

Minutes SC Meeting March 25, 2024

In person, School Library at 6:30 pm

Attendance:

Jill Hollingsworth (SC), Erin O'Donnell (SC Staff), Natalie Chinsam (SC), Bob Sexton, Melissa Kluger, Jeff Hackett (SC), Jennifer Huang (SC), Delphine Rule (VP), Bill Vatzolas (P), Robyn Switzer (SC), Kasia Hannah, Emily Nicolas Angl

SC Members Absent: Marilyn Lacroix, Chris Hazard, Jason Davie, Maria Oliveira (SC Staff)

6:36 pm Start.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Chair)

Request for other Biz for the meeting, None

Minutes (Feb 2024 Meeting) - will not be approved due to absences and illness.

Announcements (Chair)

- Apr 4 - Usual Coffee Morning & Pre-concert gathering for Kindie families in the main foyer
- Apr 18 - Movie Night in the evening - no one responded to request for movie suggestions in the NTR, going to try a suggestion box in the office and announcements
- Grad Committee - Call out for members - anyone can join,
- Sewing Initiative (Denise Wild) - was able to pick up a third date and move things around - will now take place Apr 9, 10, 12 - Grades 4 - 8 will participate
- Request made via email to have meetings on days other than Mondays - unfortunately the schedule is set like that as it is the only day all the SC members (who have to be there) can attend.
- More groups of students will attend TSO on Apr 10 as part of the SC music experience initiative - for the classes that could not get tickets, they will have a musical workshop at Duke (steel drums).

Community Partners (none present)

Emily N.A. - SH Armstrong - still room in spring programs

Jill - Applegrove - summer programs sold out

Dismantling Inequities Committee Update

- Cultural Sharing initiative has been launched (in Parent Update & NTR) - few people have signed up
- Second grant workshop in progress - no details confirmed yet

- Kindness initiative coming soon

Treasurer's Report (Jeff)

Overview of the incoming and outgoing funds from School Council accounts.

Since the previous meeting, a total of \$53 has come in through pizza lunch revenue. A total of \$3,526 was spent on various activities which includes payment for the dance-a-thon, Kindergarten Prologue, PALS and Breakout room items, Pizza lunch expenses, SC Engagement expenses, SC meeting expenses and the purchase of duke cares gift cards.

The balance in the Alterna Savings account is \$28,323.09 with several items to be purchased in the upcoming months.

Motion/Vote: Passed unanimously

\$1400 to pay for the additional 92 students for the sewing initiative (splitting cost 80/20 with School Council/School budgets)

Community Discussion (Chair) TDSB Budget, Duke Staffing Impacts

Overview of the TDSB Budget process currently underway - looked at the TDSB website and [resources available](#) (key reports Revenue & Expenditure Trends 2024 & Options to Balance the Budget - pg 24 Summary of unfunded expenses, pg 25 totals for how to balance budget).

Anyone can make a delegation at any TDSB meeting (discussed process). Jenn H is delegating March 26 re: funding for education. Shared 160 people have registered to make delegations.

Budget Highlights:

- There are a series of FBEC meetings this week with Trustees
- Apr 2 - Whole committee budget vote
- Projecting a \$35M deficit - must do cuts to balance
- Must have a balanced budget by June 30 - required
- Waiting for GSN (Grant for Student Needs) amount to be announced
- 65% budget Staffing, 85% Staffing plus benefits
- Everything is driven by student enrolment for funding
- In year 2 of 3 year Deficit Recovery Plan
- Still waiting outcome of the Value for Money Audit by the Auditor General
- To save costs will download some expenses to the school level (e.g. Grade 9 computer costs, outdoor education travel expenses)
- Implementing sliding scale of fees for outdoor education trips - tied to LOI
- 20 VPs cut (not at Duke) - motion to put them back into the budget - unlikely Duke would get another VP unless enrollment increases

Staffing at Duke

- Stable for next year
- Keeping Safety Monitor
- Getting an additional Lunchroom Supervisor
- Losing .5 Resource (this year 2.5, next year 2.0)
- Waiting to hear for SNA (Special Needs Assistant) allocation

Discussion around advocacy for funding for education

Principals' Report (Bill Vatzolas, Delphine Rule)

The Principal's shared information on the following:

- Working on the Staffing model for 2024/25 school year, explained steps
- Next meeting will share the classroom model
- TDSB has given them staffing levels - will be 40 teachers, 33 homerooms - have allocation for library
- Apr 16 - Grad Photo Day
- May 3 - Gr 7 second vaccine
- Musical - Apr 30, May 1, 2 - everyone working hard, it's all coming together
- Pool - have hired a person - start Apr 2, stay until end of year. Schedule will return to the usual swim day, info will be communicated.
- Construction - had a meeting with Engineer, etc. There is an issue with the project - additional complexity, may extend/delay completion
- Landscape - wooden fence, basketball court repaving, grading, rocks/tree - coming soon

Closing - next meeting on Monday, Apr 22

Adjourned: 8:00 pm.