

**Forest Hill Junior & Senior Public School (FHPS) SAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 6:30 pm**  
**Online Zoom meeting (due to COVID-19 restrictions)**

**Attendees:** Adam Thompson (Principal), Denyse Stewart (Vice-Principal), Jordan Applebaum (Vice-Principal), Naz Yeganeh (Chair), Kurt Monteiro (Vice-Chair), Amit Goel (Co-Treasurer), Katheryne Ma (Co-Treasurer), Andrea Turner-Sack (Back-up Secretary, VM), Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), Valerie Adam (Teacher Rep), Michael Caplan (Teacher Rep), Leah Roth (VM), Jenny Lewis (VM), Risa Greenspoon (VM), Brenda Winter (VM), Kalu Balogun (VM), Bash Balogun (VM), An West (VM), Timothy Harlick (VM), Wei Yu, David Walders, Jessica Miklos, Jessica Bookman, Nelisha Andrews, Chantell Gignac, Mary Collins, Dana, and Sandra.  
VM: Voting Member

Regrets: Laura Henry-Weir (Secretary, VM)

**1. General Welcome and Approval of January 2022 Minutes (SAC Chairs)**

- Naz welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Lisa put a motion forward to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting, and Amit seconded the motion; thus, the minutes were approved.

**2. Principal's & Vice Principal's Reports (Adam Thompson; Denyse Stewart & Jordan Applebaum)**

**Adam Thompson:**

- Pink Shirt Day was today, promoting anti-bullying and anti-discrimination
- The vaccination clinic at FHPS was well attended, not just by those attending the school, but also those in the community.
  - There will be vaccination clinics at other schools coming up; registration is possible, though walk-ins are also accepted.
- Re: previous discussion about possibly purchasing N95 masks for students, such a purchase would not be supported by TDSB Health & Safety or TDSB Business Services (there is no approved vendor); any updates will be communicated to parents.
- Every student has already received 2 Rapid Antigen Tests.
  - If a student tests positive on a Rapid Antigen Test, there is no need to use a second Rapid Antigen Test to confirm or to confirm with a PCR test.
  - The school now has replacement Rapid Antigen Tests for those who have used the tests they already received; a child can request them at the office, a child can ask their teacher to get the tests from the office, or a parent or guardian can come to the front door to ask office staff to bring tests to them.
  - There are still PCR tests at school for anyone who is symptomatic while at school; the PCR test would be taken home to be used, and while it they can no longer be dropped off at school, parents or guardians can learn about the 7 local hubs in the city where tests can be dropped off.
- Students whose parents requested a switch from in-person learning to virtual learning or from virtual learning to in-person learning prior to the deadline have switched as of this past Tuesday; therefore, there have been a few minor changes to virtual and in-person classrooms at the school.
  - FHPS hosts virtual classes for Kindergarten, grade 7 & 8 regular stream, and grade 7 & 8 gifted stream.

- o Those attending virtual classes through another school this school year would return to being FHPS students next year.
- On Wednesday, February 16th, report cards were emailed to parents.
  - o If the report card was not received, please email the child's teacher, who can provide a hard copy.

**Jordan Applebaum:**

- Get Real workshops for students in grades 4-8 were completed this week.
  - o The next set of workshops will be in March, and will be focused on anti-oppression
  - o The workshops went well; lots of students shared about their challenging experiences, and about things for which they are grateful.
  - o The workshops help students feel that they are not alone, help eliminate bias and discrimination at the school, and provide students with a safe, accepting school.
- The grade 8 transition is complete in that grade 8 students have chosen their high schools and requested their courses for next year.
  - o Contact Jordan if your child is still waiting to hear from a private school or if they have questions.
- Yearbooks can be ordered until March 31st.
- Non-essential visitors are still not allowed in the school.
  - o The exceptions are triple-vaccinated parent volunteers who are able to come in to assemble test kits or to help support vaccination clinics in the school, and double-vaccinated high school students who are able to come in to assemble test kits.

**Denyse Stewart:**

- Staff update: Tara Mehr, gifted grade 8 teacher, is away on maternity leave, and the admin is happy to have Samuel Rumack, a supply teacher this year and FHPS alumni, covering her leave.
- Inclement weather update: students did not go out or did not go out for long recently because there is so much ice outside that it would be unsafe, though some teachers chose to take their students for a walk.
- Kindergarten registration has started for 2022/2023.
  - o The registration process begins online, and then parents or guardians come in to the school to verify their address at a later time.
- Regarding extra-curricular activities, coding for grade 7 and 8 students will be starting soon on Tuesday evenings.
  - o There is a maximum of one indoor extra-curricular activity at a time with physical distancing and masking.
  - o Outdoor extra-curricular activities are permitted, but are not ideal when it is cold.

