

Minutes April 25, 2024 School Council Meeting

Attendance: Jill Hollingsworth (SC), Chris Hazard (SC), Natalie Chinsam (SC), Bill Vatzolas (P), Delphine Rule (VP), Mary Jane Starr, Maria Oliveira (Staff SC), Sheri Sampedro, Pauline Larkin, Lucy Mann, Emily Harris-McLeod, Lida Elias, Mike Sukmanowsky

Absent SC: Marilyn Lacroix, Jennifer Huang, Jason Davie, Robyn Swift, Jeff Hackett

Start: 6:35pm

Welcome & Intros & Land Acknowledgement - 5 SC members send their regrets (sickness & work commitments)

Request for any new Biz - no new, Emily Harris-McLeod requested in advance to speak to outdoor beautification

Announcements:

- School Musical Next week - get your tickets - going to be greats
- Thanks to one of our Jewish families for providing Passover snacks for tonight's meeting
- Reminder re Kerr/Highfield street issues re drop offs, driving/parking badly - please be kind, follow rules of road - don't block driveways, run over gardens - please share with friends/neighbours/socials

Minutes from Feb & Mar - NOT approved, no quorum

Community Partners - no partners in attendance

SH Armstrong shared a flyer about Mother's Day tea they are hosting on Saturday, May 11

Dismantling Inequities Committee

Shared a few details about upcoming Kindness Initiative:

- Series of banners going up around the school
- Lesson plans in the works for all classes
- Staff are involved in planning - class lessons, age appropriate
- There will be parent information shared
- Objective positive, safe environment
- Start this school year and continue next year - build on it

Treasurer Report (Jill shared for Jeff)

Since the last meeting, here are our current balances:

Alterna Account - **\$26,301**

School Line Account - **\$13,725.**

Money coming in:

- \$115 from Pizza Lunches
- Approx. \$250 profit from Movie Night (\$1950 in cash - \$1,034.14 expenses - \$665 float).

Money Going out:

- \$421 for Electrical Kits
- \$516 for JK/SK Prologue (Final payment)
- \$469 for Kindness Initiative
- \$144 Pizza Lunch Expenses
- \$344 for School Council Engagement Expenses
- \$15 for SC Expenses.

Duke Cares

- \$600 was handed out in the last month.
- \$200 is left available in Duke Cares.
- Request another \$400 (at a minimum) is transferred over.

School Council Vote: by in person (Jill, Natalie, Chris, Maria) and proxy vote (Slack: Jeff, Robyn, Marilyn, Jennifer, Jason) to **move \$500 to Duke Cares**

Not usual way to do things with proxy votes,, but need more funds, and don't want to leave families hanging since we don't have quorum

Discussion of possibly giving \$2000 more to the School initiative - Indigenous Art Mural with student participation - discuss more at the next meeting when more SC members present

Community Discussion:

1) TDSB Budget Update - the process is still playing out, TDSB waiting to hear GSN fund amounts, Education Minister did not accept TDSB selling properties to balance budget, can find all TDSB TRustee meeting on the website, there are Budge Town Halls next week (info in the NTR, TDSB email and Trustee email), 65% of Budget is Staff (85% Staff & Benefits) that's why staff cuts are part of balancing budget every year

Duke did get back 1 Lunchroom Supervisor for next school year

2) Outdoor Beautification - Emily Harris-Mcleod

Outdoor areas and fences could use some jazzing up - projects like art for the fences, gardens, vines grown on the fences, etc. Murals on the concrete walls in the back field. Ground painting - hopscotch, 4 square

Front basketball court to be done this year - resurfacing and painting (4 square, etc)

Parents can't just paint things themselves - TDSB policy

Could tie this in with the Kindness Initiative

SC & Principal to explore what is allowed and can be done quickly/easily/economically

Time ran out to discuss School Climate & Scent free - moved to next meeting

Principal's Report (P Vatzolas & VP Rule)

- EQAO = gr 3 & 6 coming up (May 13 - June 12), practice tests will be done, teach students how to fill in the bubble sheet properly so answers recognized
- Heritage Fair - Gr 5-8
- May 3 - Gr 7/8 vaccines
- Dental screening been happening for all of school
- Sewing Initiative - Gr 4- 8 - well received, students & staff loved the workshop
- TSO trip Gr 7/8
- Grad Photos - May retakes
- Recess bags for class have been distributed and classes using them, loving them
- Class Organization model not presented - waiting until after parent feedback for classroom placements - will discuss at the next meeting
- Gr 7/8 Some students doing the Gaus Math test
- Pool - upgrades needed to the grouting - likely in the fall, TDSB doing an audit

Ms. O Updates

- Swim meeting went amazing - so many medals.
- Many teams running - cricket, slow pitch, running club, track and field (first meeting May 22)
- Make sure to fill out forms on EMA (excursion management system)

Closing - thanks for coming, next meeting Wednesday, May 22