

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

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 7:00pm

Attendees: Adam Thompson (Principal), Jonathan Collins (Vice-Principal), Jessica Bookman (Co-Chair), Jody Litvack (Co-Chair), Jean de Larroche (Vice-Chair), Carolina Bellina (Vice-Chair), Usha Rani (Treasurer), Laura Henry (Secretary), Andrea Turner-Sack (Asst Secretary), Clara Kwan, Divyang Masrani, Dana Rosenblatt, Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), Song Wang (VM), Jannymh Maborang, Jenny Lewis (VM), Fred Duong, Nelisha Andrews (VM), Jonathan Paul, Bash Balogun (VM), Alex Melamed, Rachel Arshinoff, Mary Collins, Michael Caplan (Teacher Rep), An West (VM), David Walders, Abhijit Godbole (VM), Jessica Ungerman, Girish Gulrajani, Melissa Stein (VM)

1. General Welcome (Adam Thompson)

- Adam opened the meeting and welcomed attendees
- He advised that because the September meeting wasn't recorded and because we didn't have an elected secretary at the time, we don't have minutes from that meeting. We will record meetings going forward and share minutes in the Friday email.

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

- **Staffing Updates:**
 - o Since re-organization, we've added 3 staff members:
 - § Katharine Sprout, Gr.4 (permanent)
 - § David Solnicki, Gr.6 (LTO)
 - § Layan Kennedy, Special Education Resource & Health prep (LTO)
 - o Gained an ECE – Jane Pahk was temporarily assigned to Ms. Macris' JK/SK class for the first 6 weeks and we have now recalled LaTisha Blades as permanent staff
 - o New head caretaker – Welcome Neal Benjamin, who is taking over for Konstantin Atanassov, who was promoted to a larger school.
- **Report Cards:** Hardcopy report cards will be sent home on November 16th. Interviews will take place on the 17th and 18th. Teachers will offer a choice of in-person or virtual for parent/teacher interviews.
- **CCAT assessment** was recently completed for all Grade 3 students. This program helps with programming, assessment and instruction by allowing teachers to develop class profile. Identify students who may need additional support or have an exceptionality. Results of the assessment will be shared with parents.
- **Overnight trips:**
 - o All Grade 6 students should have access to an overnight trip to an outdoor education center.
 - o No overnight planned for grade 7s this year but we are considering a day trip for Grade 7 students, possibly to Blue Mountain in the spring.

- o Grade 8 students will have an opportunity to participate in a 2 night grad trip in mid-June to Ottawa. There will be an information night on November 9th in the evening via Zoom. The cost will be approximately \$585 per student; exploring the possibility of fundraising.
- **Tutoring:** Ministry of Education has provided TDSB with funding for tutoring at school. The school will offer afterschool tutoring for students in need of extra help. Tutoring available 4 days per week separated by age groups. Refer to the Friday update for details on the schedule and assigned teachers.
- **Parking:** A service request has been submitted to the city to address the misalignment in the parking signage and school dismissal time. School dismissal is at 2:45 but the parking restrictions don't begin until 3. The suggestion has been made that we escalate this through our city counsellor. There was discussion about how we might improve signage to improve mobility and safety at drop off and pickup times.
- **Staff resources:** Every Gr4 – Gr8 teacher now has access to Edwin which includes resources for language, social studies, science, French and math. We've also added additional licenses for MathUp so that all teachers in the school have access.
- **New clubs:** Since the last SAC, new clubs have started up.
 - o Film club (Movies and Filmmaking): Mr. Gulamhusein and Ms. Altbaum
 - o Culture Club (Learning about different cultures): Ms. Mendelson and Ms. Siegal
 - o Gr. 7 & 8 Math Club: Ms. Nalian
 - o Gr. 5 & 6 3D Printing Club: Mr. Milovanovic
 - o Gr. 7 & 8 Yearbook Committee: Ms. Masrani
 - o Grade 8 Ambassador Club: Mr. Telford & Ms. Adam
- **Sports teams:**
 - o Cross-country and Soccer have wrapped up
 - o Winter sports planned: Basketball, Volleyball & Ice Hockey (still determining age groups and teacher leads)
- A parent mentioned the Catchup Grant available from the Ontario government available to fund tutoring. [Details can be found here.](#)
- **Holocaust Education Week** initiatives planned:
 - o Grade 7/8 classes to participate in a Holocaust Education session at Forest Hill Library (timing TBD)
 - o November 9: Grade 6-8: 2 classes will be attending the theatrical production, Willesden Reads (other Gr.6 – Gr.8 classes will be logging in virtually)
 - o Nov.1: Grade 6-8 students will attend a presentation at school featuring a family member of Holocaust survivors telling their story.
- A parent, who's child was recently the target of an act of antisemitism at the school, asked for clarification on the discipline protocol related to antisemitic acts. Adam clarified that while he's

