

Duke SAC May Meeting Minutes

Monday May 31st, 2021, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

Attendance:

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea (Principal), Ray McIntyre (Teacher Rep), Hassan Moutadayne (Vice-Principal)

SAC: Aron McGrath (Chair), Jill Hollingsworth (Ward rep), Lisa Lebeer (Secretary), , Miranda Indrigo (Parent Rep), Laurie Barnett (Parent Rep), Susan Munn (co-Treasurer), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep)

Other Attendees:

Sara Tropea, Doug Bourassa, Sharon Lucrow, Ellie Arscott, Sophie Lafaille, Erin Scott, Ellen Duckman, MJ Starr, Tessa Bulham, Anthony Barrow, Zoe Webster, Andrea Cuccaro, Angie Law, Rosalie Fine, Laura Byers, Jason Trinh, Leila Turner, Jeff Adams

Absent: Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Catherine Miller-Mort (Secretary), Ashley Hayes (Parent Rep), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward rep)

- 1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment and Memorial (for 215 Residential School victims found in unmarked graves) & Moment of Silence** - Jill Hollingsworth
- 2. Approval of past minutes** - Moved by Jill Hollingsworth; Seconded by Sara Tropea
- 3. Treasurer's Report - Sue Munn**

Year-end reconciliation still to take place as grad package transactions need to go through
There is a surplus for classroom enrichment as \$9000 was budgeted and approximately \$3000 has been claimed, but there are still some expenses trickling in

- 4. Principals' Reports - Carol Shea, Ray McIntyre, Hassan Moutadayne**

Carol Shea -

National Indigenous History month kicks off tomorrow and runs for the month of June.

Staffing Model 2021/22

Allocation virtually the same as the current year with a reduction of 1.5

Lost .5 library & Lost 1 French Immersion primary

We are gaining one additional gifted classroom - from 5 up to 6 classrooms
Extended French returns to 2-grade splits (down from 3 grade splits during this school year)
This model that was approved has quite a few split grade classes - it was the model found to be most equitable for staff and kids
Vice Principal position remains at 1.5 - the other .5 is for resource/CBRM model (Special Ed)
There will be no HSP - will be operating with a full inclusion model

We have staffing changes, as all schools do, for a number of reasons: personal leaves for staff, transfers to our school by the TDSB, teacher requested moves for different opportunities, geographical transfers so that staff can work in a school closer to home, or due to changes in opportunity.

The following are the hires for next year

3 - 1.0 teachers to hire in our Gifted program Gr 4, Gr 5/6, Gr 7/8 (however, grade breakdown may change due to offers of placements that are still occurring Gr 4 – 8 across the system);

1 - 0.5 PREP teacher to hire

1 – 1.0 French Immersion Junior Division Homeroom teacher

1 – ASD ISP teacher to hire for our Primary/Junior Program – this is a centrally assigned classroom position

All hiring has been paused by the Board until later this summer.

It is expected that the recess/lunch zones and cohorted groups will continue in the fall.
Staffing numbers are based on the expectation of 855 students - potentially more as others return from virtual school.
Refer to the Staffing Model - encl.

A question was raised regarding the staffing model indicating classrooms with 30+ students and the potential issues with social distancing with large numbers.

Carol noted that staff were told to plan for a regular year in terms of attendance, we anticipate the need to plan for cohorting groups of students to reduce exposure for recess and lunch hours, maintaining our complex schedule due to our overall size and complex site. So we are planning accordingly. We do not want to be scrambling and trying to adapt the week before school starts. The option of remote learning models for the fall may change our overall school model, ie. reorganization, timetabling and daily schedules may have to be adapted based on safety protocols and enrollment updates that will be available late summer.

Regarding the staffing model - two options were provided. The Superintendent chose the grade split model over the other model that offered more straight classes. It was the best option in order to keep class sizes lower.

QUESTION:

Has there been any direction from the TDSB regarding a hybrid teaching model (camera placed in classrooms with students attending in-person and some students attending virtually).

No - nothing has been mentioned regarding a hybrid model to-date.

