

# SAC Meeting Minutes

---

18 June 2025 / 6:00 - 8:00 PM

## ATTENDEES

**Elected Members:** Attendees: Richelle Wheeler (Chair), Glenn Kremp (Co-chair/safety), Lynsey K. (Communications), Shannon Howanyk (Secretary), Benn Brisland (Treasurer), Robynne McKinley (Parent Rep), Cory Megitt (IT Rep), Mylene

**Committee Members:** Kayla Nugent (Family Rep), Karen Secher (Teacher Rep), , Anna Dewar Gully (Anti-Bully Rep), Sam Stermac (Donor rep), Natalie Da Silva (French Immersion Rep)

**Parent Representatives:** Madi Morais, Rebecca Williams, Alyssa Lioutas, Lisa Giuliani, Lesley Hamilton, Julia Salerno, Megan Evans, Saleema Osmani, Savina Peshkova, Filip Stoj

**Regrets:** Mylene Bitong (Parent Rep)

## AGENDA

### 6:00 Welcome and Introductions - Richelle Wheeler (Chair)

- Welcome to all the parents and staff

### 6:05 Meeting Minutes Review - Shannon Howanyk (Secretary)

- May meeting minutes reviewed.

### 7:08 Principal Update - Dr. Faraone (Principal)


- Friday June 20th Kindie graduation
  - Thank you to council for treats and cake
- Tuesday Grade 8 grad in gym
- Playday Monday
- Carribana Wednesday - ice cream truck TBD
- Friday June 27 is final day of school
- Birch Cliff is a growing school. More registrations keep coming.

- Retiring teachers this year: Brian Barlow ½ English and Ms Scott Lindsey 7/8 English.
- Yearbooks printed. Proofs will be ready tomorrow. Goal to be delivered by Monday

## 6:12 Anti-Bullying Survey Review - Anna Dewar-Gully (Anti-Bullying Rep)

- Voices for belonging project
  - Object what type of things can we do to be the kindest and most inclusive school
  - One little school in southwest Scarborough takes its future into its own hands to help it grow into the kind of school we all need to thrive
  - This is community feedback
  - Community is growth minded.
  - We want to improve and have lots of ideas on how to. Beautiful energy in this community.
- Thanks to the 4 students who spoke at the assemblies and participated in the final surveys
- Thank SAC and admin - it takes courage to ask big questions
- Three parts:
  - Community summary to provide high level
  - Draft strategy outlining the vision
  - Full Insight Report
- How we listened
  - 166 voice (students, parents, teachers)
  - 3 unique questionnaires (k-3, 4-8, adult)
  - Open text to not make assumptions and let them described the experience to us
  - Forward looking questions
- What we heard; Top themes
  - People feel being safe means seen, heard by kids and adults
  - Openness, Kindness, Learning, Accountability, Fairness
  - We value follow through
  - Want reconciliation and learning from challenges
  - Kids and families want to be part of the solution
  - Atmosphere of continuous learning
- What is working well
  - Caring individual teachers and staff
  - Inclusive events and accommodations
  - Peer helpers, clubs and sports
  - Community wants to help and has ideas
- Areas for growth
  - Kids are facing bullying and exclusion

- Parents feeling confused
- Teachers overwhelmed
- Perceived inconsistency
- Where they want to see growth
  - Clear consistent communication
  - Visible adult presence
  - Shared understanding of policies
- Kids what us to know
  - Feeling safe is having both kids and adults listen to them
  - Fairness and kindness more important to rules alone
  - Kids want to be part of the solution
- Grow forward strategy
  - Use the 5 values (Openness, Kindness, Learning, Accountability, Fairness)
  - Build trust
  - Utilize the beautiful ideas kids shared
- Demographics:
  - Demographic not collected per TDSB protocol
  - Open ended questions were used (e.g. tell me at time when you didn't belong) that identified othering across many students. Some scenarios described were identity based and others not.
  - Many students shared experiences of feeling otherwd and universal solutions can address the intersectionality of Birch Cliff students
  - Other data collection through TDSB collects demographic info.
  - TDSB surveyed students in grades 4-12 in a school climate survey that collects demographic, plus additional questions on belonging. Results end of December - January and will be public information. EQAO has demographic and asks additional educational questions
  - Admin use all the data sources together to inform their decision making.
- Next steps
  - Drive our well being with other Multiyear Strategic Plan
  - September will be the first Safe School meeting of the school year and the admin is committed to ongoing meetings.
  - Parent mentioned PULSE Public Health - Playground Activity Leadership as a tool to address exclusion.
  - Summary in Friday's newsletter under the weekly Caring and Safe School
  - Tips for next year
    - Doing a thing . One aligned action that kids value.
    - Exercise democracy where you can. Kids, council.

- Keep using their voice to help prioritize
  - Kids have wisdom. Use student council to get kids engaged.
  - Ideas that are mapped to the 5 core values.
  - Categories of action. No more than 3 a semester.
  - Not everything formally organized,
- Thank you Anna.
- The summary report  BC Voices For Belonging - Community Perspectives at Birch Cliff PS

#### 6:47 SAC Feedback Sur - Lynsey K. (Communication Rep)

- 88 respondents
- Strong engagement throughout all grades (K-8)
- Survey aimed to assess satisfaction, identify needs, and inform planning for next school year.
- Fun Fair, pizza lunch, clothing drives were top 3 activities parents enjoyed.
- Key insights: parents overwhelmingly support fun, inclusive and student-centered events. Simplicity, community engagement and affordability are high priorities.
- New initiatives ideas mainly fall into 3 categories: creative & performance based, culturally inclusive & educational, and new fundraisers
- Top participation barriers: timing conflicts (events before 5pm), cost sensitivity and communication gaps.
- Top feedback: parents very much appreciate SAC's efforts
- Calls for improvement: minutes posted timely, transparency in fund spending, open meeting for 2 way dialogue, SAC as a voice for parents, online volunteer sign up.

