up to the school's parking lot is not salted. It is so slippery and really dangerous for the children walking going to/from school.
 - i. Miss Mary Maduapera informed her that the pathway belongs to the city and parents would have to call 311 to report anything outside the school premises.
 - ii. Mr. Charles said that he will talk to Ms. Grant to see what can be done and if they can talk to the city to address the situation in a timely manner.
3. Next SAC meeting will be on April 28th.

Minutes of the meeting prepared by:
Janelle Baetiong
February 25, 2022