

# Duke SAC June Bylaw Meeting Minutes

Monday June 28, 2021, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

**Attendance:**

**Duke of Connaught:** Carol Shea

**SAC:** Catherine Miller-Mort (Secretary), Jill Hollingsworth (Ward rep), Laurie Barnett (Parent Rep), Lisa Lebeer (Secretary), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep)

**Other Attendees:** Angie Law, Adene Kuchera

**Absent:** Ray McIntyre (Teacher Rep) Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Aron McGrath (Chair), Sue Munn (co-Treasurer), Sara Erhardt (Ward Rep), Miranda Indrigo (Parent Rep)

1. **Welcome, Land Acknowledgment** - Jill Hollingsworth

2. **By-Law Updates**

JH discussed key highlights and best practices and rules for by laws that went into the proposed updated bylaws.

- By-Laws haven't been updated since 2015/2016 (required to review every 5 years)
- Bring into compliance with education act, regulation 612
- To update and reflect current practice and community needs
- Used ministry guidelines handbook for School Councils, Education Act regulations governing School Councils and a seminar put on by TDSB about by-laws and bringing inclusion and equity (attended by Sue and Jill, Feb 27, 2021)
- The term parent in the by-laws refers to both parent and guardian but we are limited by the legislation with what language is used (hence use of parent only)
- Updating to use Officers instead of Executives (per reg)
- Biggest change was related to the election - now a group of 12 parent members will be elected and then that Council group will elect from within specific positions e.g. Chair/Treasurer/Comms Lead – the rest of the positions will be decided among the members by consensus. (There will be communications to explain changes e.g. election package in the fall/ Council Communications). Elections will be for a general group of 12, not running for a specific role e.g. Chair or Treasurer.

- Increased use of Committees will allow folks to become involved in their areas of interest without being on the SAC (Committees: Budget, Fundraising, Election and Dismantling Inequities)
- Addition of a process for amending the bylaws (there isn't a process in the current bylaws)

**Questions to the group from the By-Law team (based on parent feedback)**

**Proposal to change the name of the SAC to School Council (SC) because of regulation 612 (dropping Advisory)**

Carol question: does changing this change the advisory role.

JH: no maintains the same purpose but follows terminology laid out in the regulation and in the purpose

No objections

**Appendix contains a sample of the code of ethics**

Included as a sample - should we adopt as part of the by-laws or maintain as a sample for each SAC to consider for themselves? Discussion re use of social media section for parent members – why have it? Should we have it?

Discussion that the specifics of a code of conduct and information not covered elsewhere will be pulled together as an appendix (note appendix are not part of the by-laws but resources)

No objections

**Bylaw Committee Initiative of a new committee - Dismantling inequities – focus is to establish and execute plans of action to combat racism, and actions to dismantle systemic and individual discrimination.**

An umbrella committee which can then have subcommittees (e.g. anti-black racism, every child matters, LGBTQ2S issues, etc). Invite & encourage everyone interested to join (details will be communicated in the fall after return to school).

Carol asked why not use anti oppression as this is the language that is used by the TDSB - Carol and Kim will connect to discuss.

Change in mandate regarding council committees to encourage more people to participate and to have an impact and create lasting changes.

No objections

**Questions on by-laws**

Discussion regarding new election procedure and potential scenarios/challenges – why change it (to be compliant with 612, more inclusive), CS - how will individuals promote themselves at meeting in new process (same as always with small bio/speech if an election occurs, usually just everyone acclaimed). Discussed why have a group elected versus individual positions (what regulation calls for, and TDSB position).

AL: why in the case of a vacancy do we appoint as opposed to calling another election. JH will bring this back to the team working on the by-laws and review (Regulation allows for vacancy to be filled by appointment, similar language to current bylaws).

**Close of the meeting/discussion:**

JH asked those present if everyone is in agreement to adopt the proposed bylaws with the following changes 1) drop advisory from name, use School Council (SC), language of whole document to be updated to reflect this change; 2) Code of Ethics will be reviewed and remain in the Appendix as a resource not a bylaw; and 3) Vacancy language reviewed (how a vacancy on council will be filled). Everyone was in agreement to move forward.

No objections

AL (Election Officer) raised that we need to select a date for Council Election in the fall for the new council for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Election:** will be held at first SAC meeting in the new school year, Monday September 27, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Adjourned: 7:42 pm