

SAC Meeting Minutes

25 SEPTEMBER 2024 / 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Attendees: Richelle Wheeler (chair), Glenn Kremp (Co-chair/safety), Benn Brisland (Treasurer); Shannon Howanyk (Secretary), Lynsey Kowalski (Communications)

Committee Members: Anna Dewar Gully (Anti-Bully Rep), Samantha Stermac (Donor Rep), Pamela Van (Parent Rep), Robynne McKinley (Parent Rep), Natalie Dasilva (French Immersion Liaison), Kayla Nugent (Family Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep) Karen Secher (Teacher Rep)

Parent Representatives: Kathy Do, Adam Gingers, Filip Stoj, Savina Peshkova, Kelsey Clifford, Alyssa Lioutas, Ashley O'Rourke, Emily Kritzer, Saleema Osmani, Angela Martin, Jess Wood, Nick Harman, Melissa Hestick, Julia Salerno, Sarah Turnbull, Tom Shinn, Jennifer Ferguson, Andrew James, Kristi Subic, Megan Evans, Julia Sawyers, Kim Martin

Regrets: Lynsey Kowalski, Pamela Van

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Council Election - Richelle Wheeler

- Elected position discussion
 - Nominations for elected roles read out by Vice Principal, Ms. Lipp
 - Chair and co-chair roles defined. Main duties include point person for all issues from parents and school admin, host monthly meetings, run events.
 - All members agreed that if only one person was nominated for a role, then no vote is required and the nominee would accept the position.
 - All elected positions only had one nominee.
 - Richelle Wheeler elected chair
 - Glenn Kremp elected co-chair
 - Benn Brisland elected treasurer
 - Shannon Howanyk elected secretary
 - Lynsey Kowalski elected communications with Cory Megitt as back-up
- Committee positions discussed

- Parent Rep role defined as the liaison between parents and school admin and SAC when parents are not comfortable or need support.
- Parent Reps are Robynne McKinley and Pam Van Parent Rep - liaison between
- French Immersion Rep defined as an emerging role but to act as a liaison between parents and school admin and SAC. Also assist with issues affecting French Immersion families and attend PIAC meetings. Natalie Dasilva will be the rep.
- New Anti-Bullying Rep created to assist with inclusion. Anna Dewar Gully will be the rep
- New Family Rep created to assist with charitable fundraising for Birch Cliff families and the community. Kayla Nugent will be the rep.

6:50 Principal Update - Dr. Angie Faraone

- In the beginning of the school year there was a 10 period where the Principal (Angie Farone) and Vice Principal (Michelle Lipp) were both absent due to planned and unexpected events.
- Back-up Principal Kathy Giles (retired former Birch Cliff principal) filled in to ensure a smooth transition.
- Discussion of Enrollment and Classroom changes effective Sep. 30th
 - Board has a hard cap on primary grades (grades 1-3)
 - Birch Cliff enrollment numbers were higher than expected. Prediction was 460. Actual enrollment was approximately 490
 - French enrollment is stable with some slight growth
 - English enrollment numbers were much higher than expected with kindergarten enrollment surpassing expectations (64 kids)
 - Sep. 26 all parents will receive communication on class redistribution and impacted families receiving additional communication.
 - As a result there will be changes for the majority of English grades 1-3 classrooms, a few children in French changing classes, and a new English kindergarten classroom.
 - The new kindergarten class will be in the current staff room and the staff room moving to the basement.
 - A new teacher is in the process of being hired for the new class. ECE will be required if the class has 15+ students.
 - Admin must follow the board's recommendations to keep class sizes within the cap.
 - In the junior and intermediate grades there will be no movement as the board does not have caps on those class sizes
 - The largest junior/intermediate class is 31 students with class averages between 24-28.
- New Superintendent Debbie Donski
- New and returning teachers to the school.
 - New: Mr. Sheamus Blake (grade 7&8 English)