**3. Treasurer's Update (Amit Goel)**

- There is approximately \$79,000 across the two bank accounts, with \$31,000 earmarked for the auditorium restoration, and \$24,000 earmarked for the Wish List as of December 2021.
- The budget committee met recently to discuss proposals for the outstanding \$24,000, and supported the following suggestions:
- Adam suggested spending \$6,000-\$7,500 for virtual or in-person field trips for all students (30 classes, \$200-\$250 per class).
  - o The field trips that parents have already paid for can be reimbursed through School Cash Online.

- Adam also suggested spending \$7,100 for a virtual or in-person health and wellness program from X-Movement (which Adam has used before), a whole child wellness education company that helps build healthy habits through teaching skills such as self-regulation, resilience, self-confidence, positive self-talk, social and emotional literacy, and conflict resolution.
  - The program includes 3 sessions for all in-person and virtual students, a 1-hour community night on the 4th day, and additional teacher resources.
  - The program fits with FHPS' School Improvement Plan and wellness goals.
- The graduation committee suggested spending more than the usual \$1,000 this year because the 165 graduating students have been impacted by COVID so significantly.
  - They suggested spending \$5,000 to pay for a graduation banner (which can be re-used in subsequent years), lawn signs, a selfie poster (which can be re-used in subsequent years), and either gift boxes if the ceremony has to be virtual, or for an in-person ceremony and/or a day trip if possible, given that restrictions are easing.
- Amit suggested maintaining a reserve of \$2,000 for emergency expenses
- Laura had suggest giving remaining funds (approximately \$3,000) to a TDSB sister school that is in need of funds to support their students.
- There was a discussion about using funds for mathematical contests, though not all students would be participating.
- Lisa put a motion forward to approve the first 2 components of the budget (spending approximately \$14,000); 14 voting members all voted to approve this spending.
- Voting members also voted to approve spending \$5,000 for graduation, reserving \$2,000 for emergency expenses, and sending approximately \$3,000 to a TDSB sister school.
- Falcon Fest may or may not happen this year in some form; if it does, funds do not have to be allocated at this time because it generates funds to support the costs, which can be covered in advance of the event.

#### **4. SAC Committee Updates**

##### Auditorium Restoration Committee (Leah Roth)

- Leah and Adam spoke to Shelley Laskin, and learned that because criteria have changed, we would not be eligible for section 37 funds, but they will explore other funding options.
- Leah and Adam are reaching out to the original architect assigned to the renewal project, and a meeting with Adam will be taking place.
- Adam has been in contact with the Facility Manager.
- Leah reached out to the chair restoration company, who will meet with Leah next week to update their estimate (original estimate was \$180,000- \$200,000); this would be the main part of the project that SAC would be funding.
- Adam will then reach out to TDSB about sponsorship opportunities.
- Adam has reached out to TDSB Finance Department.
- They are trying to get things moving, and will have a clear plan by the time Leah is no longer a parent at the school.
- There was a discussion about the chair refurbishing that will take place, given that the chairs may be considered historical items.

##### Graduation Committee (Risa Greenspoon)

- They had been waiting to see if the graduation budget would be approved, and now that it has been, they will start planning.
- They are still not sure if they will be able to use the Forest Hill Collegiate Institute space for an in-person graduation, or if they will have to provide a staggered outdoor graduation experience.

#### Virtual Community Events Committee (Kalu Balogun)

- Kalu and Kurt have been discussing a talent show, possibly at the end of March, where students can showcase their skills (perhaps including science skills) and families can get involved in an activity (perhaps a Kahoot about the school) to help build the community.
- They need additional volunteers for this.
- A second event could take place near the end of June with a focus on careers to share information with students about various different careers and how the nature of work is changing.

#### Academic Achievement (Jessica Miklos)

- They are waiting to see what the cohorting rules will be going forward.
- They are interested in learning more about math contests and other similar opportunities, even if they have to wait until next year.

#### Spirit Wear (Jessica Bookman)

- Some families ordered items for Pink Shirt Day, which were delivered yesterday, and can still be purchased to be used in daily life and for the International Day of Pink in April.
- ERGSA clothing and accessories are also available on the website.
- Discussed the possibility of a grade 7 and 8 marketing and design committee to sell spirit wear to the school
  - This would be a great opportunity for students to learn about such an endeavour (without any money being exchanged); Jessica and Valerie offered their assistance.

Lisa moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded at 7:33.

Upcoming SAC Meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, April 27 @ 6:30

Wednesday, June 8 @ 6:30