

Duke SC Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2022

Attendance: Catherine Miller-Mort (Chair SC), Jill Hollingsworth (Parent Rep), Jeff Hackett (Treasurer), Susan Munn (Parent Rep), Suhasini Date (Parent Rep), Chris Hazard (Parent Rep), Cara Murphy (Parent Rep), Ray McIntrye (Teacher Rep), Lizz Landry (VP), Kosta Flegas (VP), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen),

Parents/Guardians: Adene Kuchara, Lisa Wu, Laurie Barnett, Edward Griffith, Zoe Webster, Norine Williamson

Absent: Carol Shea (Principal), Miranda Indrigo (Comm Lead), Lauren Green (Parent Rep), Jinju Fan (Comm Team), Kim Robinson (Parent Rep)

Minutes:

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Catherine Miller-Mort approve adding Woodgreen Guest, Stephanie Nickle to agenda and requested approval of minutes from Duke SC Meeting on November 24, 2021, moved by Sue Munn, seconded by Su Date.

Principal's Report:

- Lizz shared a report from Carol in her absence.
- School Budget has been able to provide \$12 per student for classroom funding.
- Devices: 35 Chromebooks have arrived and are being set up for student use in the carts around the school. Some devices shared with families for the virtual school period - left with families in case of future return to virtual. Looking at the prices to purchase another cart for laptops.
- Covid report - only 1 positive so far, 1 staff. Have been 7 or 8 staff absences per day due to covid protocols. Working hard to keep OT in every class, sometimes need to use pool of rotary/resource teachers to fill in gaps.
- Grade 8 Transitions - offers should be coming in the next couple of weeks, advising when there are open houses. Working on a Duke Open House.
- Duke Staff are working with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre—Anase Project on a project about Indigenous Education.

Kosta:

- Shared he was impressed with the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and work around anti-oppression and equity, believes it to be very important pedagogy and work to be done in the school.
- Thanked all the 30 parent volunteers for putting together all the rapid tests that went out to students Friday January 21, 2022. Pleased there such a good response to the request for volunteers.

- Absences are being reported to the Ministry, keep in mind that may include students who are absent for reasons other than covid.
- Working on staffing for next year. (Lizz)
- N95 masks had been shared with staff.
- Shared at his old school they had done for a few years a Student Participatory Budget Program - students are given an opportunity to say what they want funds to be spent on, what will make them feel good to come to school, put together proposals without adults and then vote on options. Council and School budgets contribute some funds (e.g. \$2000 each). Budget idea was well received by attendees

ACTION: Council will follow up with Kosta to meet and discuss how we can implement this suggestion (Student Budget Participation), bring back a proposal potentially for the February Council meeting.

Question (Laurie Barnett): What if a student didn't receive their tests?

Answer (Lizz Landry): Send me an email and I will walk it up to their class, if they were absent their test has been kept in the office.

Question (Norine Williamson): In last TDSB Update, are students being given N95 masks?

Answer (Lizz Landry): No, just staff, the ones the school have are adult sized and don't fit the students properly. We do have three-layer cloth masks available for students.

Noted in chat: Canada Strong sells N95 for kids, online.

Fundraising Update (Catherine):

- Fundraiser in December brought in just under \$10,000 - which was almost double the goal of \$5000, that probably means we are good for fundraising for the next while.
- Thanks to the community for their generosity.

Treasurer Report (Jeff):

- Just over \$25,000 in the PACE account
- Fundraiser made \$9045
- 35 Chromebooks have been purchased and received
- 4 iPads ordered, waiting to receive
- Coffee Morning cost \$217
- \$1900 transferred from Pace to Line Account to cover Read-a-thon tax receipts
- \$115 made from Lost & Found sales (thanks to Lisa Lebeer)

Duke Cares (Sue)

- Meant to support in a flexible and barrier free way for anyone who needs assistance (e.g. winter clothing, grocery cards, etc.).
- Anyone can approach an Admin, staff or Council member (whoever you are comfortable approaching).
- Current demand low, budget is sufficient to fund.
- Not a lot of coats, etc. for Gr 4 - 8 in the supply cupboard currently

- Sue Munn note that Duke Cares isw not meant to be like a store, can buy as needed
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ACTION: NTR/Email message to do a call out for gently used articles for those sizes needed. Lizz: will remind Staff about Duke Cares.

Catherine Miller-Mort moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Ray McIntyre.

Workshops Update (Jill):

- Follow up from November, SC did apply for a PRO Grant (funds from the Ministry) and received a full \$1500 grant.
- Grant is specifically for Council to do outreach with Parents/Guardians in community.
- TDSB chose for this year's grant focus: Anti-Oppression and Equity (specifically Anti-Black racism & Anti-indigenous racism).
- 2 Interactive Workshops books: Canvass on Thursday March 3, 2022 @ 7pm and Rania El Mugammar for Wednesday June 1, 2022.
- Still working on the last piece of the series, Indigenous Education/Drum
- In June after all the workshops, will have a meeting to review and discuss how lessons can be applied at Duke.

ACTION: Catherine Miller-Mort suggested a save the date go out in the NTR for booked Workshops.

PRO Grant (Sue):

- Sue discussed the background on the PRO grant and application process.
- Concerns about a lack of fairness, grants were granted on a First Come, First Serve basis. Online/social media there had been discussion around this.
- Sue had been going to suggest giving the grant back (as a principled stand) but there didn't seem to be an appetite for that in discussion so she decided not to make that motion.
- Jill mentioned process issues that also contributed to issues with the application process.
- Lizz noted that she was on the deciding committee, didn't review any applications for schools she knew. Open to having a conversation with SC members and taking feedback back to the review committee. Sue and Jill expressed interest in meeting with her

ACTION: Council would like to write a letter to the Director of PCEO and highlight inequalities in the grant process and advocate for how it can be improved next year. Lizz, Sue and Jill to meet to discuss issues with the Grant Application process.

Community Partners Update (Stephanie Nickle):

- Applegrove
 - Hosting their annual Free Income Tax Clinic
 - Registration will begin Feb 1, 2022

- Email attachment will be shared with Catherine Miller-Mort.
- May Seto is Applegrove's main contact
- SH Armstrong
 - Mark Mead is the head of programming
 - Drop off will be re-opening M - F 5-6:30
 - March Break Camps coming, Spring programs will be out for registration Mar 7, 2022
- Woodgreen
 - Doing online registration
 - Kindergarten, hard to add students mid term due to covid protocols and cohorting.
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7:20pm End of Agenda items, began the "Check in with Everyone" portion of the meeting.

- Catherine Miller-Mort asked how everyone is doing
- Jill Hollingsworth asked if parents were interested in a Resilience or other mental health workshop for adults
- People are tired of zoom events.
- Cara suggested an adult social event. People are going to think about what kind of event can have and maybe do a poll in the NTR.
- Catherine Miller-Mort reviewed the ACTION items and additional conversation around the Student Participatory Budget Program (website to be shared).

7:37pm meeting adjourned.

Summary of Meeting Actions:

ACTION: Council will follow up with Kosta to meet and discuss how we can implement this suggestion (Student Budget Participation), bring back a proposal potentially for the February Council meeting.

ACTION: NTR/Email message to do a call out for gently used articles for those sizes needed.

ACTION: CATHERINE MILLER-MORT suggested a Save-the-Date go out in the NTR for booked Workshops.

ACTION: Council would like to write a letter to the Director of PCEO and highlight inequalities in the grant process and advocate for how it can be improved next year.

ACTION: Lizz, Sue and Jill to meet to discuss issues with the Grant Application process.