

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

**Wednesday, September 29, 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 (2020/2021 Co-Chair), Andrea Turner-Sack (2020/2021 Vice-Chair), Amit Goel (2020/2021 Treasurer), Lisa Cohen (2020/2021 Community Rep), Valerie Adam (2020/2021 Staff Rep), Kurt Monteiro, Katheryne Ma, Stephanie Eng, Brenda Perras-Winter, Jenny Lewis, Laura Weir, Jessica Ungerman, Joanne Halliday, An West, Tempie Coelho-Freeman, Morgan Norwich, Jessica Miklos, Rony Matatof, Denise Matatof, Chantell Gignac, Mary-Tang Feuerhahn, Felipe Noronha, Dan and Nish Andrews, Mary Collins, Carolina Bellina de Gavison, Valerie Boyce, Tim Harlick, and Bash Balogun  
Regrets: Michael Caplan

## **1. General Welcome and Approval of May 26, 2021 SAC Meeting Minutes (2020/2021 SAC Chairs)**

- Andrea welcomed everyone
- Naz moved to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2021 SAC meeting; seconded by Lisa

## **2. Principal's Report (Adam Thompson)**

- Adam spoke about the phenomenal staff at the school, including the following new staff:
  1. Hannah Roblin (JK/SK)
  2. Samantha Pearl (5/6)
  3. Layan Kennedy (5/6 LTO)
  4. Amanda Singer (LTO - Gifted 4)
  5. Chris Cabacungan (Gifted 5)
  6. Fraser Telford (Gifted 7/8 )
  7. Susanna Lim (Grade 7/8 Virtual Gifted)
  8. Tara Mehr (Gifted 8)
  9. Bonnie Chiu (ESL)
  10. Deepak Ghavariya (SNA)
  11. Carla Gordon (Secretary)
- Adam indicated that FHPS received an increase in staff allocation from 0.5 to 1.0 in the area of Special Needs
- Adam reported that he will be sending out weekly communications every Friday
- Adam announced that there may be some re-organization in classrooms due to the difference between actual and projected school enrolment, which will impact grades 5 and 6, and possibly other grades as well

- He explained that he will receive updated information from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) on Monday afternoon, and that following consultations during the week, he will communicate any changes by Friday, aiming for minimal disruptions
- Adam reported that there are now 11 cohorts with 5 larger zones at recess, which is resulting in fewer interactions between groups

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

- Denyse explained that based on a program from the TDSB that families can opt into, all grade 5 students will be receiving devices (laptops) that they can use in school and at home during their time as a TDSB student
  - She indicated that she will look into whether or not the devices have firewalls, as that would impact safety and security when the devices are being used at home
  - She stated that FHPS is currently doing an inventory of the laptops in the school, and trying to ensure that devices previously loaned out to families are returned
  - There was a preliminary discussion about the possibility of money from the school budget and /or SAC fundraising being used to purchase additional devices
- Denyse indicated that new library resources are coming in to make the Learning Commons space most helpful for students
- Denyse noted that they have ordered RazKids for Kindergarten to grade 3, which is an online reading resource program
- Denyse explained that there is a big need for lunchroom supervisors, and anyone interested in this paid position should contact the school ASAP
- Denyse added that the school is focusing on the students' mental health and well-being needs
  - She reported that there are many students experiencing anxiety and difficulties adjusting
  - She stated that the school social worker, Suzy Brotman, comes in weekly to consult with staff and work with families, which is a great help

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

- Jordan stated that the school is waiting for guidance about which clubs and teams will be allowed to begin, given COVID-19 restrictions, though students in grades 7 and 8 will begin first, as more of them are likely to be vaccinated than younger students who are ineligible for vaccination at this time
  - He noted that the following clubs have begun or will soon begin (a Google Form will be sent out to sign up): Yearbook, Young Black Leaders, and Equal Rights Gender Sexuality Alliance

- Jordan reported that as tomorrow is Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, students will participate in a virtual assembly and various different activities
- Jordan reminded attendees that Selam Debs will be presenting an anti-racism and anti-oppression workshop on October 6th at 6:30 (virtual), an event funded by SAC last school year, but scheduled for this school year as families were thought to be too busy at the end of the previous school year
- Jordan announced that the Terry Fox Run was exciting, safe, and successful, having raised over \$1,000

### **5. Treasurer's Update (Amit Goel)**

- Amit reported that the School Education Fund contains approximately \$83,000
  - It was clarified that this includes \$31,137 that was previously raised for the auditorium restoration project, and thus, is earmarked for that purpose, whereas the rest of the money raised previously should be spent
- Amit also stated that the School Council Fund contains \$2,000

### **6. 2021/2022 SAC Elections**

- The following individuals volunteered to be voting members (those with asterisks did not attend, but had emailed to indicate their interest):
  1. Katheryne Ma
  2. An West
  3. Lisa Cohen
  4. Naz Yeganeh
  5. Mary Tang-Feuerhahn
  6. Tim Harlick
  7. Carolina Bellina de Gavison
  8. Andrea Turner-Sack
  9. Bash Balogun
  10. Laura Weir
  11. Leah Roth \*
  12. Risa Greenspoon \*
  13. Amit Goel
  14. Kurt Monteiro
  15. Brenda Perras-Winter
  16. Jenny Lewis
  17. Stephanie Eng
  18. Kalu Balogun
  19. Tempie Coelho-Freeman (TDSB Staff)
- As fewer than 26 people volunteered, no vote was required

- The following individuals volunteered for representative positions on the SAC Executive:

- Naz Yeganeh - chair
- Kurt Monteiro - vice-chair
- Amit Goel - co-treasurer
- Katheryne Ma - co-treasurer
- Laura Weir - secretary
- Andrea Turner-Sack - backup secretary
- Lisa Cohen - community representative

- Accordingly, the SAC executive was established

## **7. Additional Items and Closing Remarks**

- The school has rapid COVID tests for teachers
  - Adam stated that he is looking into whether we will be getting some for students, and whether SAC can or should provide funds for this purpose, as well as whether they would be useful for students
- Adam reported that there will be a virtual curriculum night, likely on October 13th - more details to follow
- There was some discussion about the way that classes have been cohorted; some cohorts worked out better than others, but all provide opportunities to engage with a larger group of students
- Upcoming SAC Meeting dates are as follows:
  - Wednesday, October 27 @ 6:30
  - Wednesday, November 24 @ 6:30
  - Wednesday, January 26 @ 6:30
  - Wednesday, February 23 @ 6:30
  - Wednesday, April 27 @ 6:30
  - Wednesday, June 8 @ 6:30
- Lisa moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Andrea