

SAC Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2026 / 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Richelle Wheeler, Glenn Kremp, Alyssa Lioutas, Liana Saccoccia, Ashley O'Rourke, Kayla Nugent, Robynne McKinlay, Shannon Howanyk, Samantha Stermac, Cory Megitt, Lynsey K., Benn Brisland, Natalie DaSilva, Megan Evans

Virtual: J.J. McCarthy

Parent Representatives:

In person: Margaret Megitt, Jess Wood, Jaclyn Wynn-Williams, Ainsley Gibson, Mel Lauzon, Lisa Fisk, Madalena Morais, Saleema Osmani, Filip Stoj, Miko Schechter, Mark Bailey, Mary Colterman, Lucas Leech

Virtual:

Timothée Leblon, Ryan, Alyssa D'Angelo, Jennifer F., Amber, Lindsay Johnson, Hilary Hayes, Rachel, Mansoor, Beth Miller, Taylor Pleckaitis, Ayesha, Melissa, Kristi Subic

Teacher/Admin:

Dr. Angie Faraone, Sara Waznicki, Karen Secher

Regrets:

Vicky Xenikakis (VP)

AGENDA

6:30 Welcome and Introductions - Richelle Wheeler

Welcome: Richelle clarified the School Advisory Council's (SAC) role as an advisory body, not a town hall for grievances. The focus should be on collaborative, solution-oriented dialogue with the school administration to support shared goals like student achievement, wellness, and enrichment. Parents were directed to the school website for the official protocol for raising concerns and were told that council leaders can help guide them through the proper channels.

6:35 Meeting Minutes Review – Shannon Howanyk

Shannon, the outgoing Secretary, reviewed expenditures approved in June and have already been disbursed for this year's activities.

- Field trip buses — \$10,000
- Grade 8 graduation — \$2,500
- Kinder-Grad — \$500
- Grade 6 trip — \$3,000
- Jungle Sport — \$5,000
- Lego Startup — \$750

- Chef a l'École — \$2,000

6:40 How The Election Process Works - Richelle Wheeler

Richelle explained the election process and how it works.

6:45 Nominations For Voting Members – Dr. Angie Faraone

Angie managed the election logistics, including resolving the ballot error which resulted in the form allowing only a single “vote for one” error and reopened voting for an affected participant before closing the poll at 3 PM.

6:50 Election of New Voting Members and Executive Committee

The 2026-2027 Elected Voting Members are as follows:

- Lynsey
- Shannon
- Cory
- Benn
- Natalie
- Glenn
- J.J.
- Kayla
- Ashley
- Alyssa
- Samantha
- Richelle
- Megan
- Liana

The Executive Committee were voted in by the new voting members and were acclaimed

- Chair: Richelle
- Co-Chair: Glenn
- Secretary: Cory
- Treasurer: Natalie

7:00 Treasurer Update - Natalie

- Over \$105,000 raised last year.
- exact current bank balance pending due to CIBC outage.
- Initial ~ \$8,000 used for spirit wear replenishment, first-day of school coffee, and first pizza lunch.
- A request for a new popcorn machine was requested (\$300) as the existing one is broken.
- Voting members approved the purchase of a new popcorn machine.
- A formal SAC funding request for the new popcorn machine and reimbursement request, including cost and reason need to be submitted.
- Source costs and submit a request for a clothing rack for merch, if needed after assessing current inventory.

7:10 Chair Update - Richelle

Calendar: SAC meetings proposed for:

- November 18, 2026
- January 20, 2027
- March 24, 2027
- May 19, 2027
- June 23, 2027

SAC Calendar on the website has been updated to reflect these dates.

Fundraising/Events

Continuing:

- Kids Kitchen (Richelle)
- Lunch Pails (Richelle)
- Pizza Lunch (Robynne & Shannon)
- Holiday Market (Ashley)
- Purdy's Chocolates (Robynne)
- Movie Night & Volleyball Tournaments (Richelle & Glenn)
- Parent Social (Sarah)
- Spirit Wear (Ashley & Glenn)
- Read-a-thon (Lead is Needed)
- Holiday Hampers/Drives (Richelle with Kayla to lead clothing / food / toy drives)
- Halloween Costume Exchange (run by Samantha and Ashley to provide clothing racks)
- Fun Fair (likely led by Samantha but a new auction lead needed)
- Mabel's Labels (Cory – This is always running, even in the summer)
- Pedalheads (Cory – Expected in January '27 or February '27)
- Popcorn (SAC Assists The School)

New Initiatives for 2026-2027:

- Community Night (to be scoped)
- [Terracotta Cookie Fundraiser](#) (Robynne)

Not Continuing:

- Pumpkin Fest (due to timing and workload)

Additionally, we can do other fundraisers – if anyone has other ideas, please let Richelle know.

