

Meeting Minutes SAC

January 23, 2024

Virtual meeting

Present:

Malini Hyland

Andrea Kwok

Heather McInroy

Lindsay Thompson

Janet Theunissen

Nikki Stiavnicky

Simon Yau

Karen Dobbie-Hunter

Kate Lorriman

Alexis

Stella

Shannon O Hara

Madhvi Aggarwal

Laura

Maya Kessler

Mandisa Watts

Regrets:

Sarah Charters

Janet – Land acknowledgement, welcome and introductions

Principal / VP update

Support staff (Educational assistants and Special Needs assistants) – they are allotted, and extra support isn't often provided by the board and gets planned a year out.

Mme. McInroy (French)

Mrs. Smith (English)

Special Needs Assistant

Parent support/workshops

Bloom workshop in the fall

Trying to book a parent presentation by Paul Davis on social media safety (he was booked when Malini contacted him in September, so we're hoping he has a cancelation)

Providing info on assistive technology that can be accessed through the TDSB website, so they can use those tools not only at school but also at home.

We're constantly assessing the needs, if there is some interest that parents have, then please let us know so that we can look into further parent engagement evenings.

Library update

Adam Beck – library revitalization initiative

At Williamson Road some parents are helping to organize the library

There's beautiful signage

We're building an Art Gallery

Some of the money raised from the book fair money has been used on improving the organization of the library (bins and cart) along with some books.

Juliette – thank you – she was the student from Malvern and initiated the book drive (over 2000 books were donated!). The book bank was thrilled, and they said it was the largest one-time donation that they had. Malini will share the thank you in her next newsletter.

Heather provides update on extracurriculars.

Junior Grades 4, 5, 6

2 hockey teams (tournament league and school league)

Tournament team will compete in Leaside cup tournament

2 girls volleyball (grade 6 league and grade 4/5 tournament team)

Boys basketball team

Swim team

Primary Grades 1, 2, 3

Intramurals (grades 1, 2, 3)

Wrapped up soccer games (all students participated)

2nd round of primary intramurals (likely a game of throwing and catching) should start mid-Feb

Arts

t-swizzle Tuesdays (just wrapped up)

junior choir

primary singing club

Ukulele club starts next week with grade 6s (Mr. Bowers and Mme. McInroy)

Malini shared appreciation of the movie night.

Janet shared her appreciation of the staff and teachers to dedicate their time for all these extracurricular activities. Thank you for making it happen for all our kids!

Malini answering questions on staffing

Staffing allocation happens in the spring. Most schools have a .5 staffing allocation for the librarian.

Each teacher is allocated prep time of 240 minutes per week (according to collective agreement), they get prep time from music, drama and gym.

3.24 FT prep teachers, which means we only get 3 FTE prep teachers. Librarian usually picks up the remaining .24 prep teaching.

Andrea applied for a student placement from Seneca, but unfortunately, they need a FTE to supervise the student, and they are only allocated .5 FTE for the position.

Teacher leaves of absences. If they provide a note, it goes on to employee services and we get a replacement. If they go on extended leave, then they submit another doctor's note. The school's hands are tied because there is a collective agreement. Principal can only do a posting once there's an extended leave and a specific amount of time that the teacher will be off.

10 days of continuous absence, becomes long-term occasional (LTO) teacher job. Some won't take on roles that are beyond 10 days, as this requires the LTO to do lesson planning and student assessments. It's easier to find supply teachers in English. Retired teachers can only work 50 days. During COVID they extended the number of days that retired teachers can work, but they haven't continued with that.

Malini can only post a job once she has the official letter that states how long the staff member is on leave for. She has to leave the posting up for 5 days, so it takes a couple of weeks to fill the role. They try and do it faster by trying to find someone who is willing to come in and take over.

Construction

Last update was when we returned in January. Malini was advised by the project manager who works for the TDSB and is the liaison to the construction crew. He said handles and new windows would go in last week – that hasn't happened, and he said the prep work and brick work was being prepared for the windows to be installed. They anticipated the start of the additional window installation the last week of January/first week of February. There hasn't been any advisement of an updated date.

Can the construction area be reduced?

Phase 3 windows in the back. So, they can't reduce the construction area yet.

The TDSB project manager is overseeing over 200 projects in the TDSB. He makes very few site visits. Principal is the supervisor of the building, so Malini has the authority to stop them if they are doing something unsafe. Unfortunately, this project has taken up a lot of Malini's time since the TDSB doesn't have dedicated onsite supervisors.

Playground update

Initial parent survey done in 2021 for the playground project, distributed to all families in the school. That information was shared with the TDSB facilities team.

There has been a long wait for the next steps, due to many schools needing new playgrounds.

We are now in the design phase. Group of parents (Mark, Kate, Janet, Simon, Lindsay) recently provided input on the playground design. We are now waiting for the final design and vendors to present options for the main structure. We are hoping that the construction will begin in the fall.

We had a lot of additional funds, so we are adding:

Additional \$15,000 playground top-up

Lobster Trap	\$17,533.00
A-Frame Climber	\$7,242.00
Fallen Logs	\$7,591.00
Stage	\$1,076.00 (more investigation needed as to placement)
Music Wall	\$3,075.00
Art Wall	\$3,844.00
Mud Kitchen	\$1,845.00
Recycled Lumber Bench	
Sand Play Area	
Seating Wall	
Asphalt path (to ensure accessibility)	

Fence will be updated on the east side of the school. Frances was able to get a hold of the one house that hadn't responded and now all houses have approved/signed off on the project, so the fence project can move forward.

They are also getting a new tether ball, as they are very popular! 4 square and basketball keys will be on the pavement.

SAC Initiatives

February – Willy Reads

February 1 – Subway (deadline for ordering and lunch will be on February 6)

March 26 – Pizza lunch (7 lunches in round 3)

March 26 - Terra Cotta Cookies

April 9 – SAC Meeting (in-person from 6:30-8pm)

April 12 – Parent Social

April 18 – Movie Night

May 31 – DJ Mike outdoor dance party

June 6 – Junefest

June 13 – Bike Rodeo

Nikki – Finance update

Displayed the 2023-24 allocation spreadsheet with an update on which funds have been dolled out. The funds with a pink background have been fully paid, and others with a white background have been partially paid.

We might fundraise for a specific goal through a fundraiser letter, as is done by other schools in the neighbourhood. Donations would be made on SchoolCashOnline with a

receipt available for tax purposes. Most funding comes from the prior year, but if we made an ask at the beginning of the year then it would go to use right away. Possible initiatives are Scientist in the School and/or additional technology (iPads and computers). It would be voluntary. Council will start working on a letter, and have everything set up to implement end of Sep/start of October 2024.

Possible danceathon for tech fundraising. Adam Beck did one and provided receipts for \$25+. We already have a dance party booked for this year, that is not a fundraiser.

NEXT MEETING – APRIL 9