

Earl Haig P.S. School Advisory Council

Town Hall Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

ATTENDEES

*IP indicated in-person attendance, OL indicated online attendance

Name	Role	In Attendance
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Danielle Rombough	Co-Chair	IP
Tanya Mustachi	Co-Chair	IP
Madelaine Hamilton	Treasurer	IP
Daniel Segal	Treasurer	OL
Cleo Buster	Secretary	N
Polly Vandenberg	Secretary	IP
Robyn Vanpee	Fundraising Lead	N
Zoe Lamothe	Fundraising Lead/ Communications Lead	OL
Heather Cockburn	Ward 16 Council Rep	OL
Kelly Antoine	Communications Lead	N
Pilar Hernandez	Nutrition Coordinator	IP
VOTING MEMBERS		
Jennifer Scott	Member-at-large	N
Lucy Saunders	Member-at-large	N
Evelyn Paraschos	Member-at-large	OL
Shannon Butcher	Member-at-large	IP
Charlotte Chevallier	Member-at-large	IP
Barbara Bower	Member-at-large	N
Derwin Remedios	Member-at-large	N
Angeles Reyes Corona	Member-at-large	OL
SCHOOL STAFF		
Aileen Burke-Tsakmakas	Principal	IP
Jennifer McColl	Vice Principal	N

Rob Taylor	POR Wellness	N
Lydia Bracht	POR Equity	OL
Kelly Ritsakis	POR Achievement	IP
Agapi Zegas		N
Zainab G. Abbas		N
SCHOOL COMMUNITY		
Flynn Paquin		IP
Breanne Gimza		IP
COMMUNITY MEMBERS		
N/A		

11 Attendees in person

5 Attendees on Zoom

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome remarks and Land Acknowledgement (Danielle Rombough)

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples.

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés, de la Confédération Haudenosaunee et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit.

Welcome to those online and in-person. Online attendees were muted and were requested to put all questions and votes in the chat. It was noted that all votes are for SAC voting members only, and all quorum must be reached for a successful vote.

Delayed vote to approve the meeting minutes: the minutes will be posted for the January meeting and this meeting before the March meeting. There were no votes in the January planning meeting.

1. School Update

1.1. Eleni Burke-Tsakmakas (Principal)

- The portables are ready to go. They're waiting to pass the final inspection. There were some updates and repairs that had to happen, but they're up and running now and teachers will be moving in on the PA day on Friday. We will have our basement music room and our library back as full-use spaces, no longer sharing with classes. All six will be used (the four new ones will house Ms Whaley, Ms Abbas, Mr Speedy, Miss Alexa Resource teacher/ Music).

- Report cards go home February 14. Teachers will reach out if they want to have interviews with parents. Parents who desire an interview can contact their child's teacher.
- IEP updates will have gone out from your child's teacher. Please don't hesitate to reach out with recommendations or questions for the IEPs. Please note that they go out electronically from a general TDSB mailbox; if you prefer a paper copy, reach out to the classroom teacher.
- The Grade 8 Grad trip is next week. Thank you to Ms Bracht and other teachers for organizing fundraisers for this. Students are very excited.
- Reminder that parents must notify the school with permission to leave for lunch, don't just text your child directly. An adult at the school must be notified.
- For forward planning: projected enrolment for next year is expected to be down 17 pupils from this year (relatively steady). This is the first part of the planning for classes next year and will help us look at what staffing will look like next year. Class allocations will be made according to enrolment but are subject to change for last-minute withdrawals and enrolments over the spring and summer.
- Parents are requested to please read the newsletter. The office gets a lot of emails about items that are addressed in these emails.
- The gym has been painted and the mats have been ordered. Thank you to the SAC for their fundraising. The mats should be delivered in the next month or so. This will allow us to comply with safety guidelines and host.

1.2. Kelly Ritsakis (POR Achievement)

- Teachers have worked hard on the IEPs and these are living documents, so parents are welcome to reach out to the teacher if anything needs to be added or changed.
- Our guidance team, grade 8 team, and resource team have been working on the grade 8-9 transitions and getting students ready for course selections.
- Several staff went to a math workshop in the fall, and there was PD on this recently. It is promoting love for math in a non-traditional way. This allows students to think creativity and take risks in math. There is an opportunity for more staff to attend in the spring.
- Last 2 staff meetings have been discussions of what's going on in the classrooms and where the teams (primary, junior, intermediate) want to go

1.3. Lydia Bracht (POR Equity/ Library, read by Danielle Rombough)

- Forest of Reading has started.
- Staff equity meetings are happening monthly.
- Author from last year will come back in the spring, and they are hoping that SAC will be able to fund her visit again this year

2. Community questions

2.1. What are the improvements for the field remediation (the track area)

- We are on the list to have a turf field installed in 2026 (this may include the pavement track, but Eleni will check to confirm).
- There will be re-seeding in the summer.

- Today, there was maintenance on the field to keep it from turning too dusty or muddy
 - The pavement continues to be repaired constantly in the problem areas
- 2.2. When the re-seeding and landscaping happens in the summer, will the irrigation be fixed?
 - Yes, this is planned
- 2.3. Did the ukulele club come back?
 - There is now space with the portables in use.
 - The U School is in contact with Mr Bailey and Ms Whaley
- 2.4. Why is the new playground (wood structures on the south-west playground) flooding?
 - This is an ongoing problem with the irrigation, and needs regular maintenance, which currently includes new woodchips.
- 2.5. Are the grades still split for recess? Does that mean that the older grades never get to use the playground equipment?
 - There's a schedule that teachers use to sign up for the playground .
 - Primary has the playground for the morning and afternoon recess, but the grades share at lunch
- 2.6. A student came home saying the kids aren't allowed to use the balls, why not?
 - Balls are allowed, unless a teacher is doing a specific teaching with a specific item, so there is no banning of balls; however, not all items go out at all times because that increases the amount of items lost (it may have been that balls were not allowed to go out that particular day or recess). But teachers do encourage use of balls in active games.
- 2.7. Further to the field update: Heather Cockburn attended a meeting with Richard Christie (Senior Manager, Sustainability for TDSB), and she has an update that she will share with the admin and SAC Chairs to discuss what parents can do to support the process of improving the track and field. This update will come out to the community after that discussion.

3. SAC Update (Danielle Rombough/Tanya Mustachi)

- 3.1. Finance update
 - Thanks to Madelaine and Daniel for the update
 - A month ago, our account was about \$39,000. As of today it is \$32,000
 - We have about \$7,500 in cheques that are in transit (i.e. field trip funds and mats)
 - Committed allocations of \$9,600 (i.e. teacher allocations, PlayEH, grad trip, grade 5 farewell)
 - We have about \$15,000 available to spend for this year.
- 3.2. Topics for discussion or vote:

- ACF Movie License funding (vote)
 - This is the public streaming licence for movies. It is \$850.32. This goes towards the school having their movie days, and historically SAC used to host movie nights for kids to watch a movie as a fundraiser
 - **Vote passed: \$850.32 for ACF Movie License (unanimous)**
- Budget for Spring Fair initial costs (vote)
 - As we prepare for the spring fair, we often have to buy supplies before we recoup those costs with the profits from the fair. This allows people to submit their expenses for the fair before we make the money from the fair.
 - **Vote passed: \$5,000 for upfront Spring Fair Expenses (unanimous)**

3.3. Ward update

- Update on TDSB meeting with Richard Christie re: outdoor space to come, as discussed in Section 2.7.

3.4. Lunch Program update

- We have pulled together information about the nutrition program, and all of the FAQs will be answered.
- This will be posted on our website.

3.5. Lice in schools

- At the last planning meeting, we discussed the outbreak of lice in our school. We have added information into recent newsletters and have put information on our website about lice and how to treat them.
- This is a city-wide problem, and it seems to be due to climate change, strange weather, and it is a community-wide problem.
- Currently, the 14-18 year old age group is disproportionately affected.
- SAC and school Admin can help any families who need access to supplies to deal with lice. Contact the main office or earlhaigschoolcouncil@gmail.com for information or support.

3.6. Fundraising & Events Update:

- February Pizza Lunch (February 29th) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. This is a fun fundraiser (it's WILD in that room), and the kids really love it. We need 10-12 volunteers to make this successful. This is a great, short fundraiser (2 hours over lunch time with really enthusiastic kids). Ordering will be available on School Cash Online. IF YOUR CHILD WAS ON A FIELD TRIP and missed theirs, they're considered paid. Lists will go to teachers and will go to parents to remind them.
- Spring Fair update (Thursday, June 6, 2024 3:30 - 7:00 pm – this is the day before the June PA day)
 - We had a great Spring Fair meeting last week. We have information packages to go to businesses for sponsorships.
 - We need AT LEAST 100 volunteers for this large event. Please ask your friends, relatives and community members to help out. Contact earlhaigschoolcouncil@gmail.com for more information.

- Hullabaloo update (April)
 - This is an evening out for parents and caregivers, and is a fun night out and fundraiser for the SAC.
 - We are postponing this due to needs finding a local location that doesn't either want a large cut of proceeds or charge a large amount of money.
 - It was discussed whether parents would be open to attending an event downtown, but most of the parents in attendance would prefer something close to our area of the city.
- 100th Anniversary - Robyn is unavailable to give her update tonight, but she has put some information out on social media for this. This won't be as big as the spring fair. It'll be a 2-hour open house for the school, and looking at Saturday dates.
 - Considerations: schedule, what we need, what we want to show.
 - There is some paraphernalia stored from previous decades.
 - Allow former students and teachers to attend.
 - Can we sell something like t-shirts?

4. Other business (Community questions)

- 4.1. There is a concern with photographs being taken of the kids on the playground. This seems to have happened several times. Is there a plan in place for security? Cameras for footage?
- On one occasion, there was someone who did photograph kids and the police were called. On two additional occasions, it was parents just killing time on phone apps and not taking photos. Although the two additional times were false alarms, it's great that kids are aware, and the school admin applauds students for being aware of their surroundings and the people in it.
 - We did not previously get funding for cameras through the Caring & Safe Schools program because the school administration prioritized the door fobs at that time, but they will revisit getting partial funding for cameras to help increase the security around the school. Eleni will check if parents can help fundraise for this
- 4.2. Lighting around the fenced kindergarten area by the parking lot was quite dark in the winter for parent pickup, and lots of kids were tripping and falling because it was so dark (by the big tires).
- Community members had previously complained that lights were too bright, but child safety comes first, and this will be addressed immediately.
- 4.3. The wall between Ms Tran's class and the adjoining class is a temporary wall and is very thin. The noise between classes is disruptive, and students are having difficulty learning. Is there a solution for this?
- Eleni doesn't have an answer yet on when that temporary wall will be replaced. The temporary wall was repaired, and Eleni will follow up to find a timeline on when the school can expect a more permanent solution.

Adjournment

Moved Danielle Rombough

Seconded Charlotte Chevalier

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- March Planning Meeting - Zoom Tuesday, Mar 5 @ 8:00 pm
- April Planning Meeting - Zoom Wednesday, Apr 10 @ 8:00 pm
- Town Hall - In Person Tuesday, Apr 16 @ 7:00 pm
- May Planning Meeting - Zoom Thursday, May 9 @ 8:00 pm
- Town Hall - In Person Wednesday, May 15 @ 7:00 pm
- June Town Hall - In Person Tuesday, Jun 11 @ 7:00 pm