

**Attendees:**

School Officials: Beverly O'Brien (Principal), Carl Gambacort (VP), Kelli Helpert (VP), Janice Dobbie (Teacher), Antoine Newhouse (Teacher)

SAC Executive: Tanya Barrett, Bev Grondin, Rachel Schmidt, Chad Wiseman, Dan Torrence, Jenny Trivino, Colin Foster, Margie Akins, Lisa Casino

Lynda Rubinski, Laurie Barnett, Sara Tropea

**1.) Welcome and request for all other business : Bev Grondin or Tanya Barrett****2.) Approval of Minutes from last meeting: Colin Foster**

- Approved

**3.) Treasurer's Report: Rachel Schmidt**

- [NOTE: Some numbers were corrected after the meeting.]
- SAC Coffee and Movie Nights are on track to raise their projected funds of \$300 and \$4000, respectively.
- QSP (magazine subscriptions) was projected to raise \$2000 for the year but currently looks more like \$1000. It has raised ~\$300 so far.
- The Poinsettia fundraiser raised \$1000 of its projected \$1500.
- The Holiday Breakfast raised \$1617.63 of its projected \$3000.
- Pizza Lunch will earn more than last year since we have twice as many days. Est. ~\$8000.

**4.) on.netmaths.net: Antoine Newhouse**

- The TDSB has licensed use of this math website for all students.
- To access it, your child's teacher just needs to obtain the "activation code" for their class. (Codes are the same across the entire class, not individual.)
- The content on the site is intended for Grades 3-11, but anyone can use it.
  - There are fewer "problem solving" type questions but a lot of "knowledge" questions.
  - The service is available in both English and French.
- It contains a substantial lexicon of terms that can be easily referenced (e.g., "right angle" or "angle droit" brings up a page with a definition and diagram.)
- Q (Beverly O'Brien): Would a student be able to do the exercises on their own or do they need parent support?  
A: Kids should have no problem. ("Probably easier for them than the parents." ;-))
- **Addenda:**
  - The site requires Adobe Flash. There \*may\* be an iPad app that can connect to their site (so you can use it without Flash) but I haven't been able to confirm this yet.
  - More details will be posted at <http://www.dukesac.ca/tdsb-resources.html>.

**5.) Principals' Reports : Beverly O'Brien****Achievement:**

- The first term has officially ended. Report cards are currently being written.
  - Report cards will go home on the 14th with teacher interviews on the 15th. Not all parents need to do an interview with the teacher unless it would be useful for a specific reason.
  - Updated IEPs will also be sent out with report cards.
- The school continues to focus on improving student math skills. On January 29th staff will be looking at assessment tools from K-8 to make sure the school is using the most effective tools for tracking students' abilities.

**Athletics**

- "Super pumped" that we made to city finals for Volleyball and won! Banners have been put in in the Woodfield gym.

**5.) Principals' Reports : Beverly O'Brien (cont'd)****Staffing:**

- 2 teachers are on medical leave.
  - Mr. Fancy will return in May.
  - Mr. Darkhor will return at the end of February.
- One ECE has been replaced with a temporary ECE until the position can be filled full-time.

**Facilities:**

- Buzzer system is now in place between SH Armstrong and the school to prevent the connecting door from being opened without the alarm going off. If it does go off, the person at the SH Armstrong desk is tasked with investigating. There is a protocol in place to deal with this scenario but so far it has not been set off.
- The new swipe card system for the main doors is hopefully going to be installed at the beginning of February. It will allow staff to let themselves in in the morning. (Currently, the main office must be staffed starting at 7am to let teachers in.)
  - The cost of the swipe-card system is being covered by Caring & Safe Schools.
- The ground in front of the school is going to be excavated to repair issues related to water drainage. It's going to be a massive undertaking.
  - There is an upcoming pre-construction meeting to find out what needs to happen, when.
  - There are obvious concerns about student safety, in particular since the recent construction accident at another school. Student safety plan will be determined before construction starts.

