

**West Prep School Advisory Council**  
Meeting Minutes: May 7, 2024

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

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

1. Opening Remarks

- a. Mr. Levy emphasized that the most effective approach for handling class allotments for the upcoming academic year is to directly communicate with your children's teacher.
- b. Factors considered by Mr. Levy when balancing classes include academics, gender, and behavior. Mr. Levy will make decisions in collaboration with teachers.
- c. Teacher assignments are tentative at this stage, and Mr. Levy avoids providing specific teacher names, due to potential changes in teacher assignments and class divisions.

2. Principal's Update

- a. Mr. Levy indicated that the student count has reached a relatively stable point. The projected enrollment for the school stands at 530 students, while the current actual enrollment is 520. It is important to note that there are natural fluctuations throughout the academic year due to students joining or leaving the school.
- b. There are plans to have three split grade classrooms in the next academic year, including the ministry mandated grade 3/4 split class.
- c. The current enrollment numbers for kindergarten are looking healthy. There are already sixty kindergarten students approved. Additionally, there are fifteen more kindergarten students registrations pending.
- d. For one of the kindergarten classes, there is currently a half-class without an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) on the roster for the next academic year. However, if enrollment numbers increase, the option to add an ECE remains open.
- e. The report cards in June may only indicate the classroom number, instead of both the classroom number and teacher's name if a teacher assignment is TBD.
- f. Ms. Larter will be retiring. Her contributions to our school community have been invaluable, and we extend our warmest wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.
- g. Allotment adjustments:
  - i. STEM Allotment:
    1. Unfortunately, we have lost 0.5 STEM allocation for the upcoming year.
  - ii. Budget Considerations:
    1. TDSB is actively working to balance the budget.
    2. As part of cost-saving measures, some programs are being cut.
  - iii. Special Education (SpEd) Staffing:
    1. We have experienced a reduction of 0.5 in Special Education staffing.

2. Currently, we have 1.5 SpEd positions, down from the previous 2.0.
  3. Historically, TDSB had a special ed program whereby students would complete math and language out of the classroom for half the day, and then reintegrate back into their classrooms for art and gym. This program has been closed across TDSB. Instead, support is meant to be given within the classroom.
  - iv. Library Allotment:
    1. Fortunately, we have received an additional 0.5 allocation for the library.
  - v. ESL Support:
    1. ESL support has increased from 1.0 to 1.5.
  - h. The most pressing challenge we currently face is staff shortages. Over the past six weeks, the school has consistently been short of three to five teachers daily. Today alone, we were short by four teachers. Unfortunately, our supply teacher pool is limited, and even Ms. Stein, a retired regular supply teacher, and others have a cap on the number of teaching days she can cover.
  - i. Track and Field
    - i. Ms. Sherman ran two great Track and Field practices.
    - ii. Mr. Appel started practice today at recess. All practices will be held at either recess or lunch.
    - iii. May 16: Tentative all-day track and field meet at Esther Shiner Civic Stadium.
  - j. The kindergarten concert will be held next week on May 16th at 2:15.
  - k. The Primary and Junior concert will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in the evening.
  - l. Grade six graduation will be held June 21st, with a party, lunch, and ceremony (ceremony to include parents this year).
  - m. The board will inspect the playground and will assess which pieces to prioritize.
  - n. Police presence: police cars are now stationed during pick-up and drop-off times to help control traffic.
  - o. Pillars are rotting at the front of the building and need replacement.
  - p. Library Closure:
    - i. Starting mid-June, the library will be closed due to roof repairs. The project is expected to last for eight weeks. During this time, the books will be moved and stored in boxes in the hallway.
    - ii. Daycare Rooms: Rooms 113 and 116 will be used for daycare during the summer.
    - iii. Kindergarten Graduation: The multipurpose room will host kindergarten graduation ceremonies or classrooms.
    - iv. Lunch programs are not viable due to library closure.
  - q. The Toronto District School Board is planning to restructure pathways for all schools. Currently, Forest Hill Public School (grades 7 and 8) and Forest Hill Collegiate Institute are part of the same family of schools. Meanwhile, West Preparatory Junior Public School belongs to a different family, distinct from Forest Hill and that is going to change going forward so that WP will be in the same family. Although details have not been officially announced, it's important to note that pathways for gifted programs will also be affected by changed pathways. Stay tuned for further updates in September.
3. SAC Business
- a. SAC balance is \$28,500.
  - b. Book fair was a success!
    - i. Brought in \$6,422 in revenue over three days, similar to last year.

- ii. Received \$7,268 redemption dollars with Scholastic. The amount cannot be applied to readers and will be given to the teachers for their classroom orders.
- c. Lice check was successful. SAC will book this again in the future.
- d. Grade six trip
  - i. Happened earlier in the year.
  - ii. The grade six students were able to pre-order their spirit wear sweatshirts ahead of the field trip which enhanced spirit and camaraderie.
- e. New Spirit Wear Orders
  - i. A new sweatshirt order has been placed and should be available for purchase in time for the Fun Fair.
  - ii. Sun hats were also ordered and will also be available for purchase.
- f. After School and Lunchtime Activities Programs – After 4
  - i. Due to space restrictions and a busy schedule in May and June, our after-school and lunchtime activities are currently limited.
  - ii. Some feedback on programs was provided with dissatisfaction with certain providers and will review prior to engaging next year.
- g. Paul Davis was an excellent speaker, and illuminated parents, teachers and students on social media, internet safety and phones. SAC plans to rebook him again in two years' time.
- h. Silent Auction
  - i. We are thrilled to announce that our silent auction is off to a remarkable start, having raised over \$8,000 thus far.
  - ii. This achievement is a testament to the collective teamwork that has gone into organizing this event.
  - iii. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers who have contributed to its success.
  - iv. Please note that the auction will conclude promptly at 9:00 PM on May 9. However, for items that are still actively receiving bids, bidding may continue beyond this time.
  - v. **Spread the Word:** Share information about our silent auction with your network. Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to participate and contribute.
- i. Upcoming SAC Events and Initiatives
  - i. Fun Fair
    1. Fun Fair will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
    2. This is an incredible event that brings the whole community together.
    3. The cost of the rides is over \$20,000. Unfortunately, ticket sales alone cannot cover this expense. To bridge the gap, we rely on the revenue generated from food sales. Additionally, last year, we reached out to sponsors for support.
    4. **Call for Support:** If you are passionate about community engagement and want to be part of the fun, please reach out to us. Whether it is a monetary donation, in-kind support, or volunteering your services, every contribution counts.
      - a. We need 120 volunteers.
      - b. Shifts include:
        - i. Day Volunteers (12 – 3 pm)
        - ii. Set Up Volunteers (3 - 5 pm)

- iii. Ride Volunteers (4:45 – 6:30 pm)
      - iv. Ride Volunteers (6:15 – 8 pm)
      - v. Clean Up Volunteers (8 – 9 pm)
    - c. High school students can get volunteers hours. SAC will sign sheets.
    - d. Kindly consider contributing to Fun Fair’s bake sale. Whether it is a homemade treat or store-bought, any contribution is greatly appreciated. Please ensure that the items are nut-free and individually wrapped.
  - 5. **Call for Sponsors:** If you know a business who would like to display their brand to our vibrant community, then please let SAC know, and we can send them our sponsorship letter.
  - 6. Due to the source of funds coming from the School Advisory Council (SAC) rather than the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), tax receipts cannot be issued for donations made towards the Fun Fair. However, we want to emphasize that individuals can still make separate donations earmarked for specific items, such as art programs or STEM initiatives.
- ii. **June 21, 2024: Grade Six Graduation**
  - 1. Grade six students have successfully raised funds for their graduation through the hot chocolate sales. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who supported our students during this initiative.
  - 2. **We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of “Freezie Fridays”! Our grade six students have organized this initiative, and we invite everyone to participate. Come out and enjoy a refreshing freezie while supporting our students. Each freezie will be available for two dollars.**
  - 3. Volunteers required for Freezie sales
    - a. Parents of grade six students as well as the students themselves are responsible for purchasing freezies and running the sale.
4. Teacher Update
  - a. Track and Field Sports Team: Scheduled for May.
  - b. Ultimate Frisbee: Planned for June.

### Contact Us 😊

**Email:** [westprepparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:westprepparentcouncil@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/westprepparentsgroup/>  
**Hashtag:** #WestPrep