

**Forest Hill Junior & Senior Public School (FHPS) SAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 24, 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), Katheryne Ma (Co-Treasurer), Laura Henry-Weir (Secretary), Lisa Cohen (Community Rep), An West (VM), Tempie Coelho-Freeman (VM), Leah Roth (VM), Jenny Lewis (VM), Brenda Perras-Winter (VM), Carolina Bellina (VM), Paul Constable, Zoofa Ziai, Khushbu Masrani, Pui Yee Alisa Lee, Raya Valeeva, Dana, Michael Caplan, Mary Collins, Wei Yu, Sara Loh, Ethan Grober, Jacky Wang, Dmytro Larichiev, Ania Janik, Jessica Miklos, Slava Epelman

**Regrets:** Valerie Adam, Amit Goel  
VM: Voting Member

**1. General Welcome and Approval of October 27, 2021 Minutes (SAC Chairs)**

- Naz welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Brenda moved to approve the minutes, Laura Henry-Weir seconded.

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

- Adam shared the following staffing update:
  - Office Administrator Yasmin is on mat leave, Amy Chan is filling in temporarily.
  - Jessica Persaud has been our most consistent substitute, temporarily filling in for Amy's Secretary role.
  - French core teacher Shemina Keshvani currently covering some of the Intermediate core French classes.
  - Welcome back Espe Karalis who will be returning December 2<sup>nd</sup> as Special Education Resource teacher and MART. Thank you to Kira Segal who has been filling in.
- Adam would like to remind parents that the TDSB Health Screening App or the Health Screening Pass is the go-to resource to answer any questions about whether your child is able to attend school. Common questions are related to quarantine requirements after international travel or whether children can attend school if their siblings are directed to self-isolate.
- Adam advised that they are determining which winter sports will be available this year. The coaches meeting will take place in the first week of December. The TDSB has announced that they will require all students age 12+ to be fully vaccinated to participate in winter sports that involve competition between schools and/or travel to other schools or venues. For students participating in sports within their school and only with students from their school, vaccination is recommended but not required. More detailed update to be included in this week's Friday update email
- Adam shared that Forest Hill is checking with Toronto Public Health to see if there is a possibility for Forest Hill to host a mobile COVID-19 vaccination site for age 5-11.
- The school testing program, in partnership with Sick Kids, has been going very well and has been very helpful, especially with our recent positive COVID-19 cases.

- Turnaround time is 24 – 48 hours. Completed test kits can be dropped off at the school and there are additional drop off options outlined in the Friday email.
- Adam would like to remind the community that the Early French Immersion application deadline is this Friday. This is the first year that JK students can enter Early French Immersion. They are also accepting applications for SK students this year as well. Note that Forest Hill does not offer the Early Immersion program so if families choose this program, the placement would be at another TDSB school.
  - Adam shared that Photo retake day is tomorrow (11/25) and that Grad photos for grade 8 students will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Grade 8 students can also choose to upload their own Grad photo for the yearbook.
  - Jordan shared that in November, Grade 3 students participated in the Universal screening process by writing the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT). The school has received each student's results which will be sent out to all Grade 3 parents. The test measures verbal, mathematical and spatial reasoning abilities.

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

- Amit was absent but Naz was able to share that she connected with Trustee Shelley Laskin and the TDSB to inquire about time limits for using money that has been fundraised previously. They confirmed that at this time there is no time limit for spending funds. Naz also shared that there is another option that if we have a plan for the money that's in the SAC account, we can allocate funds to specific projects and there will be no rush to spend the money once it has been allocated.
- Amit followed up in an email after the meeting asking that these account balances be shared in the minutes:
  - FHPS Home and School Education Fund: \$ 2,205.92
  - Forest Hill PS School Council: \$ 77,396.34

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

Administration (School Statement of Needs):

- Lead is Andrea Turner-Sack but Naz provided an update in her absence
- Committee has updated the previous SSON which has been sent to all the SAC members in draft form and feedback is welcome by end of this week

Wish List Committee:

- Lead is Andrea Turner-Sack but Naz provided an update in her absence
- The committee is creating a digital flyer about how to donate
- They are also considering approaching local businesses to solicit donations but will be connecting with the Auditorium Renewal committee to ensure these two projects aren't interfering with each other

Teacher Appreciation (Naz):

- Teacher Appreciation Lunch is planned for December 15<sup>th</sup>, lunch will be provided by the SAC

Warm Clothes Committee (An West):

- Warm clothing drive will take place next week. All families are encouraged to donate warm winter clothing to support New Circles which benefits low income, newcomer and refugee families. All ages and sizes needed.
- Collection bins will be placed outside the office and at the main entrance (door one). Parents can buzz the office to get access to the bin which will be just inside the main entrance door.
- The committee is looking for students to volunteer as the student ambassador for their class to remind their classmates, teachers and parents about the warm clothing drive.