SIP (School Improvement Plan)

Anti-oppression work continues; while staff are using a variety of resources, (such as Cultivating Genius, Intersection Allies, Collaborative Inquiry, Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man, etc.), they need time to plan units and to see what's working with their classes - it's a balance with staff ramping up their knowledge/planning along with realizing the urgency of the learning for the students. Preparedness of staff is at various levels - and the needs at a big school are vast. Many of Duke's LTOs have come up with engaging content for the students - some more so than full-time staff. Professional learning of staff will continue along with purchasing materials: Anti-Black Racism, Indigenous Education & Anti-Asian Racism, etc. for Sept learning plans. Carol and staff are looking for culturally relevant resources. There has been an exponential shift in these directives since George Floyd's 2020 murder. Anti-oppression work will be included in the School Improvement plan.

Student achievement | Equity | Student Wellbeing

It has been a 'chicken and egg' situation with regards to Student Achievement vs Equity & Student wellbeing. There is a shift indicating that we will put Equity and Student Wellbeing FIRST (esp post-COVID) and that student achievement will then follow

There is a need to shift the wording in our school improvement goals

34% of our Duke's kids are sitting in 60-69% achievement

Anti-Black Racism/Equity Work: Carol will be starting some Anti-Black Racism work with a book club/discussion with David McCleary & Kim Robinson - 2 evenings - June 9 & June 23 (if interested to join contact Carol, an email was sent a few weeks ago). The book is Emmanuel Acho's piece **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man**. Carol is recommending this endeavour as a starting point for Anti-Black Racism work at Duke. Carol is calling it the "Dive in". Carol talked about how impactful it was seeing the video/podcast of Black Dads from East York talking about their experiences. And also mentioned a podcast by Brené Brown. SAC will also create an anti-racism/discrimination committee and are looking at holding Affinity Space/Circle meetings (for minority caregivers).

Construction

Column restoration in Duke building to provide structural security - long-term plan being discussed

At the main entrance - a consistent surface will be created - fresh pavement (instead of the hodge-podge of surfaces currently there. The work is slated to start in July - with the goal to be completed by September.

City Consultation - Woodfield | Monarch Park Project

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/public-consultations/infrastructure-projects/woodfield-road-monarch-park-avenue-quiet-streets-program/>

Two-way bike lanes on Woodfield proposed - stop lights would be added at Queen & Woodfield Carol pushed and asked them to reconsider another street - very concerned with the dropoff/pickup chaos on Woodfield.

It is likely that a trial of the bike lanes is going ahead on the street.

Possible letter writing campaign; was suggested to share the data with them about how many kids arrive by bus/car due to the many programs.

The project will be discussed at City Council meeting on June 7 & 8 - so not a lot of time if we want to organise to protest and/or ask for a different street than Woodfield.

Hassan Moutadayne - Devices

Device return dates June 14 - Jul 2

If return to in-person school then return dates would shift to June 14 - 18

If there are students attending Summer School they can keep the devices

Ray McIntyre - Grade 8 Graduation

Pre-recorded Graduation video is being compiled - teachers are putting their recordings together

Awards are being prepped

Graduates in virtual school will be included as well

Families will soon be notified of the details (by the end of this week) so people can plan accordingly

Other Business -

Nancy Dutra - "Every child matters" committee

Suggested to create a Facebook group - will join forces with the Anti-oppression group on SAC - Aron will connect those interested via email with Nancy (Jill, Sue).

Try to use the avenues already set up - consolidate some of the information and efforts

Ward notes:

Vaccine Clinic this weekend Sat June 5 at MPC - all Duke students, families, friends welcome to attend.

Election Committee required (1 person or a few) - to run the election in Sept for the new SAC (term starts Oct 1) and possibly work on recruitment.

Jennifer Story had sent out an email regarding TDSB position (against) on the Ford announcement re making online learning permanent - there is a template letter if people want to support/join in advocacy on this issue. Do we want to advocate as a group (SAC or Community at large?)

Reminder: Parents/caregivers to choose between in person and virtual learning in August for the next school year. Once TDSB has that info they will finalize plans (staffing, school model, etc).

Welcome to Duke virtual open house /information meeting - details still to come

Meeting adjourned: 7:48

Next meeting: there will be a short June meeting to approve the bylaws - date TBD