

Minutes March 6, 2023 SC Meeting  
(rescheduled from February 27, 2023 due to storm)

**March 6, 2023**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Duke of Connaught Junior and Senior Public School**

**Location: School Library - in person**

**Last Meeting: Jan 18, 2022**

**Council Members Present:** Jill Hollingsworth, Sarah Lasch, Meghan Cox, Jason Davie, Jeffrey Hacket, Sonya Velez, Itzel Sánchez, JP Casino, Chris Hazard, Natalie Chinsam

**Parent Attendees:** Melissa Kluger, Suhasini Date, Emily Nicholas Angl

**Student attendees:** Eve Raymond, Kylie Riettie, Katja Ozgar

**Community Partners:** Stephanie Nickle, Kaitlaine Thomsson for Woodgreen-Woodfield  
Mark sent notes for SH Armstrong.

**Staff:** Konstantinos Flegas (VP), Maria Oliveira (SC Rep), Delphine Rule (VP), Bill Vatzolas (P)

**Agenda Items:**

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgment 6:00pm**

(Chair J.Hollingsworth) Reminds the group of the importance of highlighting positive stories about Indigenous experiences in Canada. In recent news, it was noted that Alberni, B.C. had a dark past involving residential schools. Recently, the community there built a basketball court to reclaim land, and aims to move to a safe place in the future with joy and happiness.

**Student reps presentation 6:10pm**

Presenters: Kylie, Eve, Katja

Discussed work with participatory budget. They have been working in groups to make presentations for all classes. They've identified learning goals, which include making the school more engaging, student driven with more resources, and activities to increase student joy. Success criteria includes engaging in age appropriate initiatives, realistic set of ideas, and will apply democratic process. Students will have a vote.

The group is making presentations to classes, describing the participatory budget, how it is applicable in this school, why votes matter, and how they will vote.

**Question** - When will the proposal be ready?

**Answer** - After March break, date tbd. Will ask younger kids for responses on site rather than ask them to submit ideas.

**Community Partners 6:15pm**

Stephanie Nickle - Manager of **Woodgreen** says Kaitlaine Thomsson is new manager as of March 1st.

Stephanie is moving to Lakeshore childcare. Introduces Kaitlaine.

Woodgreen is in the process of Kindergarten registration - if any new families in the community need before and after care - let them know.

Current families will soon be made aware of summer programs. Temporary Withdrawals will be allowed (withdrawing for summer).

Mark at **SH Armstrong** sent an update:

March 8 - spring program registration begins. Still spaces for summer camp.

2 flyers: Weight room users can use the dance room, and B Collective - Thursday 930-10am - low impact workout. \$15 per class.

**Other updates:**

**Food Drive** - council is commencing the organization of a food drive.

**Adult Event** (Sarah) - working on adult only, year end event. Venues and entertainment being explored. Would like any community members with contacts that could help to please let us know if you have any ideas (DJs, venues, graphic designers etc). Email Sarah with any ideas.

**Outdoor movie date** - more details to come

**Staff appreciation lunch** - June 13th. Potluck worked in previous years.

Jason - reiterates that we don't want to be about fundraising this year. And we can direct any social media inquiries to the Duke council email

**Call for new business:**

**-No takers.**

**Previous meeting, Approval of Nov and Jan minutes**

November minutes motion moved by: Megan seconded by: Sonya

January minutes motion moved by Sarah and seconded by Jeff

**New member introduced: Natalie Chinsam**

**SC Code of Ethics reminder, Jill. 6:20pm**

Jill reminds of key points of the code of ethics. Members shall act in the interest of students, not themselves, shall make themselves familiar with policies. Social media reminder - not to promote personal initiatives.

-Reminder that meetings are where points are brought up officially. Purpose of meetings is connected to transparency. Can have other meetings outside of official meetings to keep things moving.

-Initiative in the last few years to get councils back to improving student achievement, enhance accountability of the education system for parents and caregivers (rather than as a fundraising vehicle). Also includes offering parents ways to share their voices, recognizing the importance of relationship building, identifying barriers to participation, and disrupting practices that contribute to oppression of all types.

**Treasurer's Report, Jeffrey, 6:38pm**

-Spent \$11,000 on pre-planned costs

(pizza 3500, - brought in 1000 - Duke Cares raised 750, spent 450).

-Payment went through for Indigenous art supplies, jungle sports (\$5000), engagement expenses (snacks, coffee mornings, DI community workshops).

-Now have under \$29,000 in account. But now is when lots of expenses come out (grad, remaining pizza lunches, etc), so that amount will drop.

Movie night - final numbers not in but several hundred dollars made. Sold out of pizza twice at March event.

