

# Duke SAC October Meeting Minutes

Monday October 26, 2020, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

## **Attendance:**

**Duke of Connaught:** Carl Gambacort (Vice-Principal), Robert Walters (Vice-Principal), Ray McIntyre (Teacher Rep)

**SAC:** Aron McGrath (Chair), Susan Munn (co-Treasurer), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Lisa Lebeer (Secretary), Catherine Miller-Mort (Secretary), Jill Hollingsworth (Ward rep), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward rep), Laurie Barnett (Parent Rep), Miranda Indrigo (Parent Rep), Ashley Hayes (Parent Rep)

## **Other Attendees:**

Adene Kuchera, Erin Scott, Marie Snyder, Sara Tropea, Kristine Browne Cunko

**Absent:** Carol Shea (Principal), Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep)

## **1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment - Sara Ehrhardt**

## **2. Introduction of SAC - All Members**

## **3. Other Business To Add**

## **4. Previous business, Approval of minutes**

Motion by Catherine Miller-Mort; Seconded by Laurie Barnett

## **5. Treasurer's Report - Jeff Hackett**

- Fundraising starts Nov 1st
- Funds held over have not been spent - need to finalize numbers to determine what is available

## **6. Funding Proposal 2020/21 - Jeff Hackett**

### ***Requests***

- majority of requests are for tech (i.e. Chromebooks, microphones for teachers)
- classroom enrichment \$14/per student, minimum is \$150/class - to cover things students need throughout the year like classroom supplies - not spent on curriculum items
- coffee mornings - treats to show support for teachers/staff
- yoga mats - this item will be a carryover from previous year and funds held over will cover this request
- outdoor enhancement & resources - social distancing has made 'fun' difficult
- coding curriculum licenses: question from Adene Kuchera 'what are coding kits?' Ray

McIntyre responds 'little robots that kids can write code to make move etc.'

- musical (COVID-friendly) instruments - held over funds will fulfill this request
- outdoor dance lessons
- Grade 8 grad - somewhat unknown because we don't know what environment we will be facing in June 2021 - the amount is currently based on last year's expenditures
- \$1000 workshop - i.e. virtual speaker, mental health workshop - looking into options
- donate to a lower income school i.e. sharing a portion with a school low on the LOI

### **Comments**

- fundraising is going to look different this year
- we have Pizza Pizza gift cards leftover from last school year - they were pre-purchased to pay for pizza lunches that never happened. Planned activity to try to sell them off/give as prizes etc
- recipe jar campaign is the first fundraiser - Sara will speak further about this later in meeting
- Jill Hollingsworth- regarding the suggestion to share some of Duke's surplus funds with another TDSB school and the decision-making process - the TDSB has a central fund for schools that are unable to fundraise - so need to determine which schools may already be receiving direct support from the TDSB.
- Learning Opportunities Index - info here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/research/docs/LOI2020.pdf>

LOI is created based on a number of demographics. School with the lowest number is the school of highest need. SAC would be using the LOI to help guide the decision, but we would need to loop in the Superintendents, Trustees etc to find out which schools may already be receiving funding. Schools in COVID high-risk areas may have specific needs. Discussion to be made regarding whether Duke supports a: school in our board vs the actual neediest in the entire TDSB. SAC will determine decision criteria to help guide the decision. Early discussion to potentially help 2 schools. Would people like to leave it with SAC or would parents be more comfortable helping decide? Email SAC if you have questions.

**POLL** to gauge interest in donating Yes/No option 89% voted in favour of sharing some Duke funds with a school in need

- Ray McIntyre inquires whether or not teacher rep is allowed to vote in the poll - Aron confirms teacher rep is one vote
- Overwhelmingly positive results in favour of donating a portion to a school in need
- See poll results at end of minutes
- Ray McIntyre inquiring whether it makes sense to direct the funds to Toronto School for Success so the TDSB would be responsible for providing funds to the school in need; Aron McGrath requests to take the discussion offline to find out more about what that might look like, Ray counters that Admin may have more insight; Jill Hollingsworth indicates a preference to donate directly to speed up the process and have a more immediate impact but will discuss further with Carol
- Jeff Hackett - The big challenge is trying to determine how much SAC will be able to

