

**Winston Churchill Public School
School Advisory Council (SAC)
Annual Report for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Dear Families and School Community,

Welcome back! We hope you had a safe and happy summer. The Winston Churchill (WC) School Advisory Council (SAC) had a rewarding and productive year in 2022/2023. The SAC held 8 meetings, one roughly every month from September 2022 to May 2023, with a hiatus in December. We were pleased to be able to return to the normal routine of in-person meetings, while we continued to offer the benefit of virtual access with a hybrid system. All meetings were open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community.

This has been a wonderful school year. Deepest thank you to all who have supported families and children through the year – teachers, staff, and principal. We know recovery from the pandemic has been significant, and we appreciate all that you have done to get activities, routines, and field trips back on track. Your efforts are noticed and very much appreciated.

In September 2022, we welcomed Principal Joanne Borges who has provided welcoming and informative leadership through the year.

Big thank you to all the families who participated in the School Council, and helped to make WC an amazing and welcoming place over the year. Special thanks to the SAC executive members: Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant (Secretary), Annie Lee (Treasurer) Tasha Van Vlack (Fundraising Coordinator), Alison Bradshaw (PIC Representative), Brandi McConkey (Junior Representative) and Michael Tzautz (Kindergarten Representative) as well as Principal Borges and Teacher Representative Erin Koebel. Special thanks to those who helped run the SAC communications – Elizabeth for ensuring information is available on our Facebook page and to Tasha and Michael for creating logos and flyers to notify all parents of upcoming events. Thanks also to all of you who have attended meetings; helped out with ideas, input, organizing, and volunteering for events; and who continue to support our students and the school. We must also give a special Thanks to Kim Jesse for all her support to SAC in managing finances, producing documents and reports, and just being a wonderful resource and support person!

The School Council extends a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped run our Winston Wellness Evenings, held between April and June 2023. This was a series of three free events; Yoga night, Zumba night and a Family Dance. Special thanks to Kindergarten mum Martha Tzautz for leading our yoga evening and to Tess Clifford and Emily King for organizing the sale of snacks at the dance. Parent/caregiver, teacher, staff, principal, and student volunteers made it all happen, from organizing, advertising, making bookings, buying supplies, setting up and cleaning up. It was wonderful to be together at the school celebrating, connecting, getting exercise and watching children laugh and play.

Continued thanks go to Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant for managing our hot lunch program which allows parents to purchase an individual pizza from Paradiso Pizza or a Petita from Pita Pit for their child. Through this fundraising program SAC has also been able to support funds for up to 25 students' hot lunches.

Thanks are extended to Tess Clifford and Emily King for getting Winston Movie nights up and running again. They also organized snacks at our canteen at this event. Special thanks also to Tess and Emily for arranging our Coffee For Caregivers mornings, for which they secured kind donations of coffee from Kingston Coffee House and Starbucks. It was wonderful to have a chance to enjoy a free cup of coffee and a chat with other parents and carers at drop-off time.

The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council(s) of the actions taken in response to the recommendations. Accordingly, included with this report are the minutes of the meetings, which are also available for public inspection on the school website and at the school office, along with SAC financial records.

A wide range of issues were identified as priorities for discussion/action over the year, including: building and supporting community, fostering inclusivity and participation, improving SAC communications with families, school and student spirit, providing opportunities for family learning and engagement, and more. We have enjoyed being able to see a resumption of normal activities following the COVID restrictions which were in place last school year.

Some of the highlights of SAC's activities and consultations over the year include:

- The hot lunch program offered on Tuesdays (Pita Pit) and Thursdays (Paradiso), which is also the SAC's main fundraiser through this past year (thank you to all families who participated!). As a community, we were especially grateful to be able to support up to 25 students' access to pizza lunch on a weekly basis.
- Instigated the position of Fundraising Coordinator within our executive committee, which enabled SAC to look into additional fundraising opportunities and develop further means of communication with families
- Active involvement on the LDSB Parent Involvement Committee for Board- and province-wide engagement on education and school success.
- Enhancements to communications tools – continued refinement of SAC Facebook and email communications, with the goal of more open and two-way communications. Development of flyers distributed to families detailing upcoming events.

- Support for teacher supplies (\$200/classroom)
- Purchase of spirit wear t-shirts for all new students, teachers, and staff, as well as organization of a Spiritwear Swap, to contribute to school spirit and continue to ensure that all Bulldogs have access to spirit wear regardless of financial means.
- Arranged a family Frontenacs night which was also a fundraiser for the school
- Support for busing costs for field trips and sports events
- Investigated whether SAC could add to before- and after-care provision
- Donated \$300 to Bulldogs Helping Bulldogs December holiday drive to support Winston families in need.
- Paid for refreshments at the Light Up the Season event.
- Rolled out series of three free “Winston Wellness” events: yoga, Zumba and a family dance, where we collected donations which are put towards sports equipment for students’ use
- Secured a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant from the LDSB for our Winston Wellness sessions.
- Matched classroom fundraising up to \$150 for the week of Beyond Classrooms learning
- Matched \$150 for the lollipop fundraiser
- Held a free movie night for all families with snacks available to purchase
- Paid for 29 students in grade 5/6 to participate in the University of Waterloo Gauss math contest
- SAC attended the June 7, 2023 Kinder welcome event to provide info about SAC to incoming families.
- Celebration gifts of Winston cinch bags to recognize the achievements of our departing grade 6 and SOAR students.
- Held Coffee For Caregivers towards the end of the school year, which contributed to community building
- Arranged a Play Meet at Winston playground on Labour Day Monday, which was very well attended and also built community.

Looking forward, as the 2023/2024 School Council sets its priorities it may want to consider ongoing efforts to encourage parent involvement, community building, and fundraising. We have lists of potential community events and fundraisers, for example, (Fresh from the Farm fundraiser, student-produced holiday card fundraiser, and so on) that we can share. Thank you to the new SAC executive members for offering their time and leadership for the upcoming school year.

With gratitude to a supportive and dedicated school community, and all the best for a happy, healthy, and productive school year in 2023/24.

Respectfully,

Lucy Aron

2022/2023 Chair, Winston Churchill School Advisory Council