Jill asked if we need to transfer some funds to **Duke Cares**.

Jeff says there is room to do that.

Jill asks for Motion to move \$500 to Duke Cares account- group is in agreement.

**Parent question** - When big events are hosted at school, what is the security level for events.

Jill says doors locked, principals on grounds, doors manned.

Bill - if ever a situation arises, they would address it.

**DI Committee Update** - Jill, 6:45pm

Slides: [Courageous Conversations](#)

Recounts the Rania workshop Jan 25th. Notes can be shared. Itzel has some things on go. Positivity campaign will be presented to students. April 20th, empowering allies workshop forthcoming. Will include scenarios, dos and don'ts. Ilana David will present this - works at TDSB. Will be in person 630-830. Intended to be an adults only event, no students. Will aim for babysitting for this event in a separate room.

From last DI meeting - want to discuss how we will talk about these topics with people. Deeply personal for everyone. Glen Singleton sourced 'how to have brave and courageous conversations' - helps us to acknowledge there are issues in the school. Some key points from Singleton's work include - expect discomfort, expect and accept a lack of closure, come prepared to learn and UNlearn, check your bias, stay engaged, listen with open heart and mind.

**Parent question** - Questions if this learning comes from TDSB or DI Committee. Jill says comes from TDSB and a report what comes out of DI committee meetings.

**Parent question** - asks if there are plans to put this in practice at school. Jill says this workshop is for adults.

**Follow up parent question** - Are all councils doing this? Jill says yes - this is the direction of TDSB - . Other councils are doing this learning. Every school council is doing their own version of this learning. Referenced that other councils choose which elements are being done in each school.

**Parent comments** - There are many voices on this topic - wondering if this particular content is TDSB approved?

**Principal comment** - Part of the school improvement plan includes an equity goal. This is aligned with the DI committee. This is sourced from TDSB. 'Courageous conversations' for example have been used in staff meetings as well. Jill indicated where sources for previous exercises have come from. And clarifies all presented to the principal ahead of time. Member asks if this is available to the wider community. Jill indicates this is possible. Says mandate describes DI committee goals. Parent suggests getting a request out at the end of year to call out for more parents to join the DI committee, etc.

DI Committee meeting logistics being sorted out with the aim of having it at school, perhaps during lunch. Jill will also share articles shared today and ends with comments on the bystander effect.

**Principal's Report, 7:15pm**

**Movie night** was a hit. Next day the kids showed excitement. Thanks council for putting it on.

**March Break** next week. Duke's Got Talent acts have been chosen. Run time of 1 hour. Staff working with students to put it together.

**Nuit Blanche** - May 25th. (not connected to actual Nuit Blanche)

**Construction** - working on foundation, putting in window, columns. Lot of vibration and noise. Front on pause due to weather, but a meeting was held last week to talk design.

If pricing is right, workers hoping to continue work with the same contractor and push project through.

May 20th will be next meeting on design. There was talk of a ball hockey court, progress being made.

**Grad** - date changed to June 16th.

**Camp** date set for June 19th-22nd.

**Boat Cruise** questions from parents - date tbd.

Presentation held by Karen Levine for grade 5-8 on **Hannah's Suitcase**. (deals with Holocaust themes). Was very well done and well received by students.

**Parent question:** Asks if any follow up discussions were part of the presentation.

**Answer** (Ms. Rule) -Leaving it to individual teachers to do follow up appropriate for them

**Science of Reading** - Kindergarten -grade 2 teachers did work with phonetics, and new learning on teaching how to read.

**(Ms. O) - Extracurriculars** - Ice hockey ended. Spring sports starting, Badminton team starting for several grade levels. Coed volleyball. Intramurals ongoing.

**Parent question:** Daughter interested in playing hockey. Cant play on the team if not on a house league. Is this only open to students who are playing in house league.

**Answer** - We offer ball hockey for those who can't join hockey. It is safety related.

**Mr. Flegas** - Group of teachers working on teaching math. 'Building Thinking Classrooms' - hoping to increase engagement in all groups. The method uses white boards, groups of 3, staff experimenting with math teaching. One teacher using this in class with very positive results

**Nutrition** program - running smoothly. Small change - second line with older students moved inside. Most students are outside now by 11:15. 95% by 11:25.

**Technology** - TDSB handing out chrome books to grade 5 students, and will do this again next year.

**Parent question:** Would it be possible to share pics of food being served? Hearing comments and questions from parents who would like to know what it looks like.

**Mr. Flegas** - School is currently working on a nutrition logo. Will help promote the programs and could include this.

Jason D - thanks Jill for her work. Wants everyone to come up with any idea to bring more people to parent council.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm**