

**May 30, 2023**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Duke of Connaught Junior and Senior Public School**

Location: School Library - in person

Last Meeting: April 26, 2023

**Council Members Present:** Jill Hollingsworth, Meghan Cox, Jeffrey Hacket, Sonya Velez, Chris Hazard, Jason Davie, J.P. Casino, Natalie Chinsam, Itzel Sanchez

**Parent Attendees:** Marie Snyder, Susan Munn, Norine Williamson, Laura Byers

**Student attendees:** Eve Raymond, Penny Robinson

**Community Partners:** Mark sent notes for SH Armstrong.

**Staff:** Bill Vatzolas (P), Delphine Rule (VP), Ray McIntyre (SC Rep), Maria Olivera (SC Rep)

**Agenda Items:**

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgment 6:30pm**

**(Chair J.Hollingsworth)** Reminds group that we have a full agenda today and will not be delving into other issues outside the agenda unless urgent

**Announcements/Reminder of upcoming events:**

Pancake meeting this Thursday June 2

June 8 - BYOE event in back yard. 'The Loving Cup' Duke Staff band will perform. Older kids will help younger kids in games. DJ will be present.

June 13 - staff appreciation date

Email about TDSB Budget town hall June 7th (1pm and 7pm) - encourages others to attend and speak up.

Trustee will be hosting a budget meeting on another date

There was a vote last week - 20 VPs are now back on the table - unknown if this will impact our staff.

-Fridays at Armstrong gym drop in available for ages 8 and up.

-Parents going to Queens Park tomorrow in conjunction with east end parents petition to call for more support for schools. All the petitions our parents signed will be presented with all East End Schools.

**Next meeting date:**

Wed Sept 27th - first meeting of next school year, and election of next council (12 parent members).

New term begins Oct 1st.

**Previous meeting, approval of March minutes**

Approved by Natalie Seconded by JP

**Previous meeting, approval of April minutes**

Approved by Natalie Seconded by JP

**Previous meeting, approval of May minutes**

Approved by Natalie Seconded by JP

### **Student reps presentation 6:40pm**

**Eve and Penny**

#### **Participatory Budget recap:**

Success criteria was to create age appropriate presentations, create a list of ideas, make a list of most popular ideas. The students collected data from the different categories.

Results:

**Primary - Class toys and sports equipment won most votes**

**Junior - Art murals, sports equipment won**

**Intermediate results - Game day and sport equipment won.**

Top results - more sports equipment, art murals, books of diverse themes.

The students made a case for why more sports equipment has many benefits, not just for athletics but for emotional, mental, and academic well-being.

Art murals inspire creativity. The students made the case for hiring different artists from different backgrounds to lead some murals.

Books of diverse themes - helps teach students how to be global citizens

**Parent question:** Would the books bought be more on equity OR academic?

Answer - Our thinking was about books that kids want to read. Important to get books that kids see themselves in and actually want to read.

### **Treasury Report 6:50 am ET**

**Jeffrey H.**

-Raised more money than anticipated. We likely have a surplus of approximately \$10,000 after our last pizza lunch expenses.

-Need to vote on new initiatives.

\$500 more towards duke cares - unanimous

\$500 for volunteer appreciation event - unanimous

Adding \$1300 for year end event June 8 - unanimous

Parent question: Is Duke Cares still being used?

Answer: Yes - used on a monthly basis.

Parent question: Can people access it over the summer?

Answer: Yes - school council is still technically active over summer.

### **MYSP: 6:55am**

**Jill H**

Key thing is to address both academic and business practices. March - Oct is about collecting input.

Chair attended a session about this project. Analysis will be the next phase in Oct. Then they will develop a plan.

Question Chair asks - is anything missing? Chair will send feedback to MYSP group.

Pillar 1 -Student Learning. Most strongly agree

Comment - Includes very broad elements. Also that relational skills are very foundational.

Pillar 2 - Student and Staff Well-Being - Most feel they strongly agree.

One comment - that social media literacy is important. It is a real issue.

Pillar 3 - Access to Learning - Most strongly agree

Comment - questions how these are being enacted.

Comments and discussion on purpose or goals of survey among parents - Parents felt being

asked to prioritize these pillars seems pointless since parents are likely to want all these things.

There was concern that we needed more detail. This led some to feel this consulting of parents' process was a bit of a sham. Parents would also like to have a sense of how they plan to measure success. What point we are at now and what the goals are, even if just a snapshot, for example. Parents would also like more of a meaningful seat at the table.

Pillar 4 - Allocation of resources to support student needs. Most strongly agree.

Pillar 5 - Partnerships. Most strongly agree. With particular attention to point 3 'Open access to tdsb data'

### **Chair asks if there are any other issues missing from this?**

-Everything cut from the Harris days - home economics, guidance counselors, nurses, etc.

Would like this to be reinstated.

-Many students feel depressed about the future due to climate change.

-Safety in schools, conflict resolution specifically.

-Would like to also see creating LGBTQ+ positive cultures within school at large.

-Principal indicates there is language at operations level but that doesn't indicate across the board.

-Language of survey lumping special needs and inclusion on one point is concerning. Blanket approach where individual approach needed.

Chair - says she is open to discussing this more if more want to say stuff

### **Principals Report 7:50pm**

Class plan for next year

English - jk/sk, sk classes

2 english 1/2s, 3, 4/5, 5/6, 6/7, 7/8

French : jk/sk, jk/sk, . 1/2, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 6/7, 7/8, 7/8, 7/8

Middle immersion - 4/5, 6,

Extended 7/8

Gifted: 4/5, 4/5, 5/6, 6, 7/8, 7/8

If enrollment changes, staffing may change.

### **Roots of Empathy Program Megan 8:00**

Megan works with Roots of Empathy - but started as a volunteer at Duke.

Showed video of organization which emphasized the attachment relationship with parents, and how babies can be an effective learning tool.

Excited to say they have support of the administration to bring Roots of Empathy back to school.

Program decreases bullying, increases empathy.

In TDSB, the program relies on volunteer instructors. Megan came to school once a week, and found it transformative. Says this connects well with mental health goals initiatives. Wants all

present to think about whether they might be interested in this program. Would be trained by the program, with a mentor. If you or know anyone, reach out to Megan.

Time commitment is about 3 days of training in fall, then full day in Feb. Ongoing, is 2 hours a week of 45 mins, then 45 mins of prep. Also works with family. Instructor goes in 27 times, family visits 9 times. Across TDSB, looking for lots of instructors, 2 for Duke ideally. Could also instruct at other schools.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm**

**Next meeting set for June 19th 6:30pm**