- Returning: Ms. Graham and Ms. Bruce
- Terry Fox walk on Sep. 26 (rain date the following Friday)
- Student Council run by Ms. Scott Lindsay starting early October for grades 6-8 and will be invited to the monthly SAC meetings. Student council will have a focus on fundraising for the grade 7-8 Quebec trip in May.
- Quebec trip letters went home to gauge interest. Majority of families are interested in the trip. Money should not be a reason for students not to attend. Teachers will reiterate this during curriculum night. Suggestion to add a reason why people can't attend on the form to know if it is related to financial concerns.
- Ashley O'Rourke would like to assist with fundraising help for the grade 7-8 trip and any other opportunities
- Pilot of the split lunch times and primary lunchroom to help with cleanliness and supervision was stopped and last year's lunch process was reinstated. The main issue was the noise level in the lunchroom was too loud and disruptive to the kids.
- Inclement weather process for primary recess was changed. Instead of all the primary kids in the gym watching a movie, they will now be in classrooms. Main reason was the noise level, transition to the gym, and kids having already seen the movie caused disruption. Kids prefer to be in their class.

7:25 Review Meeting Minute Review - Richelle Wheeler

- June 2024 SAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

7:27 Treasurer Update - Benn Brisland

- Last year was a great year; a record breaking year with \$82K gross
- Budget based on last year's numbers was created in August with a planned spend on events of \$44K and planned expenses (kindie welcome bags, grade 8 grade, treats for school events like Terry Fox) of \$25K
- Money raised last year was used for the school's wish list that includes: new chairs for the gym, new library shelving, wellness room and school buses for each class to go on a field trip.
- Remaining on the wish list is the other half of the chairs for the gym
- Individual teacher wish lists have changed to experiences they would like for the classroom that aligns with the curriculum (i.e. Scientists in the Classroom).

7:35 Teacher Update - Karen Secher

- Cross country started. Over 100 kids show up every morning at 8:10 to practice. First invitational race was today at Chine Drive and the kids did awesome with many placing in the top 10.

October 8th is the Thompson Park race. October 16th the Conference final. Kids finishing in the top 20 will be invited to the city finals. Date to be confirmed.

- Spirit wear will be for sale Sep. 26 at cross-country practice
- Girls Basketball 5 / 6 and 7 / 8 starting with a tournament at the end of October /early November
- Boys 7 / 8 and girls 7/ 8 soccer starting with a tournament mid-October for girls and boys TBD.
- Ms. Secher will check on the sport equipment needed and discuss with Richelle if new items are needed.

7:40 Chair/Co-Chair Update - Richelle Wheeler & Glenn Kremp

- Spirit wear will be available on curriculum night for purchase.
- T-shirts and dry fit were restocked. There were printing issues with the sweaters.
- On curriculum night there will be a donation bin for Birch Cliff spirit wear. School admin will email a reminder out and Cory will do a Facebook post.
- The Birch Cliff canopy was purchased and will be ready for the October 8th Thompson Park race.
- Fundraising events for the 2024-2025 school year to be the same as last year.
 - Fresh from the Farm. When you buy two, then one will be donated to YouthLink.
 - Pumpkin Fest tentatively booked for October 30th. DJ Mike is available.
 - Holiday Market in early December where grades 6-8 can buy a table from the SAC and sell their products. Note: this cannot be held on a Tuesday due to an existing permit in the gym.
 - Parent Social
 - Fun Fair in June
- SAC Meetings will have a student babysitter so parents can bring their children to the meeting. If your child wants to be a babysitter contact Richelle directly. They must have the babysitters course and they will be compensated \$20.
- Pizza Lunch is off to a great start. First one was a success. If you would like to volunteer the email will be sent out on the Tuesday before Pizza Lunch at 9:00am.
- Junior Achievement will be coming this year and led by Ms. Lipp
- Last year PIAC issued a certificate of appreciation Birch Cliff SAC.
- City Cottage Market free coffee Sep. 26th for all SAC members and Birch Cliff staff
- Family rep Kayla has Suman Roy and Purlator lined for a new Food Insecurity challenge for the classes and will coordinate with Angie Farone.
- Begin discussion on Parent Reps for each class that will be discussed in next month's meeting
- Upcoming SAC meetings will be held each month on the third Wednesday of the month, with no meeting in December.

8:00 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

1. Kayla to coordinate with Angie Faraone regarding class competition for donations for folks in need.
2. Ashley O'Rourke to coordinate with Student Councils for fundraising (Grade 7 & 8 trip and more)
3. Parent Rep for each class discussion next meeting.
4. Review of the new kindergarten classroom to see if they have all the resources needed for the students.
5. Ms. Secher to check the equipment for the sports team and discuss with Richelle if any items need to be purchased.