

Duke SAC January Meeting Minutes

Monday January 21, 2021, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

Attendance:

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea (Principal), , Robert Walters (Vice-Principal), Chris O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Principal)

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

Other Attendees:

Adene Kuchera, Erin Scott, Louise Pothier, Liz

Absent: Ray McIntyre (Teacher Rep) Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Lisa Lebeer (Secretary), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward rep)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment - Catherine Miller-Mort

2. Previous business, Approval of minutes

Moved by Adene Kuchera; Seconded by Laurie Barnett

3. Treasurer's Report - Sue Munn

Sue provided a walk-through of the current budget explaining the complexities of carrying funds and approved expenses forward from last year due to Covid.

Should all previously approved and planned expenses and fundraising occur as anticipated, there will be a carryover of \$3,400 for the next school year. This is lower than other years but it is best practice for school council funds to be spent the year they are raised. There is some consideration being given to how to raise additional funds or lower anticipated expenses to offset the lower-than-anticipated results of the read-a-thon.

4. Ward Report - Jill Hollingsworth

Recent ward meeting focused on the concept of working on being an anti-racist and inclusive student council and parent engagement. Jill will share the slides when they are available.

Thanks to all who brought food to the food drive and to all of those who participated in the read-a-thon.

Reminder that if anyone has concerns that they would like brought forward to trustees please contact ward representatives at info@dukesac.ca and they will bring concerns to the trustees.

Reminder to fill out the TDSB Survey that was sent today.

5. Principals' Reports - Carol Shea, Carl Gambacort & Robb Walters

Welcome to Chris O'shaughnessy as interim VP!

Carol mentioned that the next planned switch date between bricks and mortar and virtual school is February 16. This may or may not change.

Carol explained the option for bricks and mortar students to apply for a formal exemption to synchronous learning for remote school. Information can be found on the TDSB website. Erin Scott inquired about the impact that exemptions to synchronous learning would have on staffing - Carol is not aware that there will be any impact.

Carol explained the distinction between Bricks and Mortar remote learning (in-person learning switched to online and Virtual School which is the full year virtual school with a separate administration and management).

Toronto Foundation for Student Success has offered funding for families who need support for nutrition while remote learning a link was shared in the most recent Dash of Duke.

Construction work continues, a meeting for February has been scheduled to discuss the front playground area.

IEPs and Report Cards will be sent electronically. IEPs from Duke staff and Report Cards from central TDSB.

Robb spoke on technology. More than 85 devices have been handed out to students for remote learning with the expectation that they will be returned when in person school resumes. Some devices do not have working mics and cameras and the school has been working to ensure that all students have fully functioning devices.

Robb expressed gratitude from Carl G. for the gift sent on behalf of the Duke community as well as the messages and appreciation he has received on his retirement.

If students are in need of tech support they are encouraged to start with the teacher for resolution and for further support contact Robb Walters. Please be as specific as possible - screenshots and exact language of any error messages are helpful. Families can also access the TDSB IT support page here:

www.tdsb.on.ca/in-person-learning/student-virtual-learning-IT-support

Louise inquired about the possibility of families donating tech devices and equipment. While donations of working devices would be welcome, schools do not have IT support for non TDSB equipment which can pose problems for their maintenance and upkeep. Chris mentioned the possibility of a tech drive focused on providing equipment for students to use at home, this would mean that less school equipment would need to be lent and students would have equipment of their own. Louise and Aron will begin the conversation on starting a tech drive.

Sue asked for an update on finding LTOs for classes where teachers are on leave. Both classes currently have teachers who will remain until an LTO is found.

Jill asked about consistency in the use of Google Classroom, Carol and Robb spoke to the work teachers and admin are working to make remote learning a smooth process for all. At the same time parents expressed appreciation for the effort and work in this wild time.

Sue inquired as to whether students would be penalized for difficulties they have for struggling with the technology. They will not.

Duke Cookbook - Jill Hollingsworth

Thinking of a project that the community can come together on. Jill presented the idea of a duke cookbook. Anyone with interest should reach out to info@dukesac.ca

Meeting adjourned: 7:43

Next meeting Feb 22, 2021 at 6:30