unable to speak publicly about a specific incident for privacy reasons, the regular protocol is to involve the Superintendent, inform the parents of the perpetrator and victim and address the situation through a combination of educational support and consequences.

A parent asked if the administration is seeing an increase in the frequency of these type of events and Adam shared that while there hasn't been a dramatic increase, there have been a few incidents at the school, possibly driven by the recent news cycle, and that they are working quickly to address antisemitism through education with staff and students.

Attendees agreed that we should include a conversation about Intolerance and Antisemitism on each SAC agenda to continue the conversation and keep up to date on this very serious issue.

3. SAC Committee Updates (Co-chairs Jessica Bookman & Jody Litvack)

Building our community:

- o Parent Council created and sent out a Parent Council newsletter called The Nest
- o Sent out a form seeking parent volunteers for committees and events, only 7 volunteers so far. We will need more community support to plan and run events.
- o We're also running a "Volunteer Blitz" at school on Halloween morning, asking parents to sign up to help.

Committees & Events planned for this year that need volunteer support include: Wishlist fundraiser, Falcon Fest, pizza/sub lunches, movie night, teacher appreciation, dance-a-thon, auditorium restoration, Scholastic book fair and talent show.

Wish List fundraiser: Opportunity for sponsor specific initiatives, programs, purchases for the school.

School musical paid program: Would start in January, run for 8 weeks of rehearsal, performance takes place in the last week of March. Lunchtime program, limited to 40 kids.

Pizza/Sub Lunch: Coordinate ordering and distribution of food at school. Can leverage student volunteers on site to hand out food.

Movie Night: Get the license to play a movie, sell tickets and popcorn, usually parents who attend with their kids can help run the actual event.

Teacher Appreciation: Organize appreciation lunch for teachers and staff 2x a year

Dance-a-thon: Fundraiser that has been very popular with junior students in the past. Need small prizes, Jody to run the music.

Auditorium Restoration: The school building turns 100 next year. Plan to kick off fundraising efforts to restore the Auditorium which needs repairs.

Talent Show: Has been online during COVID-19 shutdown but can return to in-person this year.

Parent Gala: Some conversation about running an event specifically for parents this year to drive connection and build relationships within the community.

Call out for parents to let us know what else you want to do, what types of events you'd like to run.

- There was some discussion about the possibility of running events for specific grades.
- Jody identified a need for SAC to establish an Instagram account to improve communication and Laura offered to investigate setting up and running a SAC Instagram account.
- **Treasurer Report:** We have ~\$14,000 that we will need to spend this year. The SAC will work to create a budget of planned expenditures for the year. A portion of the funds will need to be spent on Falcon Fest.
- Next meeting is planned for November 23rd. To submit items for the agenda, email chairforesthills@gmail.com

4. Additional Items and Closing Remarks

- A few follow ups to the topic of antisemitism:
 - o Encourage expanding education to younger students (JK – Grade 5)
 - o Encourage expanding education focus to Antisemitism vs. just holocaust education
 - o A few requests were made for the school administration to report back in future meetings on the number of incidents within the school community and to share, if possible, more details on TDSB process/protocol.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM