

DUKE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
February 23, 2022

School Council Attendees: Su Date, Jeff Hackett, Chris Hazard, Jill Hollingsworth, Miranda Indrigo, Catherine Miller-Mort, Sue Munn

Duke Staff Attendees: Carol Shea, Ray McIntyre, Maria Olivera

Community Partners: Mark Meade (S.H. Armstrong), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen)

Parent/Caregivers: Laurie Barnett, Kristine Brown, Christie Dunbar, Lauren Green, Madiha Junaid, Adene Kuchera, Lee, Chris Lemassif, Lily, Lisa Lebeer, Jen Pendergast, Matt Rasmussen, MJ Starr, Susanne, Brent T., Zoe Webster, Lisa Wo

Meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Decisions/Next Steps Summary:

- Student Participatory Project: School to move forward with funding
- School Budget: Carol Shea to provide update at next meeting
- Parent representation on school committees: Carol and SC will communicate about committees and parent representation to ensure everyone is aware of opportunities to participate
- Parent reps: Duke SC to put call for Grad committee and Election committee reps in the NTR.
- Communications review: Miranda Indrigo to connect with Duke admin
- Bystander Intervention training: Sue Munn to share Hollaback resources with Carol
- Next School Council meeting: March 30

MEETING MINUTES

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Previous Minutes: Miranda Indrigo (moved), Chris Hazard (second)

Upcoming workshops: Jill Hollingsworth

- Council and DEI committee putting on a series of workshops; first one is next week on zoom
- Register by emailing dukedicommittie@gmail.com
- First workshop presented by CANVAS, art action workshop on Affirming spaces for youth
- Interactive workshop with two facilitators in support of LGBTQ2S+ community and how to support queer trans and questioning youth as parents
- Hope to create a more inclusive environment at the school, particularly for Duke students who are experiencing discrimination
- Registration is required to get link to meeting
- June 1: save the date for upcoming seminar on raising antiracist kids
- Looking to book third workshop on Indigenous drumming, but waiting to see if we can do in person at an outdoor event
- Information will be provided through the NTR/school communications

Principal Report: Carol Shea

Technology

- Received 100 new Chromebooks, 20 Acer laptops, 85 TDSB Grade 5-initiative Chromebooks
- 35 additional Chromebooks through School Council funding
- Waiting two new carts to house technology and a charging station for ISP students with autism
- Shared in 1:2 or 1:3 device per student, depending on the division and the device
- Tech team is managing tickets to maintain equipment
- Recalling loaner devices now, which will mean an additional 75 devices in the school

COVID

- Mild case numbers since January
- 1 – 2 cases per week
- Classes have not needed to move to remote learning
- Continue to report cases confirmed by PCR or rapid antigen test to Ministry every day
- Cases are also reported to class, TDSB and to Toronto Public Health
- Daily reporting to ministry of staff and student absences and students working in short-term virtual learning
- Daily report to superintendent on any impact to special education, i.e. loss of programming or support staff due to staff shortages or program closure
- Staff absences are also reported (see Staffing below)

School Budget

- Allocating \$12 per student for classroom materials
- Each grade and program-specific materials are also supported through budget committee (e.g. materials for middle -school French Immersion program)
- Sponsored Outdoor Ed virtual classrooms for all classes (virtual field trips, \$2 per child , sponsored one per classroom at least)

School Improvement Committee

- Duke has been part of an Anansi Inquiry (focus on Indigenous learning) for three years, based on population of self-identified Indigenous community at Duke
- Four lead teachers and admin team involved in professional learning sessions
- Overarching inquiry: In what ways can we effectively engage Indigenous ways of knowing to transform our individual learning and teaching practices to enhance student learning and well being
- 1% of families at Duke self-identify as Indigenous; numbers may be higher because some families may not have self-identified
- We need to use Indigenous lens to inform all children and so that the 1% feels seen and part of community
- Artwork on walls is outdated and needs to reflect current student voice and Indigenous voices
- Money to bring in artist to refresh environment and update outdated murals by library and by kindergarten classrooms

Staffing

- No staffing changes due to switch from virtual to in-person learning on Feb 22
- Prior to 45 students in Duke in virtual classrooms, 10 returned to Duke and 7 left to virtual. Very little impact to numbers
- As of now, only 2 students left in short term learning and most are back out of 37 who chose short term virtual
- Staff absences due to COVID: 4 to 6 away every day, 10 – 12 on Fridays or Mondays
- Significant impact to prep coverage for teachers
- 9.5 rotary teachers, including 2.5 resource from special education
- Unfilled vacancies are covered by rotary teachers so that classes can remain open; rotated through 9.5 teachers
- Absences in support staff, i.e. Child and Youth Workers in the autism programs
- Special needs assistance moves into ISP classes to support
- Lunchroom supervisors: 12 supervisors allocated, 4 indoors for Kindie rooms and 8 outside
- 2 – 3 lunchroom supervisors regularly away
- 8 zones outside with 15 – 16 cohorts; if three supervisors are away, challenging to cover 8 outdoor zones
- Cohorts are 2 homeroom classes partnered together, to a maximum of 50 students
- Complex schedule: 3 lunch hours, 3 morning recesses, 3 afternoon recesses

French Program

- Early enrollment projected to be declining across the Board; 50 fewer students projected for Duke
- First year of JK/SK French Immersion (FI): projecting two full FI classrooms, likely no optional attendance
- Currently have one FI and 3 English kindergarten classrooms
- Expecting 2 full FI and 1.5 or 2 English
- Need time to see if they stay in the program over the first few years, in order to understand staffing needs
- If Duke has 40 – 50 fewer kids, there will be an impact to staffing
- Staffing allocation to come very shortly in the Spring

Virtual School Enrollment

- TDSB to offer virtual option in 2022-2023, with no switches
- Currently we have 40 students in virtual school; this number does not make a significant impact to staffing because of the size of the school

Welcome to Duke: New Students

- Waiting to hear about in person or virtual open houses for all programs (FI, kindergarten, grade 7 – 8, gifted, etc.)
- Virtual open house website is being updated and is coming out shortly
- Expecting smaller 7-8 cohort from external schools (Morse, Leslieville) in September; could mean a reduction of classes. Planning is happening right now.

Schoolyard Update

- Snow removal:
 - done by contract and are responsible only for a specific route—pathways only are cleared and salted.
 - Conditions are bad in some areas; with co-horted zones, it's challenging to move kids off ice.
 - Caretakers salt daily, but there have been more falls because of icy conditions.
- Basketball nets:
 - Some challenges with icy surface
 - Removable nets were purchased in the past, supposed to go up and down at the start and end of the school day.
 - Students are not supposed to mix outside of their cohort, so nets are not left up outside of school hours
 - Basketball courts are a zone, hard to distribute zones equitably
- Operational guidelines are put together by the TDSB, updated regularly
- Different schools have different guidelines and variations because of different school yard layouts, staffing, etc.
- All schools have the same protocols, but different school have different parameters in how they implement
- School is following Toronto District Elementary Sports Athletic Association guidelines, as well

Extracurriculars/Intramurals: Ms. Oliveira

- Waiting to hear about changes to elementary sports regulations; current regulations require that cohorts to not mix
- Intramurals can start, in cohorts
- Limit on number of children in gym; gauging student interest and working through guidelines
- Volleyball with Intermediates to start, low contact, waiting to hear on basketball and hockey to see if permitted
- More outside in the spring (running, etc.)—Ms. O is trying to get it going, as soon as she can do it safely and following the restrictions.
- Swimming: No pool updates, waiting for repairs to be completed

Grad Committee

- Grad committee meeting starting up, beginning to organize.
- Usually, parents do something from School Council (grab bags in the past, t-shirts, etc.)
- Teacher conversations starting soon
- Option to do cruise being considered, hoping to get the ok.

EQUAO

- EQAO is happening between May – June; e-based assessment for grade 3 students
- Parent concerns around using classroom time to focus on teaching to the test, and process for accommodations if needed
- Accommodations will happen as per IEPs

- Questions should reflect classroom learning and teachers are supposed to teach to the test
- EQAO covers all curriculum over a 5-year period and focus is on measuring teachers' instructional practices
- Sample tests and framework are available online
- Webinars about the test will be available to teachers in March
- Letters go to families from the Board and EQAO closer to the test
- Grade 3s will go in the library and work there, tentatively

Miscellaneous

- Grocery coupons from Toronto Foundation for Student Success for fresh eggs
- Available for any family who needs them, focus on fresh protein, dairy etc.
- Reach out to Duke administration if interested

Budget: Jeff Hackett

- Received \$62.37 from Mabel's Labels and Flipgive
- School Council purchased 35 Chromebooks and iPads for kindergarten classrooms: \$12, 773
- March 4: School Council will provide coffee for staff, teachers (separate, dedicated fund outside of school budget)
- Confirmed that we will let kindergarten classes know that we are able to order puppets requested by them
- Student participatory budget: funds dedicated to project managed by students
- Funds are available that we can allocate without needing to vote, we have money aside for new initiatives
- Chris Hazard expressed support to start process now with students and is interested in being involved
- Decision: SC/Chris to move this forward offline. If interested, email Duke SC.

S.H. Armstrong Update: Mark Mead

- March break camp is full
- Spring registration is on March 7, programming start April 4th
- Currently running drop-in programs only, family open gym time
- No capacity restrictions at SH now but keeping numbers low
- Applegrove:
 - Also has March Break camp, registration now open
 - Looking for board members, reach out to Applegrove if interested
- Woodgreen:
 - Planning March break, looking toward summer and hoping for opportunity to do outings

School Committees: Jill Hollingsworth

- Committees within school: School Improvement Plan, Safe and Caring, Budget, Staffing
- Safe and caring schools has been done along with budget by the school leadership team
- If interested in being a parent rep, email info@dukesac.ca
- Carol recommended having School Council presence so that goals are aligned across committees

- Jeff Hackett offered to join is willing to do budget, Jill Hollingsworth interested in School Improvement
- Request for Carol to provide a budget update at next meeting
- Decision: Carol and SC will communicate about committees and parent representation to ensure everyone is aware of opportunities to participate
- Parent reps needed for Grad Committee and Election Committee, as well. SC to put call in NTR.

Communications: Jill Hollingsworth

- Office and school communications sometimes overlap.
- Review how we reach new and current parents, making sure everyone is getting communications, coordinating between school and SC communications
- Carol is onboard to look into updating TDSB website, add button to sign up for newsletters, guiding communication
- Miranda Indrigo to connect with admin to set up communication meeting

March School Council Meeting: Date set for March 30, 2022

Additional Questions

Jill Hollingsworth: In light of recent antisemitism issue at TDSB, is anything being addressed at our school? Is bystander intervention training for students an option? Is that something School Council could support on.

- Issues around antiracism and anti-oppression have been handled within the classroom by the teachers.
- There was an incident in one classroom, and it was taken very seriously and addressed.
- Clear guidelines from the Board on how to handle antiracist issue, including consultation with Caring and Safe Schools committee, human rights officers, superintendents and legal consultants through the TDSB
- Carol spoke with them last week about two incidents at Duke: one where kids made comments during an argument that were brought forward, one where kids thought something was a joke and didn't realize the impact of something they had done in the classroom.
- Teachers and admin spoke to classes to ensure they understood that there is zero tolerance.
- We do have incidences that require follow-up, consequences and learning in the classroom.
- Ongoing professional learning on anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism and Indigenous learning for staff
- Staff has not focused on Anti-Semitism through professional learning or as a school as yet, but learning is happening in some junior and intermediate classrooms through conversations about the Holocaust and human rights
- Bystander intervention: is there something for students and can council support?
- Carol would want to look closely at the content and benefits/risks to student wellbeing
- Sue Munn recommended Hollaback training and kids' resources, need to confirm whether they're approved by the TDSB.
- Next Steps: Sue Munn to share Hollaback resources with Carol