

April 26, 2023
School Council Meeting Minutes
Duke of Connaught Junior and Senior Public School

Location: School Library - in person

Last Meeting: March 30, 2023

Council Members Present: Jill Hollingsworth, Meghan Cox, Jeffrey Hacket, Sonya Velez, Chris Hazard (after 7pm)

Parent Attendees: Sheri Davie, Bob Sexton, Cara Murphy, Susan Munn, Emily Nicholas Angl

Student attendees: NA

Community Partners: Mark sent notes for SH Armstrong.

Staff: Konstantinos Flegas (VP), Ray McIntyre (SC Rep), Bill Vatzolas (P)

Agenda Items:

Welcome, Land Acknowledgment 6:40pm

(Chair J.Hollingsworth) Reminds the group of keeping questions to one per person until everyone is heard. Also wanted to announce that the grad committee is forming a group focusing on the ceremony aiming to meet next week. Nuit Blanch is set for May 25th, so will likely move the next council meeting to 30th.

Previous meeting, approval of March minutes

Not possible today as no quorum met.

Student reps presentation 6:45pm

VP says students will present at the next meeting.

Community Partners 6:45pm

Emily shares that there is still lots of room in summer camps, spring programming, theater, craft classes/camps.

Aiming to do mothers day tea event on Saturday of mothers day weekend (13th).

Will also be putting out a survey to ask what people are looking for, what barriers are to programming. Aiming to do this in the next 5-6 weeks, which would inform programming for next fall.

Budget TDSB update 6:50pm

Chair Jill H.

Grant for student needs, typically announced in February was announced alongside another decision which would impact the power of trustees. The Government has not agreed to cover \$70M in pandemic spending. There was a hope that some cuts announced in March could be reversed when Grant for Student Needs amount laid out but there wasn't the funding provided to do that (per Trustees). Bill 98 will strip trustees of power, which would give the government more power to consolidate schools.

\$30M to cover federal benefit cost did not come through. Still a grim outlook. Trustee Sarah will keep us posted. Please sign up for the Need-to-Read (NTR) at dukesac.ca for updates. There is a petition going around formed by an east end parents group. Will be delivered to Peter Tabuns who will bring it to Queens Park. There is also a calling campaign targeting the premier's office.

Chair has asked for a meeting with the superintendent, but this has not happened yet.

Forthcoming staff cuts at Duke include - 3 Lunchroom Supervisors (currently 11 lunchroom staff positions going down to 8), and 1 Office Staff. Will know about SNAs in June. Overall 49 across elementary schools. Duke has 2.5. (Special needs assistant.). 28 clerical across board. Duke will have a .5 cut.

Question: Is there a recommended ratio of students to supervisors in the TDSB environment?

Principal: There was a ratio of students to supervisors, but that ratio was changed.

Question: What happens to those staff that are cut?

Answer (Principal): Site surplus or board surplus. It's a way for the board to balance positions to see who they can keep. Teachers interviews coming up. In the spring, schools get enrollment numbers for school. Then staffed accordingly. Then, from staff in central positions, those on mat leave for example, get priority. Some considerations include French speaking. Interviews coming up in spring. If teachers want to move elsewhere, then a new vacancy precedes another hiring.

Teacher: This affects kids in that they won't know who their teacher is until Sept.

Needs to also be said that teachers can't replace lunchroom supervisors because of a variety of factors including indoor recess, other duties.

Question: What are people advocating for as an alternative?

Chair: People look at why cuts are being done that directly affect students.

Question: Do they have a date for the June budget? Queens park closes June 12th for summer.

Answer: They work closely together, and would know about that timing.

Chair: School climate. There is some vandalism in bathrooms, kicking doors open with feet. Big kids are still running over little kids. School is managing this, but must be a multi-pronged approach. Parents should speak with kids. Caretakers shouldn't clean up after some of the messes left by kids.

Question: How do you communicate this to the wider parent group?

Answer (Principal): It's a large school, and we do communicate with parents about specific issues.

Question: How are vandalism issues etc. communicated through school?

Principal: It depends on the situation. Could be more broad. But if isolated to a classroom, we can support that specific teacher speaking to students. There is also a sign-in and sign-out process for intermediate classes going to the bathroom.

Treasurer's Report, Jeffrey, 7:30pm

Spent \$4000 towards chairs.

Charter buses and library classes costs went through.

Raised \$1,981 last movie night with \$1,200 profit for movie night.

Aim to have another movie night in May.

\$470 pizza
\$28,249 in chequing account currently.
Still have over 10K in TDSB account.

DI Committee Update - Chair (Jill H), 7:35pm

Continue to work on the positivity campaign. Met with student council about it and attended a SAfe & Caring meeting spoke with staff.

Last Thursday the empowering allies workshop was a success. Some key points to share are that if community members have kids in LGBTQ community, it is important to have allies. People just want their kid to be accepted for who they are. Lots of talk around identity. Small actions each of us take can have a big impact on students.

The Education Act and Human Rights Code say all students have a right to feel safe at school, regardless of identity. Alanna David, TDSB SW shared some videos with the group at the workshop, which the Chair shared at the meeting. (e.g. [Pink Shirt Day video](#) by school in Mississauga).

Question: Do we get school climate data?

Answer (Principal): From grades 4-8, students can do at home.

Parent: Questions asked in the survey include questions about gender identity, race, how safe you feel at school, lonely. What kinds of things make you feel unsafe.

Question: Are we communicating how important it is to do this survey?

Answer: It is important, they will be using this data to make long range plans.

Council member Chris Hazard on Food Drive 7:45pm

Lots of food has been collected.

Red Cross contact will come Friday. It's specifically for homebound people who can't get to the food bank themselves. They help 1100 people a month. SC Duke Cares can also provide help for people who need help.

Principal's Report, 7:50pm

Mr. Flegas:

May, **EQAO** - For grade 3 and 6 students between May 10th-May 14th, provincial assessment in reading writing and math taking place. Families will get scores in fall. There is a sample test for kids to get a feel for the test. Everything done online

May 4th - **Kindergarten concert**. Talents and skills on display. Will be in the Woodfield gym.

May 11th - **Gifted** program open house.

May 25th - **Nuit Blanche** - Duke celebrates arts and science. Parents and students can explore around school, students can share work they've been doing. It is an evening event.

Mr. Vatzolas:

Re: **Grad** committee. Cruise vendor approved with June 14th as a likely date. Will include lunch, dance. Ceremony is the next day. Following week is Camp Wahanowin.

Track and Field is upcoming. Meet date is May 18th. Ms. O is doing tryouts.

Slow pitch and **Ultimate Frisbee** coming up.

Uke Concert at Wilkinson - 500 students attended. Melanie Doane runs that.

Construction - have not yet started the construction phase. Looking to do deck around trees, made of composite, with seeding. Have not yet finalized courts. Ongoing. Window is closing but hoping to push through, but we're trying to work our way through it.

Comment: Grade 8s will have Boat Cruise on June 15th, Graduation 16th, then go to camp Wahonowin 19 - 22. So mentally, they will be checked out by the 14th.

Swim Team - Mr. McIntyre: Swim team won some banners.

Heritage Fair happening as well (grade 6-8th) with boards ready to go. Will go to TDSB Heritage Fair event. Every student in that grade is involved, but some select students will go to board. French Immersion students paired with other classes. English and gifted paired. Focus is on research skills.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm

Next meeting set for May 30th 6:30pm