

Duke SAC March Meeting Minutes

Monday March 29, 2021, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

Attendance:

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea (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), Miranda Indrigo (Parent Rep) Lisa Lebeer (Secretary), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward rep)

Other Attendees:

Jessica Dubelaar, Deborah Shore

Absent: Ray McIntyre (Teacher Rep) Maria Oliveira (Teacher Rep), Jeff Hackett (co-Treasurer), Ashley Hayes (Parent Rep),

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment - Sara Ehrhardt

2. Previous business, Approval of minutes

Tabled

3. Treasurer's Report - Sue Munn

\$2500 of funds \$9000 budgeted for classroom enrichment has been spent or planned to be spent. [Yoga matt cheque lost in the mail - Sue looking into it.](#)

Discussion about how to ensure that all classroom ~~education~~ [enrichment funds-is are](#) spent and that students all see the benefit.- [Not all teachers have used their classroom amount so only some classrooms have benefited from the enrichment allocations. Need to look at alternative ways to fund classroom enrichment to ensure all students benefit. Review budget process to enable greater caregiver input and flexibility to respond to budget requests over the school year \(Budget set in Oct for the whole year, TDSB rule\).](#)

4. Anti-Black Racism - Kim Robinson

Kim introduced the importance of the school having an anti black racism strategy and inquired about what has been done so far- [at Duke. Kim spoke to the need for everyone to self educate \(people are in different places on their journey\), by an ally - be brace & have a voice, and why black community feels not included.](#)

Carol spoke to the diversity and inclusion resources that have been provided to classroom teachers and the difficulties during covid with releasing teachers from classroom duties for

professional development. A book on allyship has been given to all classrooms and resources spending has focused on issues of racism and inclusion.

Jill spoke about [Affinity Spaces](#) (safe space meetings for minority groups) that are held at other local schools, and issues of other forms of [oppression and discrimination](#) experienced at Duke (Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, Asian). [These meetings are for minority caregivers only to meet, discuss their concerns and suggestions to resolve issues. This should be separate from an Anti-discrimination committee and the Book club Carol suggested.](#)

Carol mentioned a book she has recently read, **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man**, by Emmanuel Acho, and suggests hosting a guided reading of it with the school community.

Action Items:

1. A SAC driven subcommittee on Anti [Racism Discrimination \(incl racism\)](#) will be formed.
2. This will be [a](#) separate from the Safe and Caring School Committee.
3. An invitation to participate will go out to staff and parents after the terms of the committee are formed [\(work in progress, will use bylaws to make committee a SAC mandate\).](#)
4. Sara has offered to provide logistical support.

[Discussion that the committee should have a bold & blunt title to head on face the topic rather than a name with more flowery language. \(name suggestion: Antiracism Action Committee, or Anti-discrimination Action Committee\)](#)

Principals' Reports - Carol Shea & Chris O'Shaughnessy

Construction Updates

- 33 hepa filter units have been installed
- Construction in the front will occur this summer and includes new platforms around the trees, greenery and more seating.
- Door 10 has been replaced.
- Woodfield gym ventilation system in progress (Air Conditioning).

Outdoor classrooms are being scheduled. Using the school property and local green space. Every class cohort gets to have 40-minute outdoor classroom time throughout the day.

5. Lunch space for 7 and 8

Students who have left for lunch are finding that they are bunching up on the sidewalks after they have left for lunch

Carol recommends that they return as close to the bell as possible. Administration has spoken with intermediate students to try to make it work. The difficulty stems from protocols that they

are supposed to return to the end of the line and are not allowed to mix with the existing group until they enter the building.

6. Spirit Days

Purpose to get kids engaged and have fun at school. A call out will go in the need to read for spirit day. Looking for classroom contribution and participation.

Miranda asked for information about what the guiding questions for coming up with spirit days are.

7. Questions about expectations for next year

Jill asked if the staffing model has considerations for all students being in bricks and mortar schools.

Carol responded:

- Planning with face to face everyone in the building.
- Planning to have a back pocket plan for if covid regulations for cohorting remain.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 pm