

Forest Hill Junior & Senior Public School (FHPS) SAC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 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), Laura Henry-Weir (Secretary), Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), An West (VM), Tempie Coelho-Freeman (VM), Leah Roth (VM), Jenny Lewis (VM), Andrea Turner-Sack (VM), Kalu Balogun (VM), Bash Balogun (VM), Mary-Tang Feuerhahn (VM), Risa Greenspoon (VM), Brenda Perras-Winter (VM), Tim Harlick (VM), Noa Rabinowicz, Amy Piccinni, Lisa Bookman, Nelisha Andrews, Ania Janik, Dmytro Larichiev, Cosmin Ovesia, Nita Chhinzer, Mary Collins, Valerie Boyce, Michael Caplan, Jessica Miklos, Dana, Celeste Ivers, Pui Yee Alisa Lee, Chris Fraser, Dana, Khushbu, Sandra, SW, Lorrie, Joanne.

Regrets: None

VM: Voting Member

Note for next meeting: Attendees should use their full names as Zoom screen names and if that is not possible, prompt attendees to type their full names in the chat window so that we can have full names captured in the minutes.

1. General Welcome and Approval of September 29th, 2021 Minutes (SAC Chairs)

- Naz welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Naz asked if everyone had received the minutes from the previous meeting and asked any voting members who had not received the minutes to email their contact information to chairforesthills@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. First by Lisa Cohen, seconded by Risa Greenspoon

2. Principal's Report (Adam Thompson)

- Adam shared that Office Administrator **Yasmin Philippacopoulos** will be going on maternity leave beginning next week (beginning Oct 29) for a full year. He shared his congratulations and well wishes. He advised that Amy and Carla will remain in the office and that they will be posting the role for maternity leave coverage.
- Adam shared an update on the **COVID-19 Saliva Testing kits** available to the FHPS Community, in partnership with Sick Kids.
 - Free test kits are available for any staff, students or members of their household who are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 **or** any individuals identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 by Toronto Public Health.
 - Sick Kids has advised that the tests are highly sensitive and accurate.
 - Age 4+ is ideal as the test kits require individuals to be able to spit.
 - Tests will be picked up at school by an asymptomatic caregiver, completed at home and then dropped back off at school. The test kits will be picked up daily. If a student exhibits symptoms at school, they will be sent home with a test.

- All details on this program are included in the weekly communication on Friday.
- A question was asked about whether a kit can be sent home to each household pre-emptively to be used in the case of a student or household member exhibiting symptoms. Adam clarified that we don't have enough test kits available to us to allocate one per household at this time.
- Progress reports will be sent home on Wednesday Nov. 17th. Parent/Teacher Interviews will follow on Thursday Nov. 18th and Friday Nov. 19th. Interviews will be conducted over Zoom. Teachers will be reaching out to book interview appointments over the coming weeks.
- As a result of updated guidance from Toronto Public Health, extra-curricular activities are being launched, currently open to Grade 7-8 students. Sports programs being run this term include:
 - Sr. Girls Soccer, time and location of games TBD
 - Sr Boys Touch Football, Tournament Nov. 12th hosted at Forest Hill (lower fields will be closed, no spectators allowed)
 - Sr. Cross Country meet being planned for Nov. 3rd
 - Ms. Adam is also running a volleyball skills program within her cohort.
- Adam expressed gratitude for the patience of parents and students while staff ramp up and organize extra-curricular activities.
- There was a question about the schedule for Sr. Girls soccer tryouts and where parents can find out when/where these types of activities are being run. It was confirmed that tryouts have already happened, and that the team has been formed. Jordan clarified that communications are included in the daily morning announcements and Denyse added that coaches also reached out to teachers with students in the appropriate age group (grade 7 and 8) to ensure that the message was received. Adam confirmed that the goal is to also include this type of information in the weekly Friday email whenever possible.

3. Vice-Principal's Report (Denyse Stewart)

- Denyse noted that picture day went very well today and that it was nice to see the students in their fancy outfits
- Denyse advised that we are in dire need of lunchroom supervisors and that referrals are very welcome. We currently have 5 lunchroom supervisors, and we are supposed to have 9.
- Denyse shared that a Music itinerant has started teaching strings and band. Strings classes take place in the auditorium on day 1 and day 3 from 8:45 to 10:15. Interested students were able to sign up to participate and are meeting based on the cohorts that we have already established. Band lessons take place on day 2 from 9:25 to 12:05. Cohorts are being maintained for safety.
- Denyse also provided an update on Equity at FHPS which is part of the School Improvement plan. Teachers and staff are using the OISE Equity Continuum book with a focus on classroom climate and instruction. Teachers are deciding what indicators they will be working on. School teams are also consulting with an anti-racism, anti-oppression Equity coach. Denyse indicated that they will be establishing a school Equity Committee

and that parents are welcome to join the committee. She also shared that there will be an equity book club starting in January and meeting virtually via Zoom. The first book selection is *Cultivating Genius* by Dr. Gholdy Muhammad. The book club is open to all staff and parents. To join the Equity committee or the Equity book club, reach out to Denyse.

