

SAC Meeting Minutes

21 May 2025 / 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

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

Committee Members: Kayla Nugent (Family Rep), Karen Secher (Teacher Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep), Anna Dewar Gully (Anti-Bully Rep), Sam Stermac (Donor rep)

Parent Representatives: Sarah Turnbull, Angela Martin, Alyssa Lioutas, Julia Salerno, Megan Evans, Mylene Bitong, Savina Peshkova, Joe Subic, Kristi Subic

Regrets: Robynne McKinley (Parent Rep), Natalie Da Silva (French Immersion Rep),

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Intro - Richelle Wheeler

- Welcome to the second last meeting of the year

6:31 Meeting Minutes Review - Shannon Howanyk

- Meeting minutes reviewed.

6:32 Chair Update - Richelle Wheeler

- Parent Social Update
 - Big success! Over 90 tickets sold and lots of positive feedback
 - Raised just over \$3500 in profit
 - New location at Stone Well was liked.
- Mabels Label - profit \$161.49 (since November) very low effort from council and benefits parents
- Benn, Glenn, and Richelle have met to put a tentative pre-fun fair budget. Benn will review high level details later in the meeting (see Treasurer Update) and voting will be at the June's meeting after the fun fair numbers.

- Junglesport was very popular with kids. Ask to bring it back next year.
 - Cosmic bowling could be alternative (cheaper than Junglesport)
 - Open to other alternatives for next year
- Needs for Fun Fair
 - Donate a propane tank for Fun Fair (Glenn volunteered)
 - 10+ coolers on the day000 of the Fun Fair.
- City councillor, Parthi, wants to hold a community meeting June 11 on safety on Kingston Rd. at Birch Cliff from 6:30-8:30.
 - Richelle to tell Parthi to look for an alternative date and book permit through city

6:39 Treasurer Update - Benn Brisland

- Preliminary Budget Review Details
 - Fixed expenses (events) remain level from last year
 - Planned expense (support for families, Quebec trip, library shelving) increased from last year
 - Library shelves are the priority. Chairs and dollies can be moved to a future year
 - Michelle to work with Mme. Smedley to get a full quote so SAC can fundraise specifically for library shelves.
 - Buses for each class to have a field trip a priority
 - The teachers' wish list has some items (play, letters, jungle sport, scientist in the classroom). May be able to add more once Fun Fair numbers are known.
- Current balance is \$27K which is similar to last year's balance at this time

6:50 Communications Update - Lynsey K.

- Parent survey to get feedback to help guide fundraisers and events for next year
 - Preliminary survey questions reviewed in meeting and feedback provided
 - Questions will go to Richelle and Dr. Faraone for review
 - Survey will be emailed to all parents and reviewed prior to next SAC meeting
- Communications for 2025-2026
 - Lynsey to lead a sub-committee to promote SAC involvement and ensure follow TDSB guidelines and procedures
 - Cory Megitt and Shannon Howanyk to join sub-committee
 - Priority for next year:
 - Get feedback from parents to ensure SAC is meeting the needs of the community
 - Get to know SAC members (voted positions vs. non-voted positions, introducing members, etc)

- Review procedures and policies for the election so we are prepared for the first meeting in September 2025

