

West Prep School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: November 28, 2023

Present: Anthony Levy (Principal), Rose Bozza (West Prep Children's Centre), Mrs. Penny Sherman

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 Shuster 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

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

Playground Subcommittee – Zoey Fiksel

Spirit Wear Procurement – Sarah Chris

Kernal Days – Jackie Ruderman

1. Opening Remarks

- a. The playground inspection report revealed several deficiencies that render the playground unsafe. Jeff Elliott, a third-party inspector who has inspected many other TDSB schools, recommended that the playground be replaced entirely. Some of the report highlights include failed absorbency, cracked tunnels, unstable climbing structure, broken teeter-totter, and benches with holes that can easily catch little fingers. All wood materials pose a risk of splinters. Parents/guardians can write to their counselor to urge the city and TDSB to replace the playground. The process of getting a new playground could take 4-5 years.
- b. The school has processed several quick-to-fix work orders for the playground structures. However, the playground will still need to be replaced in full to prevent injuries.
- c. Zoey Fiksel will be leading the playground initiative subcommittee. The school needs to raise funds for this project.
- d. Rosa will apply for the health and safety grant to help fund the playground replacement project.
- e. Basketball net replacement has been ordered. Waiting for technician to bolt it on.

2. SAC Updates

a. Recap of Past Events / Initiatives

- i. Skate drive is ongoing. Please bring any used or new ice skates and helmets. The box will be located near the main office.
- ii. Roseneath Theatre performed The Money Tree in November.
- iii. BINGO night was a success.
 1. Wins:
 - a. Having two entrances was easier for card management.
 - b. Admission was free.
 - c. Having more tables worked well. The tables were still full.
 2. Considerations for Next Year:
 - a. Sell packages of three card sheets instead of six card sheets to make it easier for kids to use.
 - b. Pizza order quantity was based on last year's numbers, adjusted to order 5-10 pizzas fewer than last year. There was still extra pizza left over, but it sold out by the end of the night when it was put on sale.

b. Upcoming Events

- i. West Prep has been approved for a grant to bring renowned speaker Ulrica Jobe to present a talk in late January or early February. The talk will focus on building connected relationships and strategies for emotional regulation that are applicable for parents of kids of all ages. More details to follow.
- ii. Paul Davis will be presenting at West Prep **April 3, 2023** to grades 4 – 6 on Internet safety and an accompanying presentation to parent community in the evening. His presentation has been well received in other schools in our area.
- iii. Skate Night will be held on **December 15th**, weather permitting, at Glen Long Arena. Rain check date is **January 12th**. Hot chocolate will be available for purchase at Skate Night.
- iv. The grade six students will be selling hot chocolate after school this term, and will sell freezies in the spring, to raise funds for the grade six graduation. Grade six students are encouraged to serve and staff the table.
- v. DJ has been booked for the Danceathon in February.
- vi. Wine and Cheese event will most likely be held in the school's library sometime in January/February. Looking for volunteers to help with this event. A temporary liquor license needs to be obtained. Ideally this event would be combined with the approved speaker Ulrica Jobe.
- vii. SAC will order more spirit wear, particularly hats (both toques and baseball hats) and hoodies.

- viii. Fun Fair will be held on **June 13th**.
1. Planning will commence soon since it is a large undertaking. Having smaller sub committees worked well last year.
 2. **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS** 😊
 - a. Rides Subcommittee – SAC is looking for one more person to help with organizing rides for the Fun Fair. Work includes site planning and organizing ticket sales. Most work can be completed from home. Individual will be expected to attend on the day of the Fun Fair. Zoey and Lindsay are also on this subcommittee. Please email westprepparentcouncil@gmail.com to get involved!
 - b. Volunteer Subcommittee – SAC is looking for one more person to join the volunteer subcommittee. Jill is also on this subcommittee. Please email westprepparentcouncil@gmail.com to get involved!
 - c. Fundraising/Auction Subcommittee – several volunteers are needed to help SAC reach out to local businesses to raise donations for the silent auction. Please email Karen at kwharton@rogers.com.
 - d. Graphic Designer – or someone who would like to design the banners. Please contact SAC at westprepparentcouncil@gmail.com if you would like to help out in this capacity.
 3. Karen drafted letters for sponsorships and donations to be reviewed and finalized.
 4. The silent auction will happen in advance of the Fun Fair, with a few select items highlighted every day that the auction runs.
 5. A mini auction will still be held at the Fun Fair for items such as principal for a day, gift donations, etc.
 6. Food subcommittee includes Sarah and Jenna.
- ix. SAC is working on lunch time and after school programming for the January to March term. Contact Laura and Shalini with any lunch time or after school program you would like to see at West Prep. Ideas that were mentioned at the meeting include: basketball, dance, drama, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, martial arts (Bumba), 4 Cats Art Studio, yoga.
- x. Kernel Days – SAC will be launching a new school fundraiser. Prepackaged kernel bags or large bags of fill-your-own popcorn will be sold. It will be coordinated with pizza days, and likely launch before winter break. Jackie will be spearheading this initiative.

