

DRAFT

Duke SAC Meeting #4 - Minutes

Tuesday January 21, 2020, 6:30

Cafeteria

Attendance:

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea (principal), Carl Gambacort (Vice-Principal), Robert Walters (Vice-Principal)

SAC: Melanie Tapson (co-chair), Aron McGrath (Fundraising), Susan Munn (Treasurer), Stacey Iseman (Parent rep), Jill Hollingsworth (Ward rep), Francisco Laguan (Parent rep)

Sign in:

Joe Rossi

Vanessa Rossi

Erin Scott

Sharon Lucrow

Nicole Macdonald

Laura Byers

Gianpaolo Brindisi

John Worton

Sara Ehrhardt

Norine Williamson

Absent: Michelle Arbuckle, Laurie Barnett, Natasha Garda, Nessa Cymbalisty

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment

2. Other Business To Add

- a. Stacey brought the following items forward:
 - i. Parent request - would like minutes to be made more accessible
 - ii. Due to Work to Rule, parents concerned about gr 7, 8 trip and grad cruise, would like to know how parents can plan to ensure
 - iii. Bathrooms - Stacey reported she has heard students are not drinking at school because they don't want to use the bathrooms due to their condition

3. Previous business, Approval of minutes

- a. Stacey motioned to accept, Norine seconded, minutes approved

4. SH Armstrong Update (Gillian Manuel, Meaghan England, Gianpaolo Brindisi)

- a. Sarah and Sean (apologies for any incorrect spelling), community members on SH Armstrong Reference Group spoke
 - i. Reference Group includes SH staff, regional East End city staff, member from Applegrove, Duke is invited to attend, meeting 4x/year, information shared between Duke to SH Armstrong
 - ii. Call for members, interested parties should let Sarah know at sarahchristina@gmail.com
- b. Staff Gillian and Meaghan spoke on behalf of aquatics
 - i. Pool is between 80 - 82 degrees, custodial staff will be informed to correct if it is not between 78 - 84
 - ii. Shared an update on programming; open Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun with a range of programming including female only and swim lessons, some spots still available, flyers available at the community centre
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie to send link to schedule via NTR**
 - iv. Supervisor Nicki can provide updates about renovations; Sarah identified main link is through TDSB.
 - v. Parent commented that Sunday morning temperatures are too cold, what do we do?
 - vi. **ACTION ITEM: SH Armstrong team will follow up with caretaking to get thermometer back and figure out what to do about this**
 - vii. **ACTION ITEM: Carol will also follow up re: thermometer and pool temperature**
 - viii. Sarah: Jennifer Story had pool temperature raised to low end of limit
 - ix. SH Armstrong staff reported they are not getting as many applicants for swimming program as staff; they will provide literature and online information to share with students but have not done so yet
 - x. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie - pls include this information for leadership guide in the NTR when SH Armstrong provides it**
 - xi. Jean Paul: took over for Carol; winter programming is doing well, increased number of registrations, having trouble with after school program registration being low; they would like feedback from the community regarding what kind of programming they could put in place (e.g., drama programs etc); has heard pickup is needed; will ensure descriptions clearly indicate when programming is coed or girls only.
 - xii. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie pls send out information about after school program and request for information on what programming parents want**

5. Principals' Reports

- a. Carol introduced Robb Walters formally and welcomed him.
- b. Robb: happy to have found the location, learning to navigate, feels warmly welcomed.

- c. Carl: dental screening through City begins next Monday, letter going home tomorrow with details; kindergarten registration Feb 11-15; outside partner lunch programs are starting in next week or so; presentation by MADD on Feb 13 to 7 & 8s; welcomed a new lunchroom supervisor Victoria who works in SH Armstrong after care; now at full complement of lunchroom supervisors of 11 for the first time this year plus 2 supplies as well
- d. Carol: handed out budget; students from grade ½ ran a bake sale to support animals in Australia, raised \$1200 over 2 days and interviewed by media outlets; TCH at 1555 Queen E - Feb 1 all residents are receiving notice of need to evacuate/move by August 31 with options of moving to other TCH apartments , new affordable housing project is going in over 3 years, Suzanne from Applegrove is helping 22 families (25 students) affected here at Duke in both English and French programs, families may need to move schools and this is difficult for marginalized families; at the end of the 3 year term, those families will have access to apartments there again; the immediate impact for Duke is that next year is last entry for extended french, Sept 2024 is when JK entry will happen
- e. In response to parent q: reported that swim instruction is by City swim instructors, and grades 1-8 have one 40min period in the cycle
- f. In response to parent q: Chromebooks are here, need to disperse them equitably, this was an additional budget area supported by SAC annually; on hold until strike is over
- g. In response to parent q: in regards to 1555 Queen E, there is an additional community meeting on February 13 at Duke; we can accommodate new students moving into 1555 Queen E (after renovations in 3 years), for example we had closed 7 classrooms this past year
- h. **ACTION ITEM: Carol to make budget info widely available?**
- i. **ACTION ITEM: Natasha to let teachers know that things like last minute bake sales can be emailed out if info gets to admin**

6. Treasurer's Report (Sue)

- a. Holiday marketplace in place of breakfast was a great community event but didn't raise a ton of money; movie night last week was well attended for a January movie night and raised over \$300 (which was the estimation); we are sitting at over \$50K in bank; we are working on invoices waiting to be paid and working through funding
- b. Re: pizza at movie night: no gluten free option readily available because it's hard to know if it's needed, if it's wanted, we can order it ahead, so request it if needed

7. Ward Update (Jill)

- a. Last meeting was November 25 round table about parent engagement, most other schools in catchment have 300 students so we are unique; group was impressed with our SAC coffees and NTR and other schools will copy these models; key changes in French include focusing on improving core french, entry

point of immersion from SK to JK with second entry at gr 4, eliminate extended French at elementary and high school levels (with current students grandfathered in to completion) to address french teacher shortage and give equity of access to programs to all students; parent involvement advisory committee reps are Charlene Ahmed and Neil Faba and they support parent councils and parents at the board level; admin at all TDSB schools have responsibilities to share information

- b. Committee struck to create School Statement of Needs (SSON) which is due annually; will send it out multiple times via NTR to ensure it is opened
- c. Next SAC meeting we will have Applegrove and Woodgreen guests; planning to have trustee attend an SAC meeting, and would like to find out what questions parents have
- d. Next meeting is Thurs Jan 30 at Jackman Public School, open to all, discussion about improvement plans at TDSB
- e. Special joint wart 15/16 meeting on Feb 20 at Earl Haig Public, Dr John Molloy will be in attendance
- f. French parent council rep Sarah Smith will attend Feb 27 SAC meeting to answer questions about FI
- g. **ACTION ITEM: Jill to upload info to parent council website (including education act, guides, etc)**
- h. **ACTION: Laurie, include in the NTR a note to ask parents about Qs they have for trustee in advance of future meeting (date tbd)**
- i. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie, pls let parents know via NTR that John Molloy is in attendance at Feb 20 mtg at Earl Haig Public, Jill to provide info**

8. Fundraising Update (Aron)

- a. Had to cancel breakfast due to low turnout, to make up for it committee has decided to do a skating party in lieu of a movie night on Feb 13

9. Adult Social (Aron)

- a. April 25 8pm - 1am Roaring 20s theme at Legion; adults only (alcohol); will have a DJ, cash bar, auction
- b. If anyone would like to help, let Aron and Jill know
- c. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie pls put a request for volunteers for adult social in the NTR, Jill and Aron to provide info**

10. Skating Social (Aron)

- a. February 13 from 6-8pm at Greenwood Park, featuring hot chocolate, chili or maybe hotdogs; this is not a fundraiser but a community builder to cover costs

11. Political Action Group (Aron)

- a. Many parents are supporting teachers in strike action and brought coffee/snacks and visited during the strike; will send out a letter parents can email to show

support; parents have expressed they want to have SAC collect Lecce bribe money as classroom enrichment

- b. **ACTION ITEM: Aron to provide Laurie with letter to send out to parents via NTR**

12. Programming Update (Stacey)

- a. Parenting workshop last week really well attended, over 85 people registered and 15 on waitlist, really well received

13. Duke Cares/Bags2School (Stacey)

- a. This was an eco fundraiser in line with our platinum status, resources to teachers went out re: fast fashion; lots of donations thus far, ends this Friday morning
- b. Clothing bank up and running, mittens still available, thinking about storing winter clothes and accepting regular clothing for warm weather season
- c. Stacey is working on a Duke Cares protocol for future planning

14. Save the