

Forest Hill Junior & Senior Public School (FHPS) SAC Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 7:00pm

Attendees: Adam Thompson (Principal), Jonathan Collins (Vice-Principal), Jessica Bookman (Co-Chair), Jean de Larroche (Vice-Chair), Carolina Bellina (Vice-Chair), Laura Henry (Secretary), Andrea Turner-Sack (Asst Secretary), Usha Raj (Treasurer), Divyang Masrani, Song Wang (VM), An West (VM), David Walders, Melissa Stein (VM), Tempie Coelho-Freeman (VM), Jessica Miklos, Dana Rosenblatt, Abhijit Godbole (VM), Rui Torrao, Michael Caplan (Teacher Rep), Brenda Winter (VM), Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), Alex Melamed, Fred Duong, Nelisha Andrews (VM), Fatima, Chantell Gignac, Jenny Lewis (VM), Jannymh Maborang, Amy Piccinni, Dan Andrews, Kendra Francis, Wendy Bhim, Wendy Zhuleku (VM), Bash Balogun (VM)

1. General Welcome (Jessica Bookman)

- Jessica opened the meeting and welcomed attendees
- October Minutes approved by David Walders and seconded by Divyang Masrani

2. Principal's & Vice Principal's Reports (Adam Thompson & Jonathan Collins)

- **School Improvement Planning Goals:**
 - System priorities for this year are the importance of joy, engagement & belonging as a foundation for academic achievement and student success and eliminating disproportionate outcomes for students
 - Indigenous Education and Sovereignty Goal: Develop deeper understanding of resources to support learning, which allows Indigenous students to see themselves represented
 - School Belonging & Well-being goal: Develop strong feeling of connectedness amongst school community
 - Achievement Goal: Focus on developing student voice and writing
 - Examples: engaging with School Ambassador student leadership team to generate ideas to achieve goals (like fundraising, events, clubs)
 - Working with coaches from the Center of Black Excellence
 - Forming a STEM learning room next to the library
- **Holocaust and Antisemitism Education:**
 - Josh Gerstein came to share his family story (Carrying Testimony presentation) with students in grades 6-8
 - Willesden Reads Theatrical presentation was postponed to Jan.31 & Feb.1, all Grade 6-8 classes will be able to participate, some classes in person as a field trip and others virtually
- November is Indigenous Education Month so there will be opportunities for each class to learn from an Indigenous perspective. We will showcase some classroom learning samples on the large display board near the office.
- November is also Hindu Heritage month and the theme this year is Bhoomi Devi: Our Sacred Mother Earth. Ms. Mendelson's "Culture Club" has created a display in the hallway near the library. Many classes have engaged with this topic through projects and class discussions.
- Lunchtime Programs launching soon:

- Lego and Robotics lunch program kicking off in January, Tues & Thurs
- Reviewing the possibility of running a chess program and others
- Act One Drama program kicks off in January, organized by SAC. They will be preparing a production of Encanto. We are aware the program registration is costly so please reach out to SAC Chair if your child would like to participate but requires financial support.
- Vaccination clinic onsite Dec.6th for grades 7-8, run by Toronto Public Health
- Mr. Levine is organizing Winter Concerts for K-Gr.3. Dates and times to be announced.
- He also created a video of a Gr1/2 class performing “Paper Heart” that was submitted to CBC Music Class

3. Treasurer’s Update (Treasurer Usha Raj)

- As of June 2022, we had a balance of \$14,371 available for Wish List. The total Treasury fund contains \$45,371 but \$31k is earmarked for the Auditorium Restoration
- In September 2022, we budgeted \$1,200 for a math enrichment program which has not yet been claimed
- No payment has been made for Graduation 2022 (budgeted at \$4.5k), which we need to follow up on
- If both unclaimed items are claimed, we will have a balance of approximately \$7,500 which could be used for Wish List for this year
- Usha is working to set up access to bank card and approvers for the new SAC administration

4. School Council & Friends - Updates:

- Auditorium Restoration Project (Amy & Divyang)
 - Met with the previous year’s committee to collect background information
 - TDSB is funding paint, lighting and general repairs. The fundraising is to complete the reupholstery of the chairs which is estimated to cost \$330k. We’ve only raised \$31k so far.
 - Adam to investigate why the TDSB is not funding the chair replacement
 - Looking into the possibility of grants, private sponsorships, events, and Heritage Designation. The original building celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2023
 - Exploring whether project can be broken into smaller projects to see benefit quickly (ie. Repair broken chairs) and continue to fundraise in the longer term.
 - Need additional volunteers to support this committee
- Wishlist:
 - The main Wish List campaign will run in 2023 but we are exploring doing a holiday/end of year fundraising request. Donations can be completed through School Cash Online and tax receipts will be issued.
 - Funds are made available to purchase items nominated by the teachers to improve school and classroom resources
- Pizza & Sub Lunches (Carolina)
 - Looking for parent volunteers to lead this initiative
 - Chantell has volunteered to help with pizza lunches
- Movie Night (Dec 1st)

- Looking for parent volunteers to help lead this event and additional helpers for the night of the event
 - Wendy would like to help with movie night
- Family Skate Night (Dec. 18th)
 - Booked ice at Forest Hill (Larry Grossman) arena for an hour in the evening
 - Entry will be by donation
- Staff Appreciation Lunch (Dec)
 - Organizing food donations for a potluck lunch for the teachers and staff
 - Looking for parent volunteers to help lead this event and additional helpers for the day of the lunch
- Bookfair is coming up. It's being organized by Mr. Gulamhusein and we will be looking for volunteers to assist
- Planning to run another movie night in the new year
- Planning for Falcon Fest (June Fun Fair) will kick off in the new year
- Open to any suggestions from the community on activities or events that would benefit the school community
- There is now a SAC Instagram account @foresthill_SAC. Follow us to get involved, learn about school news. This account is not sponsored by TDSB or the school.

5. Additional Items and Closing Remarks

- A question was asked about whether the school administration can provide more information Gr.8 transition to Gr.9 and Specialized Programs, specifically timing and guidance for making decisions. Adam to follow up with additional information in the Friday update that is more customized for our school (inc. Gifted and French pathways)
- We have recently received a notification about a grant that we can apply for to bring a speaker to Forest Hill re: Parent Education
- A request was made to improve audio for virtual attendees and possibly test another Bluetooth microphone. Jonathan to explore options to improve audio
- A question was asked about whether there have been any recent incidents of Antisemitism or Intolerance. Adam confirmed that there have not been any recent incidents logged in the Human Rights portal
- Adam shared details on the process to address racist incidents which includes discussions with our Superintendent, informing parents of perpetrator and victim, consultation with our Caring and Safe Schools Principal, reviewing the Code of Conduct and other documentation to determining consequences and education or support options. Past history, age of student and intent are all taken into account. In situations where other students are involved or witness an incident, support would address the broader community
- A question was asked about the proportion of school community that are regularly wearing masks. Adam confirmed that there has been a recent increase in the number of students and staff choosing to wear a mask. There has also been an increase in absent students which is common at this time of year. HEPA filters are run throughout the school, including in all classrooms, to improve air quality

- A question was asked about caretaking levels at the school. Adam confirmed that in the past week there were 2 staff on vacation, with substitute coverage. Typically, we have 5 caretaking staff
- If you have any questions, suggestions please email the Chair at: chairforesthilIPS@gmail.com
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM