

Oct 25, 2022
School Council Meeting Minutes
Duke of Connaught Junior and
Senior Public School

Location: School Library - in person
Last Meeting: Sept 28, 2022

Council Members Present: Jill Hollingsworth, Sarah Lasch, Jason Davie, Jeffrey Hacket, Sonya Velez, JP Casino

Absent with regrets: Meghan Cox, Philip Carpenter, Itzel Alonso, Chris Hazard

Parent Attendees: Laura Byers, Melissa Kluger

Community Partners: Not present

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

Agenda Items:

Welcome, Land Acknowledgment 6:30pm

(J.Hollingsworth)

The chair encourages council and those present to read the Truth and Reconciliation booklet, for deeper understanding of issues, and to help identify unconscious biases.

Other Business TBA - No additions.

Previous meeting, Approval of September minutes

Motion moved by: Sarah L. Seconded by: Jason D.

The Chair's general comments outline actions of council, describe that council has been very busy, meeting, organizing Halloween, budget, etc. Asks that baked goods can be brought to the Halloween event Thursday if available. Highlights that the Dismantling Inequities committee, skate library, and grad meeting are coming up, in addition to Halloween events.

Highlights that the focus this year will be on community events as opposed to fundraising, and with an aim that efforts will be focused on issues that impact the school as a whole.

There is emphasis on recovering from the pandemic and getting to where we were before. We want to get that information out there to the wider community, and stress the importance of communication, and reflecting what the community wants.

SC Code of Ethics

Vote to adopt: 7 votes yes. Passes unanimously by all SC members present and staff (note that staff SC reps Ray McIntyre and Maria Oliveira share one vote).

Community Partners News 6:40pm

Partners could not attend in person this evening but sent information:

SH Armstong - Wants the community to know that they are doing birthday parties on Fridays and Saturdays at the centre. If there is interest, parents can reach out to Mark Mead: 416 392 0245 mark.mead@toronto.ca

Applegrove - Want the community to know that there are excellent youth programs worth checking out, and remind that they are hosting a Friday night movie night On Oct 28 for Halloween.

Treasurer's Report, 6:40pm

(Jeffrey Hackett)

This is part of the treasurer's report - and presenter went into further detail and updated on items:

Available Balance.				2022-23 Cash Flow			
Item	Debit	Credit	Balance	Item	Income	Expenses	Total
PACE Account	\$31,392		\$31,391.87	Pizza Lunches	\$14,535.50	\$0.00	\$14,535.50
TSDB Line Account	\$205		\$31,597	Duke Cares	\$305.00	\$305.00	\$0.00
Duke Cares		\$683	\$30,913	Mabel's Labels			\$0.00
Outstanding Items		\$3,750	\$27,163				
			\$27,163				

Pizza night has started and is generating income. Duke Cares has received \$305 in donations. Missionworks is now paid in full for last year's expenses. Current overall balance is \$26,000. There are still some outstanding items - including ipads for JK/SK, pool items and a request for storytelling puppets with Indigenous themes. Some money has been set aside for this.

Question: Does the school or city pay for pool issues/items?

Answer: The money is for pool extras, flutter boards, etc - not maintenance, which does not fall under purview of SC.

Community Events Survey Results, 6:45pm

(J.Hollingsworth)

There was wider response to community survey than usual - with 93 responses.

Results show families are open to participating in in-person events - 84% said they wanted to do things in person.

There is some interest in having babysitting available at SC meetings, so that is now available. When it came to choosing which type of events, pizza was of high interest and is now moving forward as of Nov 4, Halloween 76%, Coffee morning about 30%, and there is also interest in doing outdoor events as well. This survey gave SC a good idea about what to plan for, and look out for. There was some concern of overlap with the community Halloween event - but responses indicate there was high interest. In the comments section of the survey, there were some questions./comments about mask policies - or the idea of a mask mandate for indoor events. The SC recognized a mask mandate cannot be created/enforced for specific events, but it can encourage mask wearing at events. Zoom meetings in future could be an option, if need be.

Question - Prior to COVID, were there any outdoor events in previous years?

Answer - The skating night was a big hit previously. It was outdoors, very cold, but kids loved it. Included a fire pit and hot chili available in the indoor room. An *outdoor* movie night could be another event/option in the spring.

Question: Do we know how many kids currently wear a mask at school?

Answer -Principal: if had to estimate it would be under 10%. SC Chair indicates that SC wants everyone to feel included - and is using the survey as a planning tool and a reference to see where people were at.

There is also discussion about ensuring an outdoor event included this year as a way to make sure those who don't feel comfortable have an option.

Budget Presentation, 7pm

(Jeffrey Hackett)

Potential Income	Expected	Potential Expenses Lines for Budget	Expected
Hallowe'en Event	\$250.00	Graduation	\$2,500.00
Pizza Lunches	\$6,500.00	Future/new ideas	\$2,000.00
Mabel's Labels	\$150.00	Dismantling Inequities Committee	\$2,500.00
PCEO	\$500.00	Engagement Expenses (coffee am, snack/mingle, etc)	\$1,200.00
Admin Fees	\$912.50	SC expenses (square, slack, popcorn, babysitting, etc.)	\$800.00
Grant	\$0.00	Student Participatory Budget (Principal Match?)	\$1,500.00
FlipGive	\$50.00	Movie Licenses	\$400.00
DukeCares	\$1,000.00	Community Engagement	\$2,000.00
Movie Nights	\$500.00	Drama Performances	\$2,250.00
Dance-a-thon (Spring)	\$0.00	Buses for Track	\$600.00
Letter Writing Campaign	\$5,500.00	Library Requests	\$4,500.00
		Gym Uniforms	\$500.00
Total Expected Income	\$15,362.50	Duke Cares	\$1,000.00
		Physical Activity (e.g. Junglesports) - TBD on Funding	\$5,000.00
		Year-End Event	\$1,000.00
		Total Expected Expenses	\$27,750.00
		2022-23 Expected Balance	-\$12,387.50
		Current Balance from 2021-22	\$12,577.99
		End of Year Balance	\$190.49

This budget is based off of feedback from teachers. Graduation is a typical item every year. Bucket of funds for new ideas - throughout the year things come up, this can be used for that. Dismantling equities committee fund could be used for bringing in speakers etc. and the committee can help decide how to spend this.

The participatory budget encourages students to figure out how to spend a set amount of funds. The Principal says they will match those funds. Chris Hazard (liaise) will be the SC member who will be in contact with VP Flegas on this item. Roughly 20 students in grade 7 and 8 have expressed interest in student council.

Movie Licenses are required to show movies. The Community Engagement line is for workshops, and other ideas submitted.

Drama performances - Ms. Pierce identified 2 different performances which include all grades. Will include themes of conflict resolution, inclusiveness, neurodiversity awareness and a bilingual performance will also be included.

Library - \$500 is allotted per grade. The Gym uniforms are specifically for teams. Duke Cares helps raise money to support parents who may need assistance, food, field trip support, etc.

Phys Ed - Junglesport was suggested as an option - includes high ropes.

Year end event - could aim for an outdoor event with a bouncy slide.

It was mentioned also that there is a lot of winter gear in storage area, which could be used for students if needed. Has not been accessed since Feb 2020.

In sum, a total of \$27,750 is proposed in events throughout the year.

Council expressed that it was encouraging to see the community come through to volunteer to make the Halloween event happen.

Some passive income comes from Mabels labels, PCEO, FlipGIVE.

The letter writing campaign was successful last year and will do again.

The goal is to try to use this amount and not have carryover year over year.

Question: Toronto foundation for students gives a tax receipt, asking if the fundraising letter can be linked similarly for the purposes of providing a tax receipt.

Answer: Donations were linked through Student Cash Online (SCO) - official school payment system, for last year's letter campaign which does provide an email donation receipt immediately - plan to do the same for this year.

Budget Vote: Public members vote to approve unanimously (2 yes). Present SC Members vote unanimously. 7 yes.

Principal's Report, 7:20pm

Principal Bill Vatzolas - thanks everyone for coming to the meeting and reports is working with staff and students well. Thanks teaching staff and council for coming up with the school budget, and the opportunities it provides.

Reports there is lots of buzz surrounding the Halloween event on 27th. **Curriculum night** was a big success - lots of parents in attendance and received lots of positive feedback. Looking forward to first event coming back. Parents will be getting info soon on **Oct 31**. Kindergarten kids will be wearing costumes, and doing a parade. Primary kids school event will take place in the afternoon. Older kids will be attending a dance.

Winter Concert is coming up Dec 8 - choir and band will be performing. Will start around 6-630 in eve.

Konstantinos Flegas (VP):

Reports that **1-to-1 device program** is continuing for the second year. All grade 5 kids get a notebook. Devices loaned to students for 4 years, Not for playing games, but to support learning and if damaged, tech support can be provided.

Question - Are there loaners if damaged?

Answer - Yes and a ticket can be created. Can log a ticket for this. There are also devices in the building which can be used to support learning while in the building.

Maria Oliveira (Staff rep):

9 athletes heading to city finals in **cross country, Volleyball** and **basketball** starting this week for grade 5-8 students.

Ski trip - usually costs \$60 per student. Price has gone up. From 30-50 per child. Now close to \$80 per student. This is a learn-to-ski trip. Includes a half day of learning at Snow Valley in Barrie. There was a discussion about whether it was worth the cost, and many voices expressed what a great trip it is, and for some kids, their first or only exposure to the sport.

Question - If **Duke Cares** funds are needed, is it accessed in a way that doesn't make it hard to access, with an awareness that some families/kids may feel uncomfortable asking for help?

Answer - The teachers are familiar with Duke Cares and have experience bringing this option up, and say they can be more focused on awareness of how to make it more easily accessible. Bill Vatzolas (P):

With an update on ongoing **outdoor area improvement**: Front landscaping is being worked on: drainage is next. Anticipated completion is early December, but if the temperature drops, asphalt can't proceed, and in that case, fencing will remain until spring.

Soccer nets are currently not part of the plan and are staying consistent with what is being done in other schools. There is no confirmation of funding for the basketball courts. Principal connected with the TDSB sustainability office and appropriate contacts to find out. SC Chair has looked into past minutes, and confirmed a work order was mentioned to resurface basketball courts in previous years. SC Chair suggested a small response committee could be formed to push this forward. The principal says there is a push to use more sustainable materials, for example a paintable surface which reflects heat and doesn't get as hot. Principal has a meeting with TDSB staff to gather more information - will keep everyone posted.

Question: Any plans to put back hockey and soccer areas?

Answer: No.

Parent attendee Laura is offering to be part of response committee to help get signatures if do a petition.

Delphine Rule (VP):

Update on **lunch/eating area**: Kids ate outside this week on Monday and Tuesday (weather was great), due to photo day using the gym area. Chair and bench use during lunch is going well. Inquired about folding table costs for gym as an option. Discovered cost is \$1500 per table for a foldable table. Logistics would require wipe down before and after, and time to fold and unfold. It was noted kids have adapted well to benches and chairs. Movement around lunch, in and out of the cafeteria has settled in.

Cellphones - A meeting with teachers from grades 4-8 was held to discuss this. A committee was formed with an aim to put together a plan or policy that can be followed uniformly. Will be shared with parents. Potentially could include students as part of the planning process. Don't want this to be punitive, but want kids to make better choices about when and where to use a cell phone in the school. Ideally, this will be a uniform policy across all classes. Phones are currently used in the class at times. For example, the calculator function is used for math, or phone is used for research (but kids must ask first). The Principal indicates many kids in grade 6 and up have phones, and a plan is needed, and a consistent message is needed to address this.

Question: Explain **band participation** and if school must be missed for band.

Answer: Two itinerants come in (bands and string) twice a week, according to the 5 day schedule. It was noted by a parent that many parents are interested in band and there is concern some parents might not realize they have to sign up for band to have band class.

Question - Is there drama for older kids?

Answer - It is for junior grades.

Question: Is **chess** institute coming back?

Answer: The principal inquired with the contact behind this and discovered prices have gone up to \$25 for class, for 7 weeks. \$175.

No Other Business.

Next meeting will be Wed Nov 23rd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm