# Williamson Road SAC

# Meeting Agenda

## October 6, 2022

## 6:30pm

## School Library

Attendees:

Janet Theunissen

Sarah Charters

Sareh Pouryousefi

Mme Heather McInroy

Mark Duwyn

Karen Hoskins

Anita Davis

Lindsay Thompson

Carla Southward

Shannon Rios

Nikki Stiavnicky

Virtual: Shah Ruby

Maya Kesler

Dave Winkler

Xandi Neville

Nazlin Mohamed & Kevin Akyeampong

Regrets:

Gina McCubbin

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions
2. Principal/Vice Principal Update - Mr. Duwyn/Ms. Neville

The Administration is monitoring the COVID situation and hoping this year will be as “back to normal” as possible. It’s a very active & busy school with a great engagement. There is pent-up demand for activities.

The re-organization of classes was a very large effort. All classes in grades 3-6 have24 kids or less. All of the English students in grades 1-6 and their families experienced anxiety around this, as did the staff as they tried to balance the various needs, identities and learning buddies.

Mr. Duwyn stressed that split grades do not mean that the younger students are more academically advanced or that the older students are struggling or learning at a lower level. Teachers do not “teach to the middle” as happened in the past. They teach to the grade level, standards and requirements.

There are currently 511 students at the school: 306 in the French and 205 in the English stream, the vast majority from the direct catchment area which is also slightly different from the past.

Janet expressed her appreciation for the work and the management of the change. Dave noted that it was good to do it so early in the year because of the effect on both the kids that move and the kids that stay. Interviews are happening tomorrow for the teachers for the two new classes so there should be an announcement as early as next week.

**Playground Revitalization:**

The proposal to revitalize the playground was made and designs were received 1.5 years ago. There are so many demands from schools in the TDSB that the progress is slow. There is no update as yet on timing for the start of the work. The school is also waiting to have the pavement in the back lower yard painted with outlines for games etc.

Two years ago families were surveyed as to what they thought was important for the grade 1-6 playground. Once the new design is received, the school community will be surveyed again to assess how the designs meet the community needs.

Once the playground in the back of the school is complete, the kindergarten playground will be revitalized.

**Fire drills & lockdown drills**

The school practices on a regular basis. It is unsettling for both staff and students but necessary to ensure that if there was an adverse event, students and staff know how to respond. There are fire drills, lockdown drills, and hold & secure drills. Hold and secure are business as usual but with the doors locked and staying in the classrooms. Fire drills help students learn how to leave quickly in case of a fire. Lockdown drills are in case there is someone with mal-intent in the school and ensures kids know how to remain quiet and calm within the classroom.

**Other School Activities and Events**

The school honoured National Day for Truth and Reconciliation last week. In the past, Indigenous Elders and educators have joined, however, due to COVID, what’s possible has varied. Books are available from the school library – just reach out to the librarian.

The Terry Fox run went really well. The kids enjoyed it and raised about $5,000. The cross-country meet is coming up – bussing is an issue but they are working on it. Clubs like the Leadership Team are getting underway.

Flag football, boys soccer (won their game today), girls soccer are also underway.

Curriculum night is next week and the staff are really excited to have families come into the school and have people learn about what’s happening and see the school – sometimes for the first time.

Ukuleles will be back in classrooms this year and there may be a ukulele choir later this fall.

Dogs on school property – real issue including a biting incident when the daycare was using the yard in an afternoon in recent weeks. Lindsay is working on a proposal for a dog park nearby in collaboration with the Beaches Dog Association. Signage is inadequate and people ignore it. Staff speak to people on a regular basis and there are a few people who are quite belligerent. The TDSB has one security person who will come if you call but response time is an issue.

**SAC Acclaimed Positions/Elections**

10 people responded to nominations – for the most part they were self-nominations. There are up to 16 spaces. All roles are acclaimed.

* Nikki Stavniky - Parent rep
* Carla Southward – ward rep
* Janet Theunissen - Chair
* David Winkler – ward rep
* Simon Yao – parent rep
* Anita Davis – parent rep
* Sarah Charters – Secretary
* Michelle – parent rep
* Lindsay – parent rep
* Karen Hoskins - Treasurer

1. **Council Update (Janet Theunissen)**

The Council’s goal is to enhance student performance through parent engagement. It isn’t solely about fundraising but the fundraising support does help with programming like Scientists in the School, ukuleles, etc. The goal is really to help create community and make the Council a great place to share ideas.

Bylaws – will be ready next weekly email and posted to the website and then we will look for approval at the next SAC meeting.

1. **Finance update** (Karen Hoskins)

The Council’s bank balance is approx. $43K – up from $30K last year which was a large balance due to COVID.

JuneFest raised just under $20K and pizza lunch raised $8K.

Funding requests were approved at $28K but the playground project and supply chain issues meant only $16K was used last year. The $6K for the playground will be carried forward until it can be paid out.

Next meeting is the fund allocation meeting and between now and then teachers and parents can send in proposals/request

SAC funds can also be used to help families who can’t afford trips or participate in other activities.

1. **New Business/Questions**

Dog Art Project - presentation attached

Lots of concern for safety and good space for dogs to be able play safely

Shannon wrote to Brad Bradford, Michelle Arts, & other influencers.

Michelle Arts advised that no dogs are allowed on the property. It’s private property and so bylaw officers can’t respond. One option is to completely fence the property and lock it so that dog owners can’t use it.

There is a request to school community dog owners to ask their neighbours and other dog owners to take their dogs elsewhere. People know they’re not supposed to be there with their dogs and don’t respect the fact or the reminders.

If someone is on property and feels the situation is unsafe, calling 911 is the best option.

There is work on murals and artwork to inform dog owners dogs are not welcome on the property.

**Next steps:**

* letter campaign for neighbouring houses suggesting other locations for exercising dogs (kid letters very effective)
* Daycare is making posters.
* Pursuing a nearby dog park.
* Looking at enhancing signage. Mr. Duwyn will check about what’s possible in terms of location, size, etc.
* Potential letter to Beach Metro from parents.