

SAC Meeting Minutes

19 February 2025 / 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

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

Committee Members: Anna Dewar Gully (Anti-Bully Rep), Robynne McKinley (Parent Rep), Natalie Da Silva (French Immersion Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep), Samantha Stermac (Donor Rep), Karen Secher (Teacher Rep),

Parent Representatives: Jess Wood, Lisa Giuliani, Savina Peshkova, Emily Kritzer, Saleema Osmani, Madi Morais

Regrets: Lynsey K. (Communications), Pamela Van (Parent Rep), Kayla Nugent (Family Rep)

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Intro - Richelle Wheeler

- Attendance and welcome

6:32 Meeting Minutes - Shannon Howanyk

- January meeting minutes reviewed

6:35 Chair Update - Richelle Wheeler

- SAC does not qualify for HST rebate as a charity per the Birch Cliff's financial advisor (an actual human admin can speak to)
 - Michelle to reach out to PIAC co-chair to investigate other options
 - Shannon to reach out on GTA School Council Facebook group
- Lunch timing issue resolved
 - Older kids get 20 minutes and Ms. Elenora goes outside to supervise
 - Younger kids who are ready go out after 20 mins

- Younger kids that require the full 30 min are supervised by Mr. Nick and ECEs
- Dog waste signs from TDSB are cheap (a few dollars) so Catherine will place an order
- Nutrition program going back to original way with classroom bins on March 3rd thanks to generous parent donations and one large parent donation of \$5,000
- Movie night is on Feb 27th need 5 parent volunteers from 4:30 to 7:00pm
- Parent Social planned for Friday, May 2nd. Save the date in your calendars!
- SIP (School Improvement Plan) Michelle Lipp
 - A multi-year plan to improve the school
 - Previous years plan was based on 3 pillars: Achievement, Equity, and Wellbeing
 - This year the pillars have changed to 5 pillars: Indigenous Education, Revitalization, Thrive, Achieve, and Wellbeing and we need to create a school plan
 - Looking for parent involvement (time commitment is a couple meetings to plan and then once a month)
 - Email Michelle if you would like to be involved
- Battery fundraiser planning has begun and is scheduled to start March 3.
 - Glenn will be taking the lead
 - Start saving those dead batteries
- Reminder to Voting Members please check your emails. Voting requests should be responded to within 24 hours
- Portable additions (Michelle Lipp)
 - Angi and Michelle are in planning meeting regarding the new housing developments in the neighbourhood
 - It is estimated that in 4 years the school will need 6 new portables to accommodate the increased demand.
 - There is not plan for new portables this year or next
 - Note: the current plumbing of the school cannot handle the additional portables so there is no guarantee that they will be added
- French Immersion boundaries have not changed for Birch Cliff. FI Students will be going to Malvern for high school as they sign the school pathway form when enrolling
- Spirit wear online sales start March 7th
 - Same items as before
 - Ability to add name to shirt and chose colours (blue, white and pink)
 - Online store will be available for 3 weeks
 - Once store closes there is 2 weeks processing time plus delivery time
 - Cory to prepare communication and include that kids will need for track and field in May

- Angi is sick and sends her regards
- Winter sports are wrapping up (Girls volleyball, Boys basketball, hockey)
- Lots of clubs at the school (musical practice, thread club, D&D club, homework haven, library helpers, dance club.
- February 28th is the next recognition assembly organized by Mme. Ristuccia
- February 28th Ramadan begins and there will be a prayer space in school as well as any child fasting has the option to go to the library for lunch
- Grade 8 high school course selection is well underway
 - TDSB students are completing it on my blue print
 - Catholic board on paper
 - Note: 60% of all grade 8 are attending the Catholic board
- Popcorn Sales are very popular and well on the way of providing each family going on the Quebec trip a \$50 refund.
- March Break dates are March 10th - 14th
- Book Fair in February
 - Starts Feb. 25th after school
 - 26th and 27th during the day and will remain open during Movie Night
 - The first book fair was very successful (\$8K profit) so for this book fair the school will get 10% back in books which students will have a chance to win through a draw.
 - Looking to do a third book fair if the February one is successful as we will get 50% back in books
- Kearney parents info session happened and already have ⅔ of forms returned
- Health and Safety issue
 - The toilet above Mr. Kranjac's room leaked cause raw sewage to come in through the ceiling
 - Clean up and repairs are underway and going quicker than expected
 - Mr. Kranjac room remains closed and he has been located to another room on the top floor
- 2025-2025 staffing
 - Predictions are in line with current student population
 - Last year projections were 460 students and this year's projections is 510.
 - After March break staffing committee and union rep will work on staffing model and will be shared in the April SAC meeting
- Kindergarten registration has begun. Orientation date TBD
- Safety with Snows
 - City plows and TDSB plows are still digging out the city
 - Please be patient as we are all in the same boat trying to get to where we need to be

- There have been very close calls of children being hit by a car, so please avoid parking on Freeman and Birch Cliff.
- Walk if you are able to and if you need to drive please park on streets a bit further from the school and walk the rest.
- Inclement Weather Policy
 - Less than -21 kids play outdoor
 - Between -21 to -27 Principal discretion
 - Below -27 kids must be indoors
 - Other safety factors go into decisions to keep children indoors.
 - For example on Tuesday the kids were kept indoors because the temperature felt like -25 in the morning, the snow on the school yard was not cleared so staff could not supervise properly, as well as giant icicles hanging from the roof with no caution tape up yet.
- Parent Concern Protocol
 - Issues related to the school should be brought to the classroom teacher first, then Angi and Michelle, then the superintendent,
 - SAC is not the place to bring up issues that need to be handled by the school administration
- Pancake Breakfast will be held on Mardi Gras (March 4th). Parent volunteers are needed

7:10 Treasurer Update - Benn Brisland

- Budget is on track for the year. Current balance is \$35K
- Holiday Market was a success with \$3K in profit
- The letters for the sign have been put on the shelf for now

7:12 Teacher / Sports Update - Karen Secher

- Winter sports are coming to an end
 - Both hockey teams games tomorrow morning
 - Girls volleyball this week
 - Boys basketball is wrapping up
- Spring sports
 - Interest in intramural badminton
 - Track and Field for all ages
 - Kindie Day
 - Primary Day
 - Grades 4-8 can go to city meets (note: grade 3s are allowed to attend the first meet)

7:15 Anti-Bullying Update - Anna Dewar Gully

- Open forum discussion on how to engage parents with the focus on reducing bullying and expanding inclusion
- Key take-ways
 - Not trying to get a consensus but a shared understanding of the challenges our kids face
 - Start through the lens of a parent but will have second stage to involve the children
 - Work towards a shared approach how to get help at school (toolbox of resources for kids)
 - Survey tools online to collect information
 - Ability to submit anonymously
 - Have the sessions this school year
- Anna has the go ahead to put together an approach to bring to Michelle and Richelle before the next SAC meeting and start building out the session
 -

7:40 Kids Vs. Parents Fundraiser - Shannon Howanyk

- For the older kids have a kids vs. parents game night to for fun and raise a little money
- On a Thursday after-school/evening have a sport competition where parents and kids can compete against each other.
- Activities like volleyball, soccer, run the bases, races, and ball hockey.
- Maybe a small entry fee and sell concession items to raise money
- Kayla and Shannon to put together the details and present in March's meeting

7:45 Community Run - Saleema Osmani

- Open discussion on a run/walk-a-thon for parents and kids for fun and to raise money
- September is the ideal time as there is Terry Fox, Cross-Country and less fundraising then
- Great opportunity to welcome everyone to the new school year and to have the info for kindie registration night so new parents can get involved
- Saleema will take the lead

7:50 Open Discussion

- First Lego League is a robotic program to engage children in real world problem solving
 - Previous done at Birch Cliff (pre-Covid) with lots of interest and success
 - Requires 5-6 parent volunteers and a TDSB staff to facilitate
 - Madi to connect with Miss Secher for Larry's info (former BC parent who ran the program)

- New school website for some folks the email is going to junk even if it is reported as safe. Please let Cory know if you are having issues at web@birchcliffcouncil.ca
- Facebook SAC page has low engagement, please like posts so it will show in more folks feed
- Creation of SAC instagram feed as more parents use Instagram and post to both Facebook and Instagram

7:57 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

1. HST Rebate: Michelle to reach out to PIAC co-chair to investigate other options and Richelle to GTA School Council Facebook group
2. Dog Waste
 - a. Catherine to order TDSB dog waste signs
 - b. Student Council to look into another dog poop removal service and the impact to kid's dog poop signs
3. Movie Night
 - a. Cory to send email to SAC volunteer list about movie night parent volunteer requests (need to have VSC)
 - b. Cory to send communication to remind parents of Movie Night and that they do not need to buy pizza to attend.
4. Community Safety Zone: Lynsey to work on petition for the community
5. Battery Fundraiser: Cory and Lynsey to start planning battery fundraiser communications
6. Spiritwear Online Store: Cory to prepare communication (include that kids will need for track and field in May)
7. Staffing Model for 2025-2026 Michelle to share staffing model in April's meeting
8. Kids Vs. Parents Sports event: Shannon to take the lead and update next meeting
9. SAC Instagram page: Cory to create instagram page linked to the SAC Facebook page

SAC RESOLVED ITEMS

1. Lunch eating time schedule finalized and running successfully
2. Funding for nutrition program and set to go back to classroom bins on March 3
3. Winter clothing drive success and donor recognized