#### 6:56 Treasurer Update - Benn Brisland (Treasurer)

- Budget Update
  - Great year fundraiser
  - Raised about \$65K before expense. Waiting on Pizza lunch numbers for final profit
- Budget for 2025-2026
  - Used last year's budget as a guide and adjusted as necessary. Inflation is a factor as the costs of many items have increased.
  - 3 categories in the budget
    - Planned Events (all fundraisers are profitable)
      - Terry Fox (\$250 for snacks)
      - Circ (\$0)
      - Halloween (\$2k)
      - Fresh (\$0)
      - Pizza (\$15K)

- Munchalunch fees (\$400)
- Purdy (\$0)
- Parent social (\$1,600)
- Fun Fair (\$13k)
- Spirit wear (\$5k)
- \$39,500 total
- Planned Exp
  - Financial assistance for families (\$3k)
  - Grade 8 grad (\$2,500)
  - Kindie welcome package (\$200)
  - Maintenance budget (\$500)
  - Treats at events (\$2,800)
  - Electronics (\$0)
  - Teacher appreciation / Workshops (\$350)
  - Kindie grad (\$500)
  - Music subscription (\$250)
  - Total \$13,100
- Wishlist
  - Library shelving (\$10k)
  - Bus for every class to have a field trip (\$6,600)
  - Sports and Arts (\$3K)
  - Brave Ed (school wide) (\$4,300)
    - Bring to school community in the spirit of the voices of belonging survey.
    - Workshops for students, staff, and parents
    - Goal: to build resilience for social and emotional skills
    - Goal: Age based kids workshops to start the year for 1-3 and 4-8. The kindie workshop once they know their routines
    - Small groups workshops
      - k-3 setting healthy boundaries, dealing with conflict
      - 4-8 bullying conflict and relationships
    - 5 consultants, to do all the classes and the staff in Sept
    - Kids learn a common language and a consistent message
    - Follow up materials to continue to incorporate learnings.
    - Teachers get PD as part of their annual learning plan.
    - Teacher PD first (Sept 26 PA Day)
    - Then kids workshops first week of October class.
  - Outdoor interactive equipment (\$4K)
  - Total: \$27,900

- Voting on End of Year results
  - Voted unanimously approval for budget
  - Wishlist spending unanimously approval

### **7:27 Fun Fair Update - Alyssa Lioutas (Fun Fair Lead)**

- Successful!
- We have a dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you to all!
- Success was selling the majority of wristbands on Munchalunch.
- \$13.9K profit about \$1,500 more than last year. Silent auction contributed \$7k
- Lessons learned
  - Need more volunteers for next year. Start early and look into online sign up.
  - Simplify wristband colors but keep the delegation on ML
  - Give vendors food wristband - to vote on next year
  - Look into tiered sponsorship
  - More activities for the littles.
  - Silent auction online
  - Saturday June 13th, 2026 next year date voted on.

### **7:30 Sports Update - Karen Secher (Teacher Rep)**

- 29 students competed in city finals for track and field. 1 student got first place while a few others places top 3.
- Hoops and Jump rope for heart this week

### **7:25 Family Rep Update - Kayla Nugent (Family Rep)**

- Battery Drive collect in Sept to collect all year
- Planning on clothing and toy drives for families in need.

### **7:36 Chair Update - Richelle Wheeler (Chair)**

- Solid Waste Truck - City management confirmed to keep garbage trucks away from school before 9 am
- Chair Survey Results
  - Thanks for participating in survey
  - Growth mindset of community
  - Lots of ideas for September
- Battery results by end of the week

- EOY Message.
  - Success year that came with a lot of ups and downs
  - Hard conversations were had and Birch Cliff and SAC continue to grow and evolve.
  - Looking forward to September with renewed ideas and commitment
  - Support each other and build the best community ever.

### 7:50 Open Forum

- Virtual SAC meeting went well
- 2025-2026 SAC Meetings to be hosted on zoom/teams as well. Ms. Lipp to look into getting a free webinar zoom licence through TDSB.
- Julia brought up the idea of a Beach Volleyball court for the school.
- First Lego League (STEM) team of 2-10 people (1500 K) rebates. Other possible STEM programs Cube school. Lego club. Extra Ed Lego.

### 8:03 Meeting adjourned

## ACTION ITEMS

- Safe and Caring Schools
  - Ms. Lipp to hold September meeting to develop action plan
  - PULSE Public Health - Playground Activity Leadership as a possible tool to address exclusion.
  - Ms. Lipp to include a Safe and Caring section in the weekly email.
  - Voices of Belonging report to be shared in Friday's email.
- 2025-2026 preliminary budget approved (see Treasurer Update for breakdown)
- Fun Fair
  - Saturday June 13th, 2026 next year date voted on.
  - Lessons learned
    - Need more volunteers for next year. Start early and look into online sign up.
    - Simplify wristband colors but keep the delegation on ML
    - Give vendors food wristband - to vote on next year
    - Look into tiered sponsorship
    - More activities for the littles.
    - Look into holding silent auction online
- 2025-2026 SAC Meetings to be hosted on zoom/teams as well. Ms. Lipp to look into getting a free webinar zoom licence through TDSB.
- Julia brought up the idea of a Beach Volleyball court for the school.

- First Lego League (STEM) team of 2-10 people (1500 K) rebates. Other possible STEM programs Cube school. Lego club. Extra Ed Lego.