

## West Prep School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2023

**Present:** Anthony Levy (Principal) and Rose Bozza (West Prep Children's Centre), Ms. Lio, and Ms. Gershater

### **2023-2024 SAC Executive Committee:**

Co-chairs – Sonia Leith and Lindsay Stubbs

Treasurers – Leanne Botting and Lauren Davis Landau

Communications – Sarah Chris, Zoey Fiksel, Annemieke Wade

Ward Rep – Naomi Kramer

Secretary – Alisha Kurji

Parent Engagement Coordinators – Jill Shushter and Karen Wharton

### **Additional Volunteers:**

Lunch and After 4 Program Coordinators – Laura Slavens, Shalini Mukherjee

Pizza Lunch Coordinators – Laura Slavens and Shauna Pellman

Pizza Coordinator Assistant – Ali Kates

Bingo Night Coordinators – Marla Francoz and Linda Dorado

Dance-a-thon - Shauna Pellman and Marlie Cohen

Event Coordination - Jenna Brodlieb

Members at Large - Jessy Ungerman

Grade Six Representatives - Stephanie Haghani and Elana Kochman

Wine and Cheese Night Coordinator – Marla Francoz Linda Dorado and Natalie Nayot

## **MINUTES OVERVIEW**

1. SAC Business
  - a. Events/Initiatives
  - b. Volunteer Opportunities
  - c. Finance Update
2. Principal Update
3. Teacher Update
4. Parent Q&A for SAC
5. Parent Q&A for Principal/Teacher

### **1. SAC Business**

#### **a. SAC Events/Initiatives**

##### **i. Lice Check**

The school had a successful and needed lice check inspection on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Several cases were identified. The company that was used was Nitwits, which coordinated the lice check efficiently and discreetly. They can come back again to ensure that the identified cases are now resolved. Another routine lice check will be done in January.

##### **ii. Pizza Day**

The deadline to get the order in for the fall term is **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Remember there are options to order just milk or chocolate milk even if your kids are not

keen on pizza. Parents can decide to choose to have Pizza Lunch only on certain dates, but they do have to complete the full fall order by the deadline.

iii. After Four and Lunchtime Programs

A draft schedule will be coming out in the next few weeks which looks similar to what has been done before. Examples of programs that are being researched include: explorers' workshop, magicians club for grades 1-3, chess club, drama with Roseneath Theatre, Stuffed Minis, musical theatre, amongst others. **Please ensure children are picked up on time.** The cost for most programs will be around \$190 for 8 weeks. Financial assistance is available.

**If your children have done any extracurricular programs that you would like to bring to the school, please contact Shalini Mukherjee.** Note that the program must be insured to run at the school.

iv. Bingo Night

This large community fundraiser event is for all grades, parents, and staff, and will be hosted in the gymnasium, with a tentative date of November 16. There will be a bake sale, merchandise, and donated prizes to benefit SAC fund.

**Prize donations are graciously accepted.**

v. Wine and Cheese Night

This parent social will take place in the school's library or offsite. Date TBA.

vi. Dance-a-thon

This is a fun DJed event where kids get sponsors, and they have a friendly dance competition in the gymnasium by grade.

vii. Fun Fair

The fun fair will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mark your Calendars now for volunteer availability.

viii. Silent Auction

The silent auction has historically been held at the Fun Fair. It has been proposed to move this to an online platform to raise more funds by having a wider offering and audience. It was proposed to offer a hybrid option with some prizes available at the Fun Fair or Wine and Cheese Night but this will depend on the date of the Silent Auction which is still TBD. It was also proposed to have a Ten Night Auction with a different feature each night.

ix. Skating Night

Free family outdoor Skating Night will tentatively be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

x. Social Media and Internet Safety Talk

Guest speaker Paul Davis will deliver a talk to students and parents about social media and internet safety on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

xi. Book Fair

The book fair is being planned for February 27-29

xii. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>; West Prep will mark the day on September 29<sup>th</sup> to honour the truth of residential school survivors, their families, and communities.