7:05 Principal/Vice Principal Update - Michelle Lipp

- Dr. Faraone leave will be ending this week and she returns to the school on Monday
- Inclusive and Safe School Update:
 - Surveys closed on May 15th and thanks to all who responded
 - After reviewing results Michelle Lipp prepared a presentation with information for parents.
 - Presentation can be found **here**
- Reminder from Michelle admin is here to support a safe learning environment for all children and to continue to bring any issues to admin. The TDSB parent involvement escalation process.
 - ▢ PR702 - Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour PR 703 - Bullyi...
- Admin is creating the Caring and Safe School Committee meetings
 - First meeting is scheduled for June 10th at 6pm. Date and virtual option to be confirmed
 - Then monthly meetings starting next school year
 - Sign up to join the committee
 - ▢ PR702 - Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour PR 703...
- Discussion on creating a Safe and Caring School
 - Acknowledge that bullying and inclusion are complex conversations and can be difficult but need to be held. The priority is creating a safe learning environment for every single student and also maintaining the privacy of the individual students whenever an incident occurs.
 - Richelle (Chair) reminded elected and voting members of their important role as representatives of both the parent community and the school. She emphasized the SAC is a constructive and appropriate forum for bringing forward concerns related to school staff and admin.
 - Anna (Inclusion and Anti-Bully rep) shared a concern that parents, especially those whose children are experiencing bullying and exclusion, rely on other parents and community for support. These conversations can be difficult and feelings could get hurt but they are important to have so resolution and change can happen.
 - Richelle noted that while open communication is encouraged, members are expected to maintain professionalism and respect in how concerns are expressed, especially in public spaces (eg. on the school yard or online). Elected members have a responsibility to model positive, solution-focused dialogue and encourage folks to address their concerns with the admin following the TDSB protocols for parent escalation.
 - Additional concerns were brought forward that this could discourage parents from bringing up issues and quell necessary discussions.
 - Richelle clarified that this is not the intent and she does not want to discourage anyone from voicing concerns, but to reinforce the importance of raising them in the right setting

with the right tone. The council is committed to fostering open and respectful communication to ensure all voices can be heard while upholding the values of trust and communication.

7:30 Teacher / Sports Update - Karen Secher

- Track and Field
 - Friday May 23rd Kindergarten in the morning, grades 1-3 in afternoon. Rain date TBD.
 - 50+ student athletes will compete at the Conference Finals at Birchmount on June 3rd.
 - City Finals will be held on June 10th
- Flag Rugby
 - 4 different teams for the school (Co-ed grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 teams)
 - Grade 6 team made to semi-finals
 - Rest of the teams playing next week
- Ultimate frisbee date TBD
- Jump Rope for Heart planned for June 17th, rain date June 18th
- Playdate TBD

7:34 Fun Fair Update - Alyssa Lioutas

- Sponsorships are sold out and in the process of collecting all the payments.
- There has been interest from local businesses to participate but not pay the sponsorship fee so they are being denied.
- Status is on track and the leads of each sub-committee are all doing great
- Need for 20 additional volunteers (no VSC needed).
 - Communications will go out
 - Not looking for high school students as last year none of the students showed up
 - What worked well last year is committee members bring a friend to volunteer with them for an hour or two.
- Silent auction donations are slightly down this year. More donations are required. Any business or parents that can donate are greatly appreciated.

7:40 Open Forum

- Extra Ed (guest from April SAC meeting) is all set for next year for lunch hour
 - This is for all students K-8
 - Michelle to look at timing for next year and possibility to expand to after-school
- Kids and Parents Night

- Lots of fun was had and great feedback from the students
- Next year will happen in the fall so May is not so busy.
- It will be paired with curriculum night to boost attendance since folks will already be at the school
- Date TBD but looking at early October to ensure that any classroom movement is complete (Date of classroom finalization is September 30th)
- Pedalheads will have a summer camp at Birch Cliff this year.
 - Use coupon code BCLIFF25 for \$25 off for parents and an additional \$25 will go to council
 - Communication to parent to be sent out shortly
- No update for the Battery Drive. We should know more in June.
- There is no additional lunch hour supervision
 - TDSB denied an additional support person because Birch Cliff is not an emergent school
 - Parent volunteers are not allowed as it can take away a union job
 - Bring any concerns to the superintendent and TDSB

7:56 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

- Student council to make signs for dog poop to put on hold until next year.
- 2025-2026 Planning
 - Review results of parent SAC feedback survey
 - Select dates for fundraisers and community events
 - Review and vote on budget
- Community Safety meeting:
 - Richelle to connect with Parthi regarding an alternative date and book a permit through the city if he would like to hold the meeting at Birch Cliff.
- Michelle Lipp will get a quote for the entire library shelving so SAC can plan a dedicated fundraiser.
- SAC Parent Feedback survey
 - Richelle and SAC review
 - Dr. Faraone review and approval
 - Sent to all parents for completion prior to next SAC meeting
- Pedalheads discount communication to be sent out

RESOLVED ITEMS