fundraise this year - there are so many unknowns

- That said, we should have the income to pay for the majority of the requests, but we need to ensure we retain a cushion for the following year. We would be in a challenging position if we didn't already have the carryover from the 2019/20 year
- Additionally re: fundraising we may also offer an online auction for items carried over from the Adult Social (which was canceled), and we will have a Read-a-thon in place of a dance-a-thon, we may also do a letter campaign in the new year - TBD if there is a need
- Ray McIntyre likes the idea of a read-a-thon - has done it before with great success; Jill Hollingsworth will discuss further with Ray as she is lead on the read-a-thon
- Aron McGrath - Regarding the Fundraising Chair position - we will go forward without, for now. So far fundraising is being handled with current SAC, we may reassess depending.

## **7. Website - Ashley Hayes**

- Current SAC website has lots of outdated and unnecessary information
- Decided to create a new website which will launch in the next day or two; the URL will remain the same
- Upcoming events will be listed and fundraisers will be listed
- Please contact SAC if you find any issues with the site i.e. missing info, broken links etc.

## **8. Recipes in a Jar - Sara Ehrhardt**

- Lots of variety with the offerings - soup, energy bites, brownies, paella etc.
- Perfect for COVID stockpiling
- Purpose will be to support the teacher appreciation coffee mornings - funds raised in excess will be rolled over to next year teacher appreciation or for something yet TBD
- \$3.50 will go to school per jar sold PLUS one meal will be donated to Glen Rhodes Food Bank (per jar sold)
- Recettes en Pot (Recipes in a Jar) is a Social Enterprise based in Quebec, their hiring practices are excellent
- Laurie Barnett agrees they are great gifts for seniors - having previously purchased for grandparents extended family
- Shipping is free to your home if more than 6 jars are purchased; for those who wish to order less than 6 the shipping fee is \$15; feel free to contact Sara if you wish to order less than 6 jars as she is willing to coordinate shipping in bulk to save the excess fees
- BONUS if you would like to GIFT a jar to a Duke staff member, you can contact Sara for the order form to complete with these details - for extra \$5 you can have a handwritten card/tag included on the jar to the staff member
- Fundraiser will run for all of November
- Easy online ordering should help make this a success

## **9. Ward Report - Jill Hollingsworth & Sara Ehrhardt**

- Trustee has not scheduled the full slate of bi-monthly meetings - stay tuned for dates
- Our Trustee, Jennifer Story, is hosting a forum November 2, 7PM "Schools, the Pandemic and You". Details and registration here: <https://forms.gle/1ZsWE6M2tXYandgs8>

- The TDSB has 247000 public school students
- The number of students in the board ties into the funding that the TDSB has received. If money is shared by the ministry / TDSB has not seen its fair share in funding back to school safely
- Funding is not being distributed to the TDSB equitably
- Parent engagement and the purpose of parent council - our key purpose is to help student achievement and well being - there is concern that SAC's are just for fundraising, here to serve the shortfall of gov funding.
- There is a need to increase parent/community engagement
- Adene Kuchera agrees and likes the shift towards parent engagement
- Carol Shea/Jill Hollingsworth/Michelle Munroe (Director of Parent Engagement) - strategizing to increase parent engagement and to allow us to deal with some of the issues we are facing especially the effects of COVID, anti-racism, bullying, exclusion etc.
- Sara Ehrhardt - One key point: for those in virtual, during the last TDSB meeting it was noted that ALL students have been assigned a teacher but if you know someone who does not have a teacher, please email SAC to flag it and contact our Trustee if you have not connected with virtual principal of LC4
- Duke LC4 has 1000 students for one administrator - SAC could send an informal survey through our channels to find out what the virtual students may need; if you have ideas or perspectives, reach out to Sara or to SAC - hope to get a survey out this coming month
- For anyone in virtual - we want to make sure that ANY students in Grade 8 will be included in graduation and will be part of that process. We want to connect with EVERYONE - i.e. those on the 'departed students' list - please share with your contacts in virtual
- We really want to keep our communities together virtual & in-person.

