

Duke SAC February Meeting Minutes

Monday February 22, 2021, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

Attendance:

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

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

Other Attendees:

Jessica Dubelaar, Sally Macdonald-Bliss, Logan Ketchum (Darcy), Sarah Phipps

Absent: Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep), Catherine Miller-Mort (Secretary), Ashley Hayes (Parent Rep)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment - Sara Ehrhardt

2. Previous business, Approval of minutes

Moved by Laurie Barnett; Seconded by Miranda Indrigo

3. Ward Update - Jill Hollingsworth

Ward Events:

- TDSB Trustee meeting/update tomorrow Feb 23 - open to all
- Feb 27 Community Hub - LC4 Presentation/discussion - how to use your bylaws to work toward your school's equity goals
- Let's Talk about Race seminar - Bowmore school -2-part anti-racism workshop March 3rd & 10th - See Facebook group for details, will also be in NTR.

Presentation on Equity (link to slides below)

- First annual TDSB Human Rights Report is out now (Link: [Report](#)) - important findings for working on systemic racism & oppression within our education system. Found that LC4 has most cases of discrimination and a number of groups of students have issues (Races, Disabled, 2SLGBTQ). TDSB has expanded their Human Rights department to deal with changing system to eliminate institutional discrimination and to respond to existing cases more quickly. Report is stats heavy but important for progress.
- Slides shared from the Joint Ward 15 & 16 session on Equity (link to slides: [Equity](#)) including a section on a case study from Blake school and their initiatives.

Key Points from Blake School:

- Blake selects an aspect of equity for each school year and focuses on that for the year - 2021 was Identity (& Equity). Principal drives the initiative via connecting curriculum and class work with the topic and SAC does sessions and work with caregiver community
- SAC held Affinity Space meetings on a regular schedule where minority caregivers could discuss their concerns in a safe space and brainstorm solutions
- Creating equity committees within your schools as part of your School Improvement Plan
- Resources: 2 books suggested:
 - **Is everyone really equal** by Sensoy & D'Angleo
 - **Why Am I Me** - by Paige Britt
- Kindergarten classes studied the book - **Nibi's Water Song** by Sunshine Tenasco (topic is Indigenous reserves water supply issues) and some nice projects coming out of that equity work - reading books has inspired kids to start a fundraiser to support water projects in Indigenous communities.
- Older grade students with the Principal are personalizing the TDSB land acknowledgment to recognize the issue - a new one is presented every day on the announcements. French class wrote a song.
- Other initiatives to make your school represent the actual student population and feel welcoming & inclusive to all - i.e. updating wall murals, art projects, music - drum session, etc.
- Blake partnered with other community schools - 'freedom school' (combination of four schools - their ideas/created a schedule of activities)
- Suggested podcast - "**Nice White Parents**" - **5-parts (by the NYT)**
- School has been working with their TDSB Community Support Person to support their efforts (Ian Macpherson)

Discussion:

- Is Duke's caregiver community interested in starting an equity committee? To focus on anti-discrimination, anti-racism, anti-oppression in our school. To hold "Affinity Groups" meetings.
- It did pre-exist in past years and that committee amalgamated with Safe & Caring - The focus at Duke is 'student voice'. (Maureen was involved).
- Equity - directly tied to Student well-being - Student achievement
- Challenge with Safe & Caring - **was that** it was lunch-time meetings **hard for parents to join**; perhaps virtual would appeal
- Join with other local schools **for equity work following the Blake model** - i.e. Roden/Bruce/Morse/Bowmore/Wandering Spirit
- Discussions with trustees Aarts & Story to see about moving this forward

4. Principals' Reports - Carol Shea, Chris O'Shaughnessy & Robb Walters

Carol S -

COVID update - Two teachers + forty two students are now self-isolating + siblings

Testing is being set up for this group by TPH

Central testing - data will come to a central location - helpful for contact tracing

Take home testing kits have not yet been received - but should hopefully be available soon

School photos

Clear Images - potential new supplier

Starting to investigate, but are being asked to hold off

When we have more info will update.

Photographer is open to creative ideas

Door 10 - Woodfield Building

Set to be replaced - students will be re-routed in the meantime.

Chris O -

Roots of Empathy have pivoted to offer a new program "Recovery Program"

Suggested sessions for 2 classes (5 lessons each) \$1500 for the sessions

Does SAC have the budget to cover this program?

If not, the school will use the Request for Funds form

5 or 6 classes are interested - it would be offered sometime THIS school year (2021) SAC doesn't currently have a lot of wiggle room in our budget.

They would have to use their classroom enrichment budget if they haven't already spent it.

Minimum of \$150 amount classrooms can request, some classes can get more based on number of students (i.e. up to \$380 at the high end).

Roots of Empathy is aiming for spring 2021 - they have the ability to offer in both Eng & Fr.

Chris is going to provide the list of classes with Sue - to see who has not spent their money.

It is still a program with empathy - done virtually; questions about how we have adapted for COVID

Robb W -

Technology loaning - 25 devices have been returned

In process of checking them/disinfected and returned to carts for in-class use

Some have since been re-loaned due to classes now self-isolating.

Grade 8 transition to Grade 9 - Robb will be spending time on paperwork making sure everyone has been accounted for.

5. Treasurer's Report - Sue Munn

Are we doing a PRO-grant application this year? PRO grants are money for seminars/workshops etc. It's due March 1st.

"Conversation Circles" (potentially the affinity groups that Jill was mentioning in the ward discussions).

Does Duke really need the grant?

Updates re: budget carryover
Phys-Ed carryover has been spent

Tax receipts for Duke Cares donations - Sue discussing with TDSB general accounting
Tax receipts for Read-a-Thon will be dated 2021 - they are forthcoming
Administrative delay is the cause
Feel free to contact Sue if you have specific questions about your tax receipts

Can't spend the amount we wanted to (\$15000) on tech unless we lower classroom enrichment budgets or raise more funds.
Shortfall of \$2000 based on carryovers and current fundraising budget
Proposal to give SAC more budgetary space - is to use \$2500 of Duke Cares to offset the budget shortfall. This was approved

Other Business -

Laurie Barnett - spoke about the use of humidifiers in classrooms (Colin Furness, Epidemiologist)
Can we crowdfund for this?
Carol - policy states no additional equipment is allowed in classrooms
TPH - says opening windows is the best course of action
One reason extra equipment isn't allowed is because electrical cords can be dangerous
HEPA filters are not required at Duke because the building has a mechanical ventilation system, which provides a higher mixture of circulating fresh air.
Wellness rooms have HEPA filters - mandated

Meeting adjourned: 7:49

Next meeting Mar 29, 2021 at 6:30