

DUKE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
March 30, 2022

School Council Attendees: Catherine Miller-Mort, Jeff Hackett, Jill Hollingsworth, Miranda Indrigo*

Duke Staff Attendees: Maria Olivera, Ray McIntyre, Carol Shea

Community Partners: May Seto, Applegate

Parents/Caregivers: Anna Rosenbluth, Laurie Barnett, Zoe Webster, MJ Starr

**Note: School Council did not have enough representatives for quorum, so there were no approvals or votes held at this meeting.*

MEETING MINUTES

Land Acknowledgement, Agenda Review: Catherine Miller-Mort

Community Partners Update: May Seto, Applegate Community Complex

- SH Armstrong: Spring programs start on Monday, there are spaces available
- Summer camp registration on April 12
- Applegate: Programing will be offered at full capacity, starting with summer programing
- Registration starts on Friday, April 1 for summer camp and leadership camp
- Summer camp: 8 weeks offered, starting July 4
- Leadership camp: two two-week sessions in July and August, for teens
- Still spaces in Applegate's after-school program
- Applegate's General meeting will be held virtually this year

Workshop Update: Jill Hollingsworth

- April 11th and 19th: Spartan Lacrosse Indigenous Learning, in person
- Every class will have one 50-minute session (K-8)
- Meets guidelines for age group in terms of safety (using tennis balls for safety)
- SC/DEI CANVAS Workshop update: Creating Affirming Spaces for Youth
- Focus on LGBTQ+ community but can be extended to all underrepresented groups
- Key learnings:
 - Terms and language posted on SC website
 - Leaders brought lens of queer joy and positivity around identity
 - Challenging own perceptions around whether it's too early to discuss gender identity and sexuality at the elementary level
 - Parents play an important role as supporting community partners
 - Importance of listening to your kids and being open and respectful to your children
 - 51% of youth experience verbal harassment, unsafe at school, 70% of students hear homophobic language, and majority of trans youth experience harassment and high suicide rate, reduced access to housing, within the community
- Ward 10 Meeting: Allyship pledge after land acknowledgement led to reduction of issues
- TDSB Portal for reporting incidents of discrimination—LGBTQ+ second, after anti-Black
- Using non-gendered language in the classroom

- Carol to bring forward allyship pledge to staff and school community
- Ray reinforced how impressed he was with workshops and the facilitators; would be interested in a children's workshop
- PFLAG workshops held before COVID, kids were engaged in the conversation and knowledgeable
- June Workshop: Raising Anti-Racist Kids with Rania El Mugammar

Admin Update: Carol Shea

COVID-19 Update:

- Letters to classrooms where there are positive cases will continue until the end of the school year
- CS reports to Health and Safety and TDSB and shares with staff and then shares with parents
- Significant increase in cases in the last two weeks
- Privacy is respected and school will not share the identity of the cases
- Cohort zone restrictions lifted outside

Pool Update

- Heating exchanged fixed, plumbing in process
- Hoping to get it up and running for the spring
- Staff shortage right now

Staffing

- Allocations post-posed until middle of April
- School gets projections of students and allocations are based on that/staffing models
- School council brought into staffing model discussion and are submitted to superintendent
- School model then shared with parent community based on current information; may change

Budget

- Determined each year, line by line, allocated by grade, \$12 per student
- Additional budget lines for math, literacy, music, etc.
- \$3500 for phys ed and pool
- \$3000 allocated for special education (sensory materials, timers for classroom, etc.)
- Eco and greening: development in front of school reconstruction of school yard
- End of June under construction, to be completed by September
- Student and staff voice for well being
- TTC tickets for school
- \$5000 for paper for classroom
- \$30000 for supply teachers—TDSB pays for sickness coverage, but prep, workshop coverage comes from school budget
- \$8000 for photocopier costs
- \$15000 for office (busses for school trips, additional paper for classrooms)

- \$12,000 for computers, above the \$49,000 spent to date on approximately 100 devices, laptops, Chromebooks, technology carts, etc
- Board provided \$2300 for math and numeracy initiatives to support new curriculum
- Approximately \$1000 available to spend on well-being: large board games, mini soccer nets, etc. for additional outdoor activities
- Student success: \$4000 directed toward Grade 7 -8 for transition to high school
- Input from parent community and students for future initiatives
- All initiatives must support school improvement plan and be transparent and open

Health Curriculum

- Human Development letters for grades 1 – 8 sent home to parents
- Parents can request exemption and school will work toward a plan to accommodate exemptions
- Units will begin end of April

Outdoor Message Board

- In the past, school council would support in updating the message in front of school
- Looking for volunteers to update; Jeff Hackett volunteered to help
- One side council, one side school/student message
- Admin will coordinate with School Council

Basketball Nets

- Nets are removable because of complaints from neighborhood about noise and activity after school/evenings
- Nets go up for the duration of the school day and then are removed at the end of the school day because of this
- Plan for the nets to be moved as part of future school playground renovation

Question: New direction around lunch time/ can we start pizza lunches? (Jill Hollingsworth)

- Hesitant to return to cafeteria at this point due to COVID, masking
- Eating to remain in classrooms at Duke
- Pizza lunches: yes, potentially a fundraiser for Grade 8 grad
- SC fundraising committee to coordinate with CS

Question: Design for the front of school

- Shared with council previously; Carol will share again
- Design concept: open, flexible space design elements with a focus on safety
- New construction materials to improve conditions of trees in the front, add more trees and expand green space, improve safety

Treasurer's Update: Jeff Hackett

- Staff appreciation was held in March
- School Council will be transferring money for ipads for kindergar
- Balance on the Duke Cares fund is at \$1220.00

- \$24,000.00 in our PACE account
- Money bookmarked for playground, lacrosse
- SC has spent significantly on tech
- CANVAS paid through grant money
- Hoping to do additional fundraisers

Question: Budget for anti-racism workshop 1200\$, grant money will pay for half. There's a budget line for workshops. Do we want a small fee for workshops to ensure that people attend the workshop? As well, we can have up to 50 participants for June workshop. If we don't meet 50 participants, do we want to invite other schools?

- Options include charging a fee, doing a PWYC donation to school or refundable fee
- Concerns over equity and accessibility

Question: Should SC Meetings move to in-person or remaining virtual?

- Each school can decide individually
- Preference is to stay virtual

Outdoor event

- On hold from SC

Pink Day (Ms. O)

- 13th April, 14th April school is planning outdoor event for school
- Dance, community walk
- Similar to Terry Fox Run events in the past

Grad Committee

- 8 or 9 volunteers to date
- Do we need a SC liaison? Jill H. offered to volunteer if there's no one else
- Volunteers to come to next meeting
- SC has budgeted \$2500 for grad currently, we can look at additional fundraising
- Duke Cares funds can support individual students
- Will lawn signs, sweats continue, etc.?
- Boat cruise booked
- Catherine Miller-Mort to connect Jill, volunteers and Maria O.

Carol

- Intermediate students/device use: expectation of educational use at discretion of teachers
- Concerns with privacy, students taking photos of staff, etc.
- Electronic device policy to be reviewed with staff, parents, students

Question: Are students allowed on Ashbridge's Estate? Answer: yes

Next meeting: April 27