**General:**

- Recommend parents make it out to the Ward 6 meeting at Adam Beck on Jan 29 if they can.
- Kindergarten registration will take place Feb 13-15th from 9:30-3:30, with the office staying open until 7pm on the 15th.
  - The SAC should put out information to new parents in the office on how they can "get connected."
- There has been very little feedback to the weekly updates (put out on Friday's by the school). It would be good to know if they are useful to parents, and if they feel it should contain other information.
  - Is it redundant to have both the weekly update and monthly newsletter?
  - The email is being sent out through "School Connects" (information you provided to the school when your child was registered).

**VP Kelli Helpert**

- Kelli is chairing a mental health survey put out to grades 4-8:
  - "Who do you see as a trusted adult?"
  - "Do you have a staff member you could go to for help."
- The Caring & Safe Schools meeting is cancelled tomorrow as there isn't much news to share.
  - The revised Dress Code seems to be finalized and will be shared shortly.
  - An audit of the washrooms (missing soap, TP, smell, etc.) was supposed to take place but the students who originally raised the issue aren't interested in pursuing it.
    - Bev Grondin & Colin Foster will participate in the audit. SAC to share this with the community in case there is more interest in joining the audit team.

**VP Carl Gambacort**

- Family Literacy Day: Invitation will go out to parents through classrooms.
- Eco-Schools audit is coming up on the 30th.
- The playground redesign committee will meet on Feb 23rd to look at draft design proposal.
  - Construction has been pushed back to 2019.
  - Details of the design to be finalized by the fall.
  - Pages from the presentation at the last SAC meeting will be posted in the glass case in the foyer.

**6) All Other Business:**

- The Hospital for Sick Children has two upcoming workshops. Flyers will be shared through Facebook and Need-to-Read newsletter.
  - Feb 13, 6-8pm: Helping your child cope with worries
  - Feb 22, 6-7:30pm: How to validate so your teen will talk

**Ward Rep: Dan Torrence**

- Equity Task Force report tabled to the board Dec 13, 2017. An update should be coming the week of Jan 28, 2018.
- Community building ideas from other schools:
  - Earl Beatty: created a community blog
  - Selwin had a maker space with older kids working with younger kids.
  - Council meetings could be held during the day once per month.
    - Q (VP Kelli Helpert): Was there an increase in attendance?  
A: Not sure. Will reach out.
    - A (Laurie Barnett): It's not a larger or smaller group, but it's different community members.
- The issue of the removal SRO program (police officers in schools) was a divisive issue with some people feeling it shouldn't have ended. The representatives who spoke in favour of its removal suggests that while the program was appreciated by some, there are a significant number of people in various communities within the school system who do not have a positive relationship with the police. It was the Trustees position that if it isn't a positive experience for all kids, it didn't belong in the schools.

**Parent Social: Chad Wiseman**

- Meetings have been held but more time is needed to refresh the event into something new. March 3rd is too close with the number of people they currently have.
- More help is needed on the committee, particularly in terms of managing finances.
- We'd like to push the event back to April 7th and move the venue to the Redwood (old Gravity Circus building).
  - Q. (VP Kelli Helpert): April 7th is the last day of Passover. Can another date be chosen.  
A. Yes, we'll work on a more suitable date.
- Most of the planning has been done but now need help executing the plan, especially on fundraising.

**New Chester Elementary Medical Clinic: Andrew Ssawe**

- The South Riverdale Community Health Centre (SRCHC) was started in 1976 to address health problems called out by community.
  - At the time, the area was much more industrial and there was a lot of environmental pollution (lead, etc.)
- The Chester clinic was opened to because of a need the community expressed for better healthcare coverage for children in the area. Many people were facing barriers to accessing care and didn't have a regular care provider. (They had to use walk in clinics only.)
- The clinic is finally open, but it is significantly under-used by the public (which is why he came this evening — to let people know it's there).
  - There is some concern if it is not used, it will be closed (and be very hard to get funding to re-open).
  - The clinic has 2 general family practitioners and a child psychiatrist is available as needed.
  - The clinic is currently only open Thursdays but if the community needs more, that could change in the future.
    - Booking is done through the SRCHC by phoning 416-461-2493 and requesting an appointment at Chester. If you need an appointment on another day, they can see you at the SRCHC.
- Q. Do you need a referral from the school to go to the clinic?  
A. No, just say which school your child attends when you are booking.
- **Addendum:** There is a new "healthcare" web page at: <http://dukesac.ca/healthcare.html>

**Minutes by co-secretary: Colin Foster**