## **10. Principals' Reports - Carl Gambacort & Robb Walters**

- Set our dates for virtual curriculum night:  
Kindergarten to Grade 3: Thursday, October 29, starting at 6:00 PM  
Junior Grades 4-6: Monday November 2  
Intermediate Grades 7-8: Thursday, November 5  
Your child's teacher will be in contact with you about specifics.  
It will be an opportunity for caregivers to see the classroom (virtually), ask questions etc.
- **Halloween** - no parade this year, no dance, COVID masks will be part of the costumes, we'll get through it as best as we can
- Roots of Empathy - will be starting in January. Facilitated program over for young kids. Students get to see how to care for a baby. This year it will be a shorter program and will be virtual
- Staff say thanks for the coffee & treats - much appreciated
- Equity work with PFLAG is starting again - students in Gr 7 & 8 classes will be working with PFLAG reps who will be coming into classrooms virtually
- Nutrition program continues - Maureen has introduced foil packs to try to keep lunches warm; so far adjustments to the program seem to be working well

- Colder weather is approaching - admin has instructed teachers to provide staggered access to lockers and coat cubbies; they will be working with caretaking on boot storage outside the classroom
- Robb Walters- One or two mixups with lunch program so far - please email Robb or teacher if there are any further issues / concerns
- Kerr parking situation - best course of action is to call parking enforcement or 311
- Also suggested perhaps we can get a volunteer program going - someone stationed there to help direct traffic / keep kids safe
- Ashley Hayes suggested requesting a crossing guard

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Catherine Miller-Mort - discussing Menstruation / Access to washrooms (via a note provided by Laura Watson See Appendix)
- Need an awareness campaign about menstruation - giving children permission to use the washroom as needed
- Concern that there are students being denied access to the washroom or to menstrual supplies
- Request for sensitivity
- And a request for gender expansive language to be included
- Laura shared links on how to advocate for menstrual equity
- How to use correct terms/language
- Understand that the TDSB provides a supply of products, but they are less accessible in the main office - could they be in the washrooms instead?
- Some great organizations - i.e. Period Purse - offers a presentation "Periods 101" for grades 5 to 8
- Robb Walters comments - Agrees that it needs to be addressed with care and there is a need to separate the education aspect from the washroom access issue - Robb sent out reminders to teachers to be sensitive to the issues menstruating students may be facing
- 2019 curriculum specifically addresses the sensitivity and empathy when putting it into practice - it is highlighted for faculty and adults in the building
- Washroom issue needs to be addressed separately from menstruation education - need to use the curriculum around education
- Open to the idea of a presentation - but the vendor must be TDSB approved/vetted
- There is learning for ALL - both students and adults
- Ray McIntyre commented that he was glad to be having this conversation because the email Robb sent regarding washroom access was unclear. He indicated that he has had a few students come to him to discuss their confusion around what the email meant.

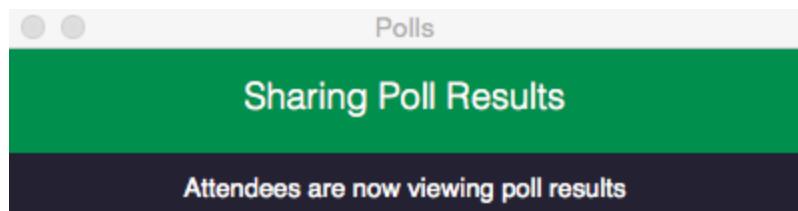
**Other items:**

- Aron McGrath - Can we do a PFLAG virtual parent workshop as well? Susan Munn & Jill Hollingsworth agree to the idea of parent workshop
- Ashley Hayes - soap issue in one of the kindie rooms - children's hands are rough/raw/bleeding from the soap (at least 3 children)

- Bringing their own soap/lotion may be too difficult for them to manage on their own due to their age
- Carl will investigate - he would like to look at the protocols in that classroom - confirms it is the standard pink soap in all of the soap containers; perhaps they are washing AND sanitizing, or not rinsing well; need to confirm if other classrooms are affected
- Ray McIntyre suggested that some of the older students are having a similar issue with irritated hands but believes it's the hand sanitizer - specifically in the Woodfield building
- Aron McGrath reiterates the next SAC meeting will be Nov 30 at 6:30

**Meeting adjourned:** at 7:36 PM

Poll Results



YES (16/18) 89%

NO (2/18) 11%

**Stop Sharing**

## **Appendix**

### Duke – Access to bathrooms for menstruating students

Thanks for listening to my concerns; apologies that I can't bring this up in person but thank you Catherine for offering to bring it forward.

