

Forest Hill Junior & Senior Public School (FHPS) SAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:00pm

Attendees: Adam Thompson (Principal), Jonathan Collins (Vice-Principal), Jessica Bookman (Co-Chair), Jody Litvack (Co-Chair), Carolina Bellina (Vice-Chair), Laura Henry (Secretary), Andrea Turner-Sack (Asst Secretary), Usha Raj (Treasurer), Song Wang (VM), An West (VM), Kurt Monteiro (VM), Jessica Miklos, Dana Rosenblatt, Abhijit Godbole (VM), Rui Torrao, Michael Caplan (Teacher Rep), Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), Chantell Gignac, Jenny Lewis (VM), Amy Piccinni, Bash Balógun (VM), Barney Csiszer (VM), Mahfouze, Aref Ammo, Girish Gulrajani

General Welcome (Jessica Bookman)

- Jessica opened the meeting and welcomed attendees
- November Minutes approved by Barney and Lisa

Principal's & Vice Principal's Reports (Adam Thompson, Jonathan Collins & Brett Simonton)

- Staff Updates:
 - Welcome new Vice-Principal Brett Simonton
 - Congratulations to Barb Mitchell on her retirement. Najia Hassan has been hired to fill the position as an LTO for the remainder of the year (AM Special Education Resource, Gr1-6)
 - Grade 7 Core French Teacher Karolina Fila has resigned, we have a temporary replacement named Victoria Roussakos for at least the rest of the term and hopefully for the rest of the school year
 - Our Special Needs Assistants allocation dropped from 1.0 to 0.5 this year which has been a difficult role to fill. Our allocation is now back at 1.0 and the role has been posted for applications. Mr. Soji is assisting in this role temporarily
 - Our Position of Responsibility roles (3 Chair positions) have been filled for this year by Caley Binder, Ticia Heibein and Amber Knight
- EQAO:
 - Adam reviewed EQAO results which are publicly accessible at eqao.com
 - Due to the makeup of our school (significant Gr4 entry point for French and Gifted), the Gr.3 results are based on a very small number of students
 - Percentage of Gr.3 students at or above Provincial Standard was 65% Mathematics, 75% Reading and 60% Writing. Mathematics and Reading scores are slightly above the board average, Writing is slightly below the board average. Adam noted that several students are just slightly below the Provincial Standard, they have identified the students in need of support and have a learning plan in place for them
 - Percentage of Gr.6 students at or above Provincial Standard was 83% Mathematics, 98% Reading and 99% Writing. All these scores are well above the board average
 - EQAO results for individual students will be sent home by the end of this week
- Report cards will be sent home Feb.15th; Physical copies for in-person classes, digital copies for virtual students. Interviews will take place, by request only, on Feb 16th and 17th. Friday Feb.18th is a PA Day and Feb.21st is Family Day.

- School leadership team has again met with the Centre for Black Excellence. The focus is on Professional Development opportunities for staff, sharing resources, and tying classroom learning to the topics of Equity and Social Justice Education.
- January is Tamil Education month. Information has been shared through daily announcements and the Culture Club who have updated the main display case. Some classes are registered for a virtual dance workshop.
- For students in Gr.3 interested into joining the Middle French Immersion program, the deadline to apply is Feb. 3rd
- Kindergarten registration (online) begins in February for entry in September.
- Lunch programs are underway including Lego Creative Club, Act One Encanto, Chess Club and Money Managers. There is still space available.
- Sports and clubs underway are Jr. Coed Ice Hockey, Intermediate Coed Ice Hockey, Jr. Boys Basketball, Sr. Boys Basketball, Jr. Girls Volleyball and Sr. Girls Volleyball and Gr.5 Ball Hockey Intramural. Spring sports will begin after March Break.
- On Jan. 26th the school has scheduled assemblies for students Gr. 4 – 8. “Youth Speak” presentations focus on bullying prevention, mental health, and wellness.
- Brett introduced herself and shared appreciation for the warm welcome to the school.
- Students (with support from Brett and Ms. Adam) are taking over the Spirit Wear program. Students will be incorporated in the design process and business management activities
- Special education update:
 - IPRC reviews are taking place next week including school admin, school psychologist, consultant and parents re: Grade 9 placements for next year.
 - IEP updates will take place following this report card cycle. If those updates are significant, parents will receive an updated hardcopy of their students IEP.
- Gr.8 Transition to Gr.9:
 - Out of area forms for secondary school (previously referred to as optional attendance) are due on Jan. 27th at 4PM
 - Course selection process will kick off next week. Students will have in-class learning sessions to assess interests and strengths and navigate the course selection tool “My Blueprint” with support from itinerant guidance counselor
 - Once course selections are complete, parents will have an opportunity to approve

Treasurer’s Update (Treasurer Usha Raj):

- Bank account transfer and setup has been completed
- Outflows planned/expected include \$791 for math contest, reimbursement for Movie Night, Staff Potluck and Halloween expenses as well as Gift Certificate for the upcoming Anti-racism workshop
- As of June 2022, we had \$45,371 in general funds + \$2489 in the reserve fund
- \$31k is reserved for the Auditorium Restoration which leaves a balance of \$14,371.
- Forecasted expenses in the next month are \$2200 for Danceathon and miscellaneous
- Discussed the need to align on a plan on how to spend the available dollars by the end of the school year and include in the plan to carry over \$2k for 2023-24 school year

- Wishlist donations link through School Cash sent out in the Friday email has raised \$2,350 so far which is available for School Council Expenditures but cannot be transferred to the School Council account
- Falcon Fest is quite expensive to run so a large portion of the available dollars will need to be set aside for that event as well as Gr.8 Graduation

School Council & Friends - Updates:

- Auditorium Restoration Project
 - Grants don't appear to be an option, exploring other options to raise funds
 - Adam to confirm whether funds can be secured by the TDSB to reupholster or replace the chairs
 - Research indicates that although the building is celebrating its 100th Anniversary soon, the original auditorium opened in 1933
 - A suggestion was made to roll the project out in phases rather than waiting to raise the full amount; this is one of the options being explored
- Lunchbox Program:
 - Working to setup a program that will allow parents to select dates and food options and complete payment through School Cash Online
 - Exploring the possibility of running pizza and sub lunch every week
 - We only need parent and student volunteers to assist with distribution
- Dance-a-thon:
 - Fundraiser has been booked for Valentine's Day Feb.14th which involves Gr. K-6 participants with Gr. 7-8 as volunteers. Also, looking for parent volunteers to assist
 - Voting members have approved (20 yes, 1 no) \$2k in funding to run the event
 - There was an objection related to asking children to fundraise for the school; suggestion was made that the funds raised should be donated to charity
- Mr. Gulamhusein is organizing the Scholastic Bookfair this year. There will be a request for parent volunteers to assist at the event
- Raising Anti-Racist Kids workshop for parents:
 - Andrea received approval for a grant from the TDSB for \$800 to fund this virtual workshop for our school community
 - Rania El Mugammar is an artist and anti-oppression consultant who will lead the parent education workshop via Zoom on March 2nd
- Spirit Wear is available to purchase online (link to the virtual store can be found in the Friday email). For those interested in ordering pink Spirit Wear for Pink Day should submit their orders by the end of the February

Additional Items and Closing Remarks:

- There is a general need for more parent involvement in getting events and initiatives off the ground as we are attempting to reinvigorate our school community

- There was a question asked about whether the school would be organizing a Ski Day. The administration is exploring this option and will share more on this as well as overnight excursions, graduation celebration, etc.
- If you have any questions, suggestions please email the Chair at: chairforesthilIPS@gmail.com
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM