

SAC Meeting Minutes

19 March 2025 / 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

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

Committee Members: Anna Dewar Gully (Anti-Bully Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep), Karen Secher (Teacher Rep),

Parent Representatives: Nick Harman, Savina Peshkova, Emily Kritzer, Saleema Osmani, Julia Salerno, Alyssa Lioutas, Kelsey Clifford, Megan Evans, Ashley O'Rourke, Filip Stoj

Regrets: Robynne McKinley (Parent Rep), Pamela Van (Parent Rep), Kayla Nugent (Family Rep), Natalie Da Silva (French Immersion Rep), Samantha Stermac (Donor Rep)

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Intro - Richelle Wheeler

- Attendance and welcome

6:35 Meeting Minutes - Shannon Howanyk

- February meeting minutes reviewed

6:35 Chiar Update - Richelle Wheeler

- HST and charity status
 - Posted in GTAA School Council Facebook twice and no response
 - No response from PIAC co-chair
- Dog waste removal is several hundred a week and too cost prohibitive to undertake. SAC will support the student council for any additional signs they would like to make.
- Movie night successful, 2 kids won prizes and approximately \$1000 in profit (\$1268 sales and cost \$300)

- Battery drive
 - Drive has started and will go to April 11
 - Engaging stores and hotels (Home Depot, Rona, Henley Gardens, and Staples) to donate their batteries
 - Cliffside school (winner of previous battery drive) will be donating 90 lbs of batteries to our school and will continue to collect from their community
 - Glen to work with student council
 - City Cottage Market will have a bin to collect batteries for Birch Cliff
 - Comms will send out communications
- Parent Social
 - Date May 2nd
 - In the process of reaching out to corporate sponsors
 - Tickets go on sale in April with early bird prices of \$30 for the first 2 weeks of sales
- Birchcliff Spiritwear store is open and running until March 28th
- Purdy's fundraiser launched
 - Goes until March 25th
 - Already met goal of \$2700 in sales and \$760 profit

6:48 Principal/Vice Principal Update - Angi Faraone

- Snack Program Update
 - Huge parent response for donation (\$9500) came in for January and just hit the schools account
 - Snack is back to bins going to individual classrooms
- Pancake Tuesday on Mardi Gras was a success -
 - Each kids got at least 2 pancakes, and kids with allergies got a fruit cup
 - Fasting children were able to take home pancakes in a container
 - Pancakes were delivered to each classroom instead of the gym to save time and allow regularly scheduled gym class to proceed
 - The staff room electrical cannot support a lot of griddles so next year will need to look at alternatives to save time
- Grade 6 classes will be going to Kearney next week with Blake, Smedley and Marshall.
- High school course selection is complete for grade 8s
- Kindie open house on May 14th at 6:00pm
- 2025-2025 staffing
 - Increase projected number of students for next school year
 - Admin will be working on staffing model and will share in May's SAC meeting

- Planning Department Updates
 - Ongoing meeting are happening with the development going on in the neighbourhood
 - School has room for 6 portables on the yard however they are not likely to go in as the plumbing in the school cannot handle the additional stress
 - Condo development on Kingston Rd. will create shade on the school yard and will need to re-do the playground as part of their conditions on building. However this will be a multi-year process
- Talent show put on by the Student Council will be held during school on April 17th and parents are welcome to attend
- Spring clubs have started: Lip sync, dance, drop-in badminton, thread club, choir, play
- Holiday (Lent/Easter, Passover, Ramadan) celebrations
 - Eid will be samosas for all students
 - Passover a family has donated matzo for all students
 - Kindies will have an egg hunt
 - Food drive next week to help the community
- Field Update:
 - Field was very muddy on Monday and kids asked to stay off to protect the grass as it will does not get re-seeded
 - Tarmac is cracking but the caretaking staff is working to sweep away any debris and keep it safe for the children
- Musical performance will be on June 4th and 5th at the school
- Kindie grad is June 20th
- Grade 8 grad is June 24th with the ceremony at Birch Cliff and the reception at the legion
- EQAO will run May 7 - June 11
- Swim to Survive
 - A course for grades 3 and 4 to teach them emergency survival swim skills
 - 3 days in May over a 3 week period (1 day a week)
 - Students will walk over to Birchmount pool
 - Permission forms will be going home shortly
- Book fair:
 - Big success with over \$8000 in sales with the school getting 50% back in scholastic dollars
 - Will be holding another book fair in June (timed with the fun fair) and with that we will get buy one get one free on any books earned for the school

7:18 Treasurer Update - Benn Brisland

- Budget is on track for the year. Current balance is \$34K but a few large checks are outstanding

- Vote held for the following financial support
 - Kindie grad ask \$500 (vote 6 in favour, 0 not in favour)
 - Kindie orientation \$300 (vote 6 in favour, 0 not in favour)
 - Grade 8 grad \$2500 (vote 6 in favour, 0 not in favour)
 - EQAO snack \$200 (vote 6 in favour, 0 not in favour)
 - Grade 7-8 Quebec trip \$2000 (vote 6 in favour, 0 not in favour)

7:23 Teacher / Sports Update - Karen Secher

- Spring sports
 - Grade 5-6 Co-ed Volleyball - tournament first week of April
 - 2 Grade 7-8 Co-ed Volleyball teams - tournaments first week of April
 - Co-ed beach volleyball at Ashbridges on May 16th
 - Slo pitch
 - Mr. Blake looking to do a Gaelic Football team for intermediates
- Track and Field
 - Grade 4-8 Track day April 14th (April 16th is the rain day)
 - Birchmount Meet is May 16th
 - Primary and Kindie Track day dates TDB
- Jump Rope for Heart will be held at the end of May/beginning of June

7:28 Fun Fair- Alyssa Lioutas

- June 14th 11:00am - 3:00pm rain or shine
- Cost has increased with inflation so asking sponsors to increase their amounts by 10%
- Inflatables have been booked slightly different ones than last year due to cost
- DJ Mike booked
- Ice cream truck will be ba
- Rain rain for cooling down instead of dunk tank
- Richelle will run the BBQ
- Michelle to book the permits and make the bracelets
- Samantha to run the silent auction
- Problem from last year was the long line for cotton candy will look at alternatives

7:35 Anti-Bullying Update - Anna Dewar Gully

- "Voices for Belonging" is the working title for the Bully/Exclusion/Equity issues consultation

- Will use anonymous questionnaire (paper and survey monkey) to collect the experiences of the students
- There will be a kick-off student lead assembly in April
- Will communicate with parents via multiple channels (like e-blast, paper surveys to be sent home, social media posts)
- There will be a 2 week timeframe to collect responses
- Admin advised all response will need to go to the admin first per TDSB policy and then Anna will aggregate and present the findings to both students and parents
- More details to come on how the findings will be presented back, but there will be multiple channels
- Complete by June

7:45 Voting Members - Richelle Wheeler

- Voting to remove Paul as a voting member as he has not shown up to any SAC meetings nor responded to any emails. Per the rules each voting member must attend 4 SAC meetings and that is not possible as there are only 3 meetings left.
- Paul was removed as a voting member with a vote of 6 in favour and 0 not in favour

7:50 Kids Vs. Parents Fundraiser - Shannon Howanyk

- Date will be on May 20th
- Details to be shared in April's meeting

7:51 Open Discussion

- Saleema to connect with admin on Eid treat for all students
- Comms team will set up a facebook page for buy/sell/trade Birch Cliff spirit wear. SAC will not be involved in the content - only creating the space for parents to connect

7:59 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

1. Battery Drive
 - a. Communications for parent help collecting batteries from stores, hotels
2. Spiritwear

- a. Ashley to connect with Glenn for additional items like rugby shirts, pyjama pants, and limited edition school year branded items
3. Staffing Model for 2025-2026 Michelle to share staffing model in May's meeting
4. Fun Fair: Comms to include there will be a rain room so bring bathing suit/towels

SAC RESOLVED ITEMS

1. HST and charity status no path forward so put on hold
2. Dog waste - professional clean up is cost prohibitive so SAC will not be moving forward but will support the student council on costs for student-made signs