Auditorium Restoration Committee (Leah Roth & Paul Constable):

- Leah provided some background information. Committee was originally established in 2017, fundraising began in 2018. The auditorium is about 100 years old and in need of restoration. Leah advised that she will lead the committee this year and next year Paul Constable will step in as lead.
- The committee is seeking the support of volunteers within and outside of SAC that can assist with things like design, construction, fundraising, promotions, social media, etc.
- Prior to the pandemic, the budget was expected to be about \$400k (\$30k raised so far in 2018 & 2019). The committee is planning to run a "Seat Sale" where donations can be offered in exchange for dedicating seats in the new auditorium.
- Mary Collins recommended we explore the possibility of securing Section 37 funds from the City of Toronto. Mary and Leah will work together to review that possibility.

Academic Achievement Committee (Jessica Miklos):

- Jessica shared that she will be providing training for interested teachers on a program designed to help students with self-regulation and concentration.
- Jessica advised that she will also be meeting with Adam to discuss other possible initiatives.

Spirit Wear Committee (Jessica Bookman & Laura Henry-Weir):

- Laura shared that the committee is working to reactivate the online Spirit Wear website which will allow orders to be placed online and delivered directly to homes.
- The assortment is expected to include t-shirts, hoodies, jogging pants and hats with the FH logo as well as the Stronger Together logo from last year.
- Once the website is available, the link will be shared with the community through the Friday update email.

SAC Communications Committee: (Laura-Henry Weir):

- The SAC website has been reactivated and is in the process of being updated. The website can be found at [www.fhpsc.ca](http://www.fhpsc.ca)
- Laura welcomes feedback and input on what content should be included on the site

Graduation: (Risa Greenspoon & Leah Roth):

- Leah shared that the committee is planning to kickoff Graduation planning in January. Looking for additional volunteers.

Food Drive: (Leah Roth & Michael Caplan):

- Leah shared that the Food Drive will run the full week of Dec 6-10<sup>th</sup>, benefiting Second Harvest. Michael Caplan's class will be taking on a leadership role for this project

responsible for posters, announcements, collecting food, etc. Collection boxes will be placed in the archways and entrances.

- We will also be encouraging and accepting financial donations via online donation.
- Lisa Cohen offered to support our collection efforts through the Dunloe Children's Centre.

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

- Adam shared that Stephanie Eng has been assisting the admin team with initiatives related to traffic and signage. Feedback and community input is welcome.
  - Working on updating the parking/stopping signage around the school to reflect the new afternoon bell times.
  - Looking into the possibility of adjusting the speed limits on Spadina from 40 km/h down to 30 km/h.
- There was some discussion about challenges with the Spadina TTC bus route times. School dismissal time is at 2:45 and the bus stop time is supposed to be 2:50 but sometimes the bus leaves early. Adam recommended that parents share any concerns or feedback directly with representatives of the TTC at 416-393-4636 or by completing the form at <https://www.ttc.ca/customer-service/complaints-compliments-suggestions/Forms/service-complaint-form>
- There was also some discussion about the lack of legal parking options near the school for parents outside of walking distance to safely pickup or drop off their children, especially due to the current volume of construction. Adam to include this topic in an upcoming conversation with staff and community members.
- Leah inquired if the SAC will be acknowledging our local crossing guards with a card & gift at holiday time and year end. Historically we gave \$50 - \$100 per crossing guard. Naz confirmed that we will ensure that we do this.
- There was a question about how we handle classroom wishlist funding if teachers have requests for specific items that would enhance classroom.
- Adam advised that division leads have assembled a list of items requested and that list will be shared with the Wishlist committee for fundraising purposes.
- Leah suggested that we should spend the funds that we already have collected in previous years before we kick off a new wishlist fundraiser. Naz seconded this motion and other Voting Members agreed.
- Adam agreed to assemble the list of requested items and share with the SAC Voting Members via email for an online vote. This will allow for funds to be allocated and used as soon as possible.
- Naz move to adjourn, Lisa second the motion – 7:38 PM

Upcoming SAC Meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, January 26 @ 6:30

Wednesday, February 23 @ 6:30

Wednesday, April 27 @ 6:30

Wednesday, June 8 @ 6:30