# Williamson Road SAC

# Meeting Minutes

## December 6, 2022

## 6:30pm

## Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Janet Theunissen

Sarah Charters

Xandi Neville

David Birch

Mark Duwyn

Simon Yao

Carla Southward

Rachel Roter

Christine Murray

Kirsten & David Boyce

Nikki Stiavnicky

Chelsea Stroud

Lindsay Thompson

Karen Hoskins

Alison Howell

Maya Kesler

Heather McInroy

Sareh Pouryousefi

Alison & Branson Howell

Anita Davis

Ann Taylor

Kate

Dave Winkler

Tethra Pin

Evelyne Au Navioz

Frances Anderson

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

Janet welcomed everyone, offered the land acknowledgement and everyone introduced themselves

1. Principal, Vice Principal & Teacher Update- Mr. Duwyn & Ms. Neville & Mme McInroy

**Playground**

Two years ago, playground renovation started with solicitations of feedback from students, families, etc. We have been waiting on the design plans and there is a huge backlog of schools needing playground design and equipment. The design plans should be available in 2023 and the installation should be in 2024. Williamson Rd has been deprioritized because other schools have had their playgrounds removed because they were unsafe and therefore are higher up in the queue.

Painting on the asphalt will likely be in spring 2023

**EQAO** – reading shows strong results. Grade 3 – 88% of students at levels 3 or 4 in reading; 75% of students are at levels 3 or 4 writing and math; Grade 6 reading is over 100% of students are at levels 3 or 4; writing 93% of students are at levels 3 or 4; math – 73% of students are levels 3 or 4.

Over the years reading has always been fairly strong as has writing and the trend over time is important to inform how the school focuses its budget.

There is a new math curriculum and focusing on problem solving, patterns, and group work. That may be the reason the scores are at 75% as both students and teachers adjust to the new curriculum.

Teachers don’t follow up with parents about the results. If parents have a concern, they can reach out to the previous year’s teacher.

Grade three French immersion students aren’t tested in reading and writing because they haven’t received official education in English. They are tested in grade 6.

**School improvement plan**

The plan is still in draft format but will be attaching to goals and timelines in the next several weeks. Will have impact on school budget. There are a variety of areas of focus. Mr. Duwyn mentioned several including:

* Literacy – focus on decoding sounds in letters and words
* STEM – infuse into curriculum, use the visual art room into a “maker” space for exploration, coding etc.
* Meeting needs of kids with special needs and providing culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy; includes curating the library collection to ensure new books and materials showing diverse people, cultures, etc.
* Working with staff on anti-black racism, and infusing Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum.

**CCAT**

The CCAT is the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test and all students in grade 3 are tested each fall. The results have been sent home at the end of last week. It’s a very narrow way of looking at how kids learn and think. It doesn’t have relevance to success at school. There are three areas of assessment: verbal, non-verbal, and quantitative scores. Teachers look at the scores and assess if there are variations in scores and where different approaches may help students. Invitations are going out to those families who have students that may benefit from more in-depth assessment with a psychologist to determine if a different form of learning would benefit the student. Parents with questions should contact their student’s teacher.

**Activities at school:**

Intramurals:

* Junior sports– soccer based on World Cup – students play for their country
* Primary – participate in sports by class

Musical –Jukebox Musical (time travelling over the decades with well known tunes) overwhelming number of students wanting to audition; full rehearsals to start in January; practices may be in the morning, at lunch or afterschool

Primary Choir – last day of school before winter break will be a sing-a-long led by the choir; practices are Tuesdays at lunchtime;

Questions re safety – of having concerts/sing-a-long with viruses currently circulating and the state of hospitals etc. and the fact that kids will be going to visit family. There is the possibility of having a virtual assembly by class or holding it outside. Teachers are quite concerned as well and are working to mitigate risks as they are able.

1. SAC Update:

## **Funding Requests**

There is $42,500 to disbursed (it was raised last year and in prior years – not spent due to COVID)

* Kindergarten team: kits to help with motor skills $500, sensory kits $200, laminators $500 = $1,200 (one package of kits per class)
* Grade 1&2: various items like math magnetics, games, bamboo building games, clip and create $1,355
* Grades 2&3: coding supplies, scientists in the school, logistics academy $1,500
* Grade 4: Air team and logitec pencil for each classroom $2,400
* Grade 5&6 Maki Maki kit, air team to connect to student’s chrome books $3,750
* Kindie & Primary Gym – portable, smaller basketball nets $500
* Junior Gym – ice rental for hockey team & referees $1,000
* Junior Gym – tetherballs $45
* Junior Gym – t-shirts for uniforms for track and cross-country teams
* Junior Gym – recess bins $2,000
* Tent for cross country and other events $2,000
* Classroom projectors $5,000 (cost split with administration)
* Scientist in the Schools (24 homeroom classes) $5,800
* Grade 6 trip ($150 per student) $1,000 to subsidize field trips including the overnight trip
* Musical production costs $1,000
* Willy Dog Project Group – 3 vinyl banners $340
* Willy Reads (February) $1,000 for events (e.g. author readings)
* Performances (e.g. Cadence Group, Prologue, Indigenous dancers) $2,000
* Dance-a-thon $500
* Graduation $3,000 (incl. Venue, decorations, food, dance party, hoodies; split with school)
* Teacher consumables $200/teacher

Upon motion duly made by Anita Davis, seconded by Lindsay Thompson, the School Advisory Council approved the above named expenses.

## **Bylaws**

The Bylaws were created using the TDSB template and there were few options to make decisions about (e.g we chose to include the Land Acknowledgement in our meetings). The biggest decision is about the number of members which was discussed last year and set at 16.

Upon motion duly moved by Anita Davis, seconded by Lindsay Thompson the School Advisory Council adopted the bylaws as presented.

1. New Business/Questions

Frances shared info about the bake sale in support of the Foodbank that is happening Sunday at the Beaches Sandbox. Donations of baked goods still welcomed. Please visit on Sunday (Dec. 11th) and buy hot chocolate, baked goods and raffle tickets.

Janet reminded everyone that the deadline for signing up for session 2 of the pizza lunch is coming up on Dec. 16th – 485 kids have signed up. It takes 14 or 15 volunteers per lunch.

There is a deadline this Friday for an anti-racism grant and if anyone has interest and idea, they are welcome to apply. Please contact Janet for more details.

Next meeting is March 7th with the school nurse who will cover a variety of topics. The meeting will be on Zoom.

Janet closed the meeting at 8pm.