4. Vice-Principal's Report (Jordan Applebaum)

- Jordan shared that FHPS teachers Ian Speck and Tara Mehr are planning Remembrance Day activities for the school. If parents would like to get involved or contribute in any way, please reach out to these teachers.
- Jordan advised that the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) will be coming up soon for grade 3s. More information to follow
- Jordan advised that Halloween celebrations will be scheduled for Friday October 29th. Events in classrooms will be restricted to class cohorts due to COVID. Classroom activities may include art activities, stories, age-appropriate movies. Costumes are welcome but need to be appropriate, not offensive, culturally respectful and no weapons. Students are required to wear face coverings in school and shouldn't wear a costume mask over top. Face paint below the eyes should be avoided. Students should not share candy but are welcome to bring a candy treat from home to enjoy at school.

5. Treasurer's Update (Amit Goel)

- Amit shared that the school council account has about \$80,300 and the school fund account has about \$2200. As a follow-up to a question from the last meeting, he also confirmed that of the \$80k in the school council fund, about \$31k has been set aside for the auditorium project.
- A question was asked about whether there are any updates from Shelley Laskin or PIAC on when funds raised in past years need to be spent. In 2020, due to COVID, they announced we can keep funds for 2 years. Naz believes that timeframe has now been extended for an additional 2 years but she agreed to reach out the Shelley Laskin to confirm that information and report back.
- Amit advised that while we did some fundraising last year through the Wish List program, we spent more than we fundraised and reduced the balance in the account by \$7-8k. He believes that to be the right path forward for the next couple of years to bring the account back into balance.
- Lisa Cohen suggested that it would be helpful to maintain and share a spreadsheet outlining the collection of funds by fiscal year so that we can better understand when we need to spend funds. Amit committed to work with the fundraising committee to provide a deep dive cashflow analysis to clarify when existing funds must be spent.

6. 2021/2022 SAC Updates (SAC Chairs)

- Kurt said that we have several social committees that have existed in past years and we're looking for volunteers to share the workload.

- A volunteer signup link was shared in the Friday email from Adam and that generated 8 volunteers so far. We are looking for additional volunteers to lead and join the committees. Parents don't need to be a voting member to participate.
- Last year we had about 10 committees including: Graduation, Health & Safety, Food Bank, Warm Clothes Committee and more
- Leah Roth advised that she led the School Safety Committee last year which was responsible for both the Food drive and Warm Clothing Drive. The Warm Clothing drive was not possible last year due to COVID but it's something we should discuss for this year.
- There was a suggestion that we ask each class parent to volunteer with at least one committee to encourage involvement with the school. The decision was made to add this to the role description of class parent.
- There was a suggestion to find ways to reach out to the parents of children in younger grades to encourage participation as they will likely be a part of the school community for several more years.
- Kurt walked through each committee to describe the roles and the following people indicated interest in committee participation:
 - Parent Engagement: Amit Goel & Risa Greenspoon
 - Food Bank: Leah Roth (lead), Risa Greenspoon, Jessica Miklos
 - Warm Clothes Drive: Ania Janik, An West, Jessica Miklos
 - Teacher Appreciation: Naz Yeganeh
 - Graduation: Leah Roth, Risa Greenspoon, Jessica Miklos
 - Virtual Speaker Series: Kalu Balogun
 - Wish List: Andrea Turner-Sack, Celeste Ivers, Jessica Miklos
 - Administration: Andrea Turner-Sack, Mary, Kalu Balogun
 - Spirit Wear: Jessica Bookman (lead), Laura Henry-Weir, Nita Chhinzer
 - Scholastic Bookfair Committee and Lost & Found Committee: TBD if we can run these this year
- Jessica Bookman shared that she has begun work coordinating Spirit Wear with a vendor and we discussed the possibility of running a Stronger Together spirit wear program again. Free shirts were printed and distributed for all staff and students to lift spirits and a create a feeling of togetherness during a difficult school year. SAC spent \$5-\$8k last year on this program. We discussed the possibility of doing something similar this year but possibly a different type of apparel like a toque or hat.
- Andrea Turner-Sack provided an overview of the annual Wishlist fundraising campaign where teachers have an opportunity to request items that would benefit their classroom and parents have an opportunity to donate to purchase those items.
- Kurt advised that we will continue to compile the list of volunteers by committee and share more broadly next week when it has been completed.
- Naz asked that all volunteers please send an email to chairfhps@gmail.com to ensure that we have your correct email address for future communications

7. Additional Items and Closing Remarks

- Naz and Adam thanked everyone for their participation and time. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM

Upcoming SAC Meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, November 24 @ 6:30
January 26 @ 6:30
6:30
Wednesday, June 8 @ 6:30

Wednesday,
Wednesday, February 23 @
Wednesday, April 27 @ 6:30