Walkathon:

A Grade 8 student presented about the Walkathon (**October 22, 2026**): Student-led and organized; a \$20 minimum pledge includes entry, snacks, and two raffle tickets. Proceeds support the Grades 7–8 Quebec trip and general school needs. Forms are due October 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Parent volunteers and prize donations are needed; some attendees offered prizes from their local businesses.

Volunteer recruitment: Launch the Parent Rep program with formal templates.

Open roles include:

- Grant Rep
- Community Rep
- SIP Committee
- Advocacy Rep

Additionally, the SAC will share via e-blast from the website:

- [General Volunteer Sign Up Form](#)

- [Pizza Lunch Sign Up Form](#) (VSC or AOD is mandatory to be on file with the school)
- [Information on how to acquire a VSC / AOD](#) and keep it on file with the school
- [Red Cross Certified student babysitter sign-up](#) (Babysitting is provided during SAC meetings)
- **Leadership transition:** Richelle and Glenn will retire from Council leadership at year-end; succession planning will begin.

7:20 Teacher Update – Karen Secher

Senior Soccer:

- Senior boys soccer (Grades 7–8) will use a tournament format; dates are yet to be determined.
- Senior girls soccer (Grades 7–8) will use a tournament format; dates are yet to be determined.

Cross Country:

- Wednesday, October 14 — Thompson Park; all students in Grades 1–8.
- Tuesday, October 20 — Thompson Park; all students in Grades 3–8.
- Monday, October 26 — City Finals at Sunnybrook Park; students in Grades 4–8 only.

Skate Day Equipment Drive: Set up a bin to collect skates and helmets of all sizes (no bike or ski helmets) for March skate day; begin collection in October.

7:30 Principal Update – Dr. A Faraone

Angie provided updates on staffing changes, including the introduction of new staff, and discussed the reorganization of classes due to enrollment exceeding ministry caps, particularly in kindergarten. The reorganization affected approximately 80 students across multiple grades, with most changes implemented within a tight timeline of a few days. Angie apologized for communication glitches during the process and noted that while the reorganization was necessary to meet ministry requirements, it caused disruption for both students and parents.

Angie discussed the challenges of student reorganization, explaining that while they had some students who registered in both the Catholic and public boards, they cannot count pre-registered students who are still on vacation. She described how they had to reorganize classes after receiving new students, including a new grade 8 student, but noted they cannot open new classes without proper staffing. The reorganization process happens very quickly, with decisions made by Tuesday night and implementation by Thursday, and while they try to minimize disruption by moving students with friends and ensuring supported students are moved during protected literacy and numeracy blocks, the process still causes difficulty for both students and staff.

Angie discussed challenges with opening the portable classroom for music classes, citing safety concerns about students needing to access the main building for bathrooms and other facilities, with video surveillance requested but delayed for three years. She addressed staffing changes, explaining that Ms. Mussel has moved to a kindergarten class while a half-time kindergarten position and a 3-4 French position are currently posted. The discussion concluded with concerns about maintaining stability for students, particularly regarding keeping Ms. Mussel in her current kindergarten class rather than having the students change teachers multiple times in a short period.

Angie announced that EQAO results showed improvement from 5% to 11% overall, with notable increases in math scores for grades 3 and 6, though grade 3 literacy scores declined slightly. She informed parents about upcoming required safety drills including fire drills and a lockdown simulation that will be conducted in the next several days. The school's popcorn program has generated 135 pre-orders worth approximately \$1,000 monthly, and playground is pending inspection. Regarding clubs, Angie explained that teacher-led activities would be scheduled during available 40-minute breaks, though the current striking situation may impact the availability of after-school programs this year.

7:45 Q & A

Snack Program – What is it's status?

Angie confirmed that the Snack Program is in a good position right now with financial donations and regular funding.

7:55 Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

- Requestor of popcorn machine (Kayla/Angie): Submit official funding request form for SAC records (due before next meeting).
- Natalie: Provide exact bank balance / budget sheet for next meeting (due 2026-11-18).
- Angie / Richelle / Karen Sacher: Equipment drive to Set up a bin to collect skates (all sizes; no bike/ski helmets) for March skate day—begin collection in some time in October.
- Cory: Post public SAC meeting dates on SAC website
- Angie: To work with board to reopen School Cash Online for popcorn sales; notify families; accept multi-week payments by email in interim and ensure student names recorded.