

SAC Meeting Minutes

20 NOVEMBER 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 Da Silva (French Immersion Rep), Kayla Nugent (Family Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep) Karen Secher (Teacher Rep)

Parent Representatives: Alyssa Lioutas, Ashley O'Rourke, Nancy Conntonden, Sarah Turnbull, Emily McBride, Rebecca Williams, Jess Wood, Angela Martin, Saleema Osmani, Megan Evans, Emily Kritzer, Madalena Morais, Danielle Katz, Andrew James, Savina Peshkova, Filip Stoj

Student Council Members: Katelyn James, Addison Salmon, Connor Lucier

Regrets: Pamela Van, Natalie Da Silve

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Intro - Richelle Wheeler

- Welcomed Student Council Members Conner (Grade 6), Addy and Katelyn (Grade 8s)
- Student Council ask: Connor brought up if SAC can help to reduce the dog poop on the field.
 - TDSB no dogs on the property. Hard to police after hours.
 - Emails goes out to parents.
 - Caretaker check in the morning but hard to find all the waste
 - Dog pee in the kindie playground sand is an issue
 - Connor to look into dog poop removal services.
 - Ask for students to make hand drawn signs for the fence like the no idling sign.
- Student council is running a food drive for food and toiletries. To connect with Cory and Lynsey to communicate out to parents and post on Facebook

6:40 Meeting Minutes - Shannon Howanyk

- October meeting minutes reviewed

6:43 Principal Updates - Dr. Angie Faraone

- Welcome Debbie Donaky, Superintendent, to the meeting
- PumpkinFest - Huge success from student engagement
- Progress reports went out in mid November. There was high parent engagement for parent teacher interviews.
- Field trip to Little Canada trip was a success
- Reminders on the phone use in the school. Conversations with Principal and teacher and intermediate students on ministry policy .
- December assembly will be a holiday celebration with a student showcase. There will be two assemblies to accommodate all students.
- Richelle is on the School Improvement planning (SIP)
- Mme. Lipp hosted the Quebec Brightspark (80 students registered). Some families reached out for subsidies.
- The specialized high school applications has started. High school applications opening soon.
- Hillside trip successful. Grade 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 went to Hillside. Grades 1 & 2 they come to the school

6:50 15 Minute Lunch Discussion

- Parent concern: students are not eating their lunch because there is not enough time to eat
- Factors:
 - Kindie lunch on a different schedule than grades 1-8
 - Many students have practice at lunch and extended or changing time will impact practice .
 - Lunch is not one to one supervision. There is one staff monitoring multiple classrooms
 - Not a staffing issue but teachers are required to have a 40 min uninterrupted lunch and a weekly 15 min lunch duty
 - More time is needed to dress for outside in winter
 - Kindies can require more time washing hands and going to bathroom before starting lunch.
 - Parent volunteers are not a solution as school needs a consistency to plan.
 - Lunchroom in basement (sandwich street) is not a solution - too loud and chaotic.
- Conversation with staff to add 5 min to make lunch 20 minutes.
- Angie will discuss with staff and bring back to December SAC meeting.
- Any solutions will be consistent. All inside or all students outside. But may be by division: Primary, Junior, Intermediate

7:10 Treasurer Update -Benn

- Bank Balance is currently 25K and change
- Spending is on track
- Working on a digital intake tool for submitting requests for reimbursement
- For reimbursement for police checks require the volunteering to be for SAC events (not school events like field trips), the receipt and the check.

7:12 Grant Updates - Lynsey

- Submitted the Parent Council Innovation Grant. No ETA but funds will need to be used from Jan-May 2025.
 - The ask is for Willow Tree, existing TDSB vendor, to run an age-based anti-bullying program with corresponding sessions for parents for the age group. Mental Health Wel
- Community Safety Zone update - City councillor Partihi encouraged SAC to start a petition.
 - Lynsey can write the petition but Angie to confirm if we can send out via email SAC.
 - Lynsey to post on FB groups .

7:15 Sports - Ms. Secher

- Basketball and Volleyball tournaments begun
- Hockey starts in January. Two co-ed teams playing in Boys hockey - grades 5 & 6 (tournament) and 7 & 8 (league)
- Tree going up next Friday and decorated the following monday
- Parent Concern: Grade 8 Boys volleyball practice 4 days. Girls Basketball practices 1 day a week. Factors that impact:
 - Coaching is 100% volunteer and up to the individual coach how often they want to practice.
 - Coaches are giving up their lunch break, before and after school time.
 - Coaches live in different areas of the city and harder for some to come in early or stay late. As well some coaches have other coaching commitments outside the school.

- Gym time is divided based on activities (both sports and arts) and the individual coaches schedule
- Boys volleyball coach offered 2 of their gym times to the girls coaches however those coaches did not want the time.
- Parent volunteers are not a solution as a teacher is always required. Glenn to look into parents becoming coach.

7:35 Co-Chair Update - Glenn

- Birch Cliff spiritwear online store order will be delivered to school in 1-2 weeks.

7:35 Holiday Market - Sarah

- Holiday market to be held December 12th and will include photos with Santa, food, student entrepreneur market (grade 6-8)
- Current 32 tables for student entrepreneurs (more available if needed). Sign up sheets went home today
- No choir this year.
- Basket raffles emailed to teachers and Lynsey to post on Facebook

7:40 Chair Update - Richelle

- Fresh from the Farm pick up on Friday - low response.
- Pumpkin Fest was a success - lots of student engagement and a profit. Next year to consider a sponsorship to make it more profitable.
- **In June SAC meeting to pick dates for all events for the following school year.**
- Vandermere fundraiser started. Delivery will be on December 12th for holiday market. Community (not just parents) can buy Vanderemere a Facebook post will got out to communicate.
- Cory, IT rep, would like to build a Birch Cliff SAC website to help parents stay informed.
- Discussion of Birch Cliff SAC can be a designated Charity.
 - TDSB is a charity but need the SAC to be designated to save taxes on pizza lunch and bank fees

- Angie to verify if SAC qualifies as a charitable organization with Michelle Monroe, Community engagement Officer.
 - Debbie to connect Richelle and Angie to Michelle.
- Kayla is running the winter clothing drive for Birch Cliff families. Then opened up to the community to shop. Any leftover clothing will go to Suman Roy to help the community and exchange for toiletries.
- Last day for winter clothing donations is November 29th. Popcorn to go to all students for participating.
- Alyssa Fun Fair will be on June 14th
 - Note: no dunk tank this year
- Q&A
 - There is no band teacher for Birch Cliff (impacted grade 7 and 8)
 - The band teacher is an itinerant music instructor who goes from school to school.
 - Two band teachers were assigned to Birch Cliff but dropped out school
 - The board is looking to hire for another instructor. No ETA.
- Play rehearsal has started for Grades 1-8

8:00 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

1. Student Council to look into dog poop removal service and dog poop sign
2. Student council to connect with SAC Communications reps (Ciry and Lynsey) to email and post on Facebook re food drive.
3. Angie to discuss lunch timing with staff to solution
4. Community Safety Zone petition - Angie to confirm if SAC can email out to parents. Lynsey to post on Facebook
5. Angie to look into coaching practices and Glen to look into parent volunteering for coaching sports.

6. Debbie Donsky to connect Angie and Richelle with Michelle Monroe, Community Engagement Officer, regarding SAC charitable designation
7. Angie to give an update on band teacher