c. Volunteer Opportunities 😊

i. Extra-curricular Champions needed!

1. Parents/guardians are encouraged to volunteer for extracurricular activities. Parents/guardians can run clubs with a teacher representative. Examples of possible clubs include robotics, soccer, music, board games, chess, gardening, arts and crafts, eco club, student council, mindfulness and creative writing, comic book club, cartooning etc. Police check and clearance would be required.

3. Finance Update

- a. BINGO night was a great success. Made \$5,232 in sales and \$3,550 in profit. BINGO night had made \$1,000 more in sales last year, but that was largely attributed to the sale of spirit wear.
- b. Fundraising, mabel label and fundscrip earned \$3275. We use Fundscrip to buy gift cards for pizza – SAC gets 10% cashback from purchase of Pizza Pizza gift cards
- c. Currently have \$34,700 after BINGO night
- d. Categories to be funded include arts, fitness and sports, maker space, technology, field trips which are earmarked.
- e. Funds have already been ear marked for the following items:
 - i. Teacher allocation
 - ii. Lice check
 - iii. Playground improvements
 - iv. Approximately \$10k is allocated for arts

4. Principal Update

- a. There have been problems with the building's HVAC system. Boiler needs repair or replacement.
- b. There have been numerous complaints about dogs in the yard. **Reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school's property.** They can be kept on the fence on the outside perimeter of the property line.
- c. TDSB replaced the flagpole at the front of the school. The school can consider revitalizing the old flagpole base for a plaque or other, once the weather warms up again.
- d. We have fewer kids in the parking lot now. Parents/guardians are urged to continue to follow proper drop off protocols.
- e. The school has excellent police presence, and they drive by three to four times per week. Police are also tracking traffic.
- f. Teachers are going to ratify the union contract. There will be no strike.
- g. Ski Day for grades 4 – 6 has been confirmed for **January 25th**. Permission forms will be sent out.
- h. Holiday sing along event for the kids will be held on **December 21st**.
- i. Last day of school before winter break is **December 22nd**.

- j. Snack program will be starting with a soft launch in December. Nut-free school-safe snacks will be provided two to three times per week and will be delivered to the classrooms.
 - k. West Prep has done well with sports, particularly basketball and hockey.
 - l. Mr. Levy has been working with head of music department regarding itinerant teachers on grade 5/6 music.
 - m. Introducing Birthday Books in January. Parents/guardians have the option to donate a book or \$20 to the school. The kids can pick out a book of their choosing from a bin and place a sticker on the inside jacket with their name. The child gets to check the book out first. The teacher could also read the selected book out to the class.
 - n. **Call for Applications** 😊
 - i. West Prep needs more lunchroom supervisors. This is a paid position. Employee will get a TDSB employee # and a T4 for 75 minutes of work from Monday-Friday during lunch time. Please submit your resume, along with references to Mr. Levy.
5. Teacher Update
- a. Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Raken have organized a toy mountain drive. Please drop off new and unwrapped gifts and gift cards to either room 214 or room 213 from **November 20th to December 15th**.
 - b. Teachers have been involved in extra curricular enrichment such as comic book club.
6. Parent Q&A for SAC
- a. Consider hosting a marketplace event as a fundraiser.
7. Parent Q&A for Principal / Teacher
- a. Consider introducing a Readathon and give prizes to the kids that read the most.
 - b. Hot lunches are going well – parents/guardians can still sign up for Lunch Mom, the cafeteria-style lunch program.

Our next meeting be held on February 6th, 2024.

Contact Us 😊

Email: westprepparentcouncil@gmail.com

X (Twitter): https://twitter.com/Tdsb_WestPrep

Instagram: [@WestPrepPS](https://www.instagram.com/WestPrepPS)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westprepparentsgroup/>

Hashtag: [#WestPrep](https://www.instagram.com/WestPrep)