I believe Duke needs an awareness campaign about periods.

Most urgently, first specifically towards teachers and other caregivers who are tasked with giving students permission to use the bathroom, or to go back into the classroom or school building when they are having time outside. I've already heard of multiple cases where students who are menstruating are denied a quick trip to the bathroom when they really need it, or to have access to their backpack in the classroom when they need to grab a pad or tampon. As we all know, kids at this age can be 1) quite self-conscious and 2) new to menstruating and may forget to always carry supplies with them or may have an irregular period, so they are surprised when it happens for instance in gym class.

Roughly 50% of us have *been there*, and it is not fun.

I wonder if a lot of teachers just don't realize the number of Duke students who menstruate, thinking it usually starts around age 13 and up. The truth is it's not uncommon for periods to start as young as age 8 or 9.

I realize with the Covid precautions the rules about bathroom use and coming and going from the school building are incredibly complicated by necessity – but no student should be denied access to the bathroom whenever they need it. I think if it was mentioned to staff to just be aware that a student needing to urgently use the bathroom or get into their backpack MAY be afraid that they're about to have a period leak, they will remember to be more sensitive.

I hope this is something the administration could bring up.

In addition, when I mentioned this on the parents' Facebook group, I neglected to use gender-expansive language and am grateful that a parent reminded me of its importance: "to ensure the inclusion of transgender students—who may or may not be out—it's important that teachers are thoughtful when speaking about menstruating bodies. Not all women menstruate, and not only women menstruate. Teachers must acknowledge that transgender students may have a hard time managing menstruation while escaping negative attention that could put them at risk of harm."

(text from a great article on tolerance.org, link below)

So, admin should be mindful of the language used as well.

Here's a good bullet point guide:

(also from tolerance.org)

## How to Advocate for Menstrual Equity at Your School

**Normalize menstruation.** Adapt or create a curriculum that includes the menstrual cycle. Ensure all students and staff—regardless of sex or gender—understand the menstrual cycle.

**Watch the language.** Use correct terms instead of euphemisms such as “Aunt Flo” or “monthly visitor.” Shut down bullying that involves stereotypical references about a person’s temperament while menstruating (e.g., “PMSing”).

**Don’t assume that any student**—regardless of sex or gender—**does or does not menstruate.**

**Think of menstrual products as school supplies.** Stock bathrooms, nurses’ offices and classrooms with menstrual products, and make students aware of where they are stored.

**Reconsider bathroom and dress code policies.** Urge school administrators to create more than one option for school uniforms, **and ensure no one has to wait to use the bathroom in the event of an emergency.**

(<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2019/equity-period>)

Apparently TDSB is providing free pads and tampons to schools:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/08/29/toronto-school-board-to-provide-free-menstrual-products-to-students.html>

I've heard Duke students can get supplies from the office, but they are not available in the bathrooms or classrooms. Why not?

If there's interest in approaching admin with any of these concerns or suggestions, I'd be happy to help in any way.

By the way, there's an organization The Period Purse (Toronto East chapter) that empowers the next generation to end the stigma around periods and offers virtual period-positive presentations to groups of young people by trained educators. Topics include Periods 101 (for grade 5 to 8) and Period

Poverty (for all). Would there be any interest in booking one of these? There is a \$100 donation fee.

Kindie bathroom update from Carl:

I have followed up on the washroom question that was raised at SAC Monday. In Room 4, they are using the Board-issued pink soap and also have a new soap dispenser which uses a frothy type of hand soap, also Board approved. They have two sinks - one has the new soap dispenser.

I asked if anyone has been using sanitizer and soap at the same time and they said no - they do have the kids use sanitizer before they go to gym, but not washing hands at the same time.

There is one student in the class with excema, and that student has special cream from home to use if his hands start to bother him. I asked if there were other students in the room who have had red or rough hands and they said no.

I checked the water temperature as well - one sink has not hot water and I have asked the team to monitor the water temperature in the other.

I have also asked them to monitor and let me know if they encounter any other problems.