

**Sir Winston Churchill Parent Association Society
Sir Winston Churchill School Council**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

SWC School Library (in person)

PARENT ASSOCIATION SOCIETY MEETING

Attendance: Arvin Rajan, U.T. Sundararaj, Kelly Scott, Lisa Turner, Badru Laiwalla, GeMan Chen, Angela Leavens, Claire Kraatz, Alicia Bjarnason, Tracy Xu

1) Welcome to all. Meeting called to order by U.T. Sundararaj at 7:04 pm

2) Approval of agenda and any new business:

Motion to approve agenda: Alicia Leavens

Seconded: Kelly Scott

All in favor, motion carried

No new business

3) Introduction of Executive and school staff:

Chair: U.T. Sundararaj

Vice Chair: GeMan Chen

Secretary: Taryn Conley (absent)

Treasurer: Lisa Turner

Shadow Treasurer: Ying Wang (absent)

Past Chair: Kelly Scott

Casino/Fundraiser Rep: Windchill Ha (absent)

COSC Rep (Key Communicator): Badru Laiwalla

Principal: Mr. Arvin Rajan

Teacher Representative: Mr. Dave Nickell, Learning Leader, Science

4) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting: March 6, 2024 (available on school website):

Motion to accept minutes as presented: Lisa Turner

Seconded: Kelly Scott

All in favor, motion carried.

- 5) Treasurer's Reports for March/April 2024:
- ☐ April 30, 2024 closing bank balance: \$55,892.51
 - ☐ Revenue for the period is interest on account (\$0.93); no expenses recorded (one outstanding cheque for \$3950 for gym mats which cleared the bank on May 1)
 - ☐ Last expected expense for the school year will be for more gym mats (expense approved in March).
- 6) Approval of the Treasurer's Reports:
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented: Lisa Turner
Seconded: GeMan Chen
All in favor, motion carried.
- 7) Casino/Fundraising Chair's Report: no report
- 8) Requests from School: none
- 9) New business: none
- 10) Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:23pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Attendance: Arvin Rajan, U.T. Sundararaj, Kelly Scott, Lisa Turner, Badru Laiwalla, GeMan Chen, Angela Leavens, Claire Kraatz, Alicia Bjarnason, Tracy Xu, Dave Nickell (SWC Teacher)

- 1) Approval of the agenda and any new business:
- Motion to approve agenda: Alicia Leavens
Seconded: Claire Kraatz
All in favor, motion carried.
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting: March 6, 2024 (available on school website):
- Motion to accept minutes as presented: Lisa Turner
Seconded: GeMan Chen
All in favor, motion carried.
- 3) Teacher's Report: Mr. Dave Nickell
- ☐ Spring sports are in full swing; boys rugby had a game just before the school council meeting in the snow and wind;
 - ☐ Three robotics team at worlds (Dallas TX); Mr. Spademan and Mr. Jacobs accompanied the students;
 - ☐ IB exams ongoing; thank you to the staff and students for being flexible in the use of the school (exams are in the cafeteria).

4) Student's Report: none

5) Treasurer's Reports for March/April 2024:

- ☐ April 30, 2024 closing bank balance: \$5,985.73
- ☐ No expenses or revenue in the period; one outstanding cheque for \$165.90 to be cashed in May;
- ☐ Last expected expense for the school year will be grad and teacher appreciation.

6) Approval of the Treasurer's Reports:

Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented: Kelly Scott

Seconded: GeMan Chen

All in favor, motion carried

7) Chair's Report: U.T. Sundararaj

- ☐ Thank you to Kelly Scott (Chair, Past Chair) and Lisa Turner (Treasurer) for their service to SWC School Council and Parent Association. These volunteers are graduating from SWC along with their students.
- ☐ School council spending:
 - o Historically, SWC School Council has supported grad. We would like to support SWC grad with a \$3000 donation.
 - o We also like to hold a June staff appreciation. We would like to budget \$2000 for that event.