All are encouraged to wear orange shirts. SAC has a limited number of shirts in child and adult sizes available for purchase at the office for \$30 each. The shirts have been sourced from an Indigenous group in Saskatchewan and all proceeds go towards Truth and Reconciliation nationwide initiatives.

xiii. Skate Drive

An ice-skating drive will be held in the next 2-3 weeks; skate donations are encouraged!

**b. Volunteer Opportunities**

- i. SAC appreciates the involvement and support of parents at the school.
- ii. Starting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, parents can help with Pizza Lunch. Meet at door #5 in the multipurpose room. Parents can personally deliver pizza to kindergarten classes. Parents can come volunteer whenever they are available on Wednesdays between 11:20-11:45 am for primary/junior and 11:10 for Kindergarten.
- iii. A Vulnerable Sector Screen is required for parents to attend field trips, and to conduct book readings where there is sometimes 1:1 interaction with students. It is not necessary for volunteering for Pizza Lunch since staff will also be present. Please refer to the email Anthony Levy sent out on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- iv. Below is a list of volunteer positions:
  1. {Open} Danceathon Volunteers
  2. {Open} Bingo Night Volunteers
  3. {Open} Fun Fair Volunteers
  4. {Open} Silent Auction Committee members needed to secure donations from local businesses for the school (examples include sports programs, children's programs, art classes, fitness classes, restaurants, photo sessions, gardening services etc.)
  5. {Open} Snack Program: looking for someone to come in before or after school on certain days of the week to prepare snack bins. Each class will have its own bin.
  6. New this year is addition of Grade 6 Representatives to oversee graduation fundraising and celebrations.

**c. Finance Update**

SAC has \$59,000 in the bank plus \$38,000 in outstanding cheques. The 2023-2024 budget is \$27,000. Below is a breakdown of allocations:

Arts	\$10,000
Fitness and Sports	\$5,000
STEM	\$5,000
Maker Space (in library)	\$2,000
Primary Field Trips	\$5,000 *includes Scientists in the School
Classroom Supplies	\$300 per teacher

## 2. Principal Update

- i. Anthony apologized for lags in communication at the start of the school year and explained they had technical issues transitioning to Powerschool. Now everything is working smoothly. All grades (K-grade 12) are now on Powerschool. **Parents: Please ensure the school has correct and updated information for your kids (emails, phone numbers, medical information including allergies).** It is important to be in the system in case there is an emergency since all communication goes through Powerschool.
- ii. **Lunch Mom**

This is a cafeteria-style lunch option. Lunch will be served outside the multipurpose room for Grades 1-6, where the kids will pick up their plates and get served fresh vegetables, fruits, and an entrée. Kindergarten classes will get their lunches delivered in Tupperware to their classroom. Kids can have as much food as they would like. Trial will start once Pizza Lunch is well established, sometime in October or November. Dates still need to be finalized, but they are planning for two days a week, either Monday and Thursday or Monday and Friday. Lunches will be \$8. For those requiring financial assistance, please speak to the office. West Prep does not profit from this program.
- iii. The school is working on adding content to their main website such as important school events (field trips, PA days, cross country team practices, curriculum night), FAQs and parking information. <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/westprep/>
- iv. **If you have not completed the Permission Click form, then please kindly contact the office.**
- v. Picture Day will tentatively be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.
- vi. The Terry Fox run will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> between 9:30-10:30AM. Grades 1-6 will run along the beltline and complete laps, and parents can cheer from the sidelines, or run alongside the children. Kindergarten students will stay in the yard. **Parents are encouraged to send a toonie with your kids for the Toonies for Terry initiative.**
- vii. **Halloween Parade** - Parents are invited to watch the parade. Typically, it is at 1pm in school. Details to follow.
- viii. Anthony listened to complaints from parents last year about phone lines not being answered on a timely basis and has made an effort to address this issue. There is now an Office Assistant to help answer calls. In case you cannot get through on the phone, please email Rosa or Anthony.
- ix. Anthony also highlighted the importance of dropping children off on time to alleviate office congestion in the mornings, and to facilitate a smoother start to the school day.
- x. If you know you will be away on certain dates, please inform your teacher directly.
- xi. West Prep parent community is on Facebook; search "West Preparatory Parent Group".
- xii. The snack program is going to start again as the grant was approved. Children can get healthy snacks on two to three days of the week.
- xiii. Assemblies will resume.
- xiv. Reorganization may affect children in grade 4-6. Curriculum night for grade 4-6 may be postponed until reorganization is complete and classes have settled. Curriculum night for grade K-3 will remain on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- xv. The school is allowed to mix classes again (this was restricted during the pandemic).
- xvi. Sports are coming back this year. Mr. Appel is putting together soccer for grade 4-6 and is trying to get 5-6 teams ready for this season. The convener will let us know what leagues are happening.

- xvii. Teachers have begun to book field trips. Buses are hard to book, so teachers are encouraged to look for trips along the subway line (some suggestions were ROM, AGO, Black Creek Pioneer Village). Parents can reach out to the teachers and can discuss field trips at curriculum night.
  - xviii. Ski Trip for Grades 4-6 at Mount St. Louis
  - xix. Toronto Symphony Orchestra Trip for Grade 1-3
- xx. Music itinerant for grade 5-6 for string and band instruments
- xxi. Cross Country meet will be held on October 5th at Earl Bales.

### 3. Teacher Update

- i. Teachers would like a new program/teachers guide that they can follow in the classrooms. The cost is \$110 per book and each primary-grade teacher would require their own copy.
- ii. One grade 2 teacher has put together a comic book club.

### 4. Parent Q&A for SAC

- I. SAC wants to reintroduce yard music in the mornings to create a positive mood in the mornings and encourage children to arrive on time. Anthony will work on this and may need to tweak the indoor and outdoor speakers.
- II. If there are programs that you are aware of at other schools that you believe would be useful at West Prep, please bring these ideas forward to SAC.

### 5. Parent Q&A for Principal/Teacher

- i. School will introduce student council where each class will have one to two representatives. Anthony will host an assembly to go over this initiative with the students. Some classes may choose to elect their representatives, and others may choose to rotate their representatives. Student council will pick spirit days, have a student voice and be around like-minded peers.
- ii. If your child has had a fever or has vomited in the last 24 hours, then please keep your child at home.
- iii. There are typically three fire drills each term, and a lockdown drill, to practice what to do in case of an emergency. Anthony will ensure all classrooms have blinds as a safety measure. The school adequately prepared the children in advance and watched a safety video about practice drills.
- iv. Anthony and Rosa have an open-door policy to their office. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please email Rosa or Anthony. If you have concerns about your teacher, the recommendation would be to first speak directly with your teacher.
- v. The issue of road safety came up at the meeting. Cars continue to park illegally to pick up and drop off children, causing a safety concern as children run across the road. The school has been in touch with the police and parking services. Pylons may be placed to prevent improper parking, and the school may decide to have staff on watch. The school is also working on getting signage up on Old Park. Speed cameras have already been installed on Ridge Hill.
- vi. There was concern about still having supply ECEs although we are now in week three of school. The school understood the concerns raised and said they must wait from direction from TDSB/CUPE union for them to be officially placed.
- vii. Fire trucks come out to school for primary grades. Previously, the kids would walk along the beltline and tour the Fire Station.

**The next SAC meeting will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact Us 😊**

**Email:** [westpreparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:westpreparentcouncil@gmail.com)

**X (Twitter):** [https://twitter.com/Tdsb\\_WestPrep](https://twitter.com/Tdsb_WestPrep)

**Instagram:** @WestPrepPS

**Website:** <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/westprep>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westpreparentsgroup/>

**Hashtag:** #WestPrep