Motion to approve a donation of \$3000 to Sir Winston Churchill school for grad and up to \$2000 for teacher appreciation (end of June): Badru Laiwalla

Seconded: GeMan Chen

All in favor, motion carried

- ☐ Proposed meeting dates for next year: September 25 (AGM), November 6, December 4, no January meeting, February 5, March 5, no April meeting, May 2 (last meeting)
- ☐ Some key positions will be available next school year: chair and treasurer. Please consider volunteering to support SWC!

8) Key Communicator's Report: Badru Laiwalla

- ☐ Last COSC meeting (online) was to present the budget;
- ☐ More money in budget (\$85 million for a total of \$1.4 billion) but does not address any inflationary pressures or increased complexity of student needs;
- ☐ CBE has seen unprecedented student enrollment; 15,600 students in the past 3 years, expecting 9000 more next year;
- ☐ Money is pre-allocated by the province and cannot be used for other areas (e.g., transportation money can only be used for transportation);

- Mr. Rajan has been the principal at SWC for 10 years. In his first year, he had 110 teachers for 1450 students; next year he is staffing 98 teachers for 2200 students;
- In addition to funding not matching inflation and complexity, the province did not fund capital projects to meet the needs of the CBE:
 - 2022/23: requested funding for 6 new schools (5700 student spaces) and received funding for 1 school (600 student spaces)
 - 2023/24: requested funding for 68 modular classrooms (2040 student spaces), received funding for 12 modular classrooms (360 student spaces)
 - 2023/24: requested funding for 21 new schools (16,200 student spaces); new school announcements expected in March 2025
- ASCA (Alberta School Councils Association) meeting: Badru attended the AGM on April 27 and voted on behalf of SWC on advocacy policies:
 - The Climate and Biodiversity policy advocacy resolution passed with 52% of the vote

PASSED - That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education for a framework for embedding climate and biodiversity education throughout the K-12 curriculum that incorporates hands-on learning experiences with a focus on critical thinking, equity, and wellbeing.
 - And with regards to the Clean Air in Schools and Shared Environments PAR, there were 2 motions. The first one passed but the second one did not (motion defeated by one vote)

PASSED - That Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education for increased funding for modern HVAC systems for health and learning (with air filtration and cooling systems) not only in new schools but retrofitted in older school buildings as well.

DID NOT PASS - The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education to require school boards to provide frequent and regular information on indoor air quality (IAQ) and improvements made to IAQ in schools to parents, including specific air quality improvements and IAQ specifications and monitoring in schools, including classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, bathrooms, buses, and all shared environments, and that they release this information publicly to afford all students and staff a safer environment in which to work, learn and thrive.

9) Principal's Report: Mr. Arvin Rajan

- The majority of the school year is “done”
- Mr. Rajan will be presenting the budget to his area director on May 2, 2024;
- Our footprint is getting larger with 6 more portables and 3 new classrooms (for robotics and communication technology) where the construction lab used to be;
- Projection for 2024/25 is 2261 students; registered as of May 1: 2191 students; SWC continues to be a closed school with overflow to William Aberhart;
- Cutting 4 positions to accommodate fewer students and other adjustments to the budget (3 retirements plus one leave; they will not be filled);

- ☐ Mr. Jayme MacDonald (assistant principal) is on leave for 6 weeks and Mr. Rajan is absorbing his students while he is away;
- ☐ Portables are coming from a junior high and are not large; second language classes have been assigned to the portables as they tend to be not as big as academic classes (e.g., math, English) and their team is the right size to all fit in the space;
- ☐ The teachers for the new robotics and communication technology positions are accounted for in the budget; first semester the teachers will be at SAIT and the CBE CT (Career and Technology) Centre; once the classrooms are ready, the students will then come to SWC (and still spend some time at SAIT);
- ☐ Fire escapes still TBD.

10) Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

NEXT MEETING: AGM, Wednesday, September 24, 2024 @ 7:00 pm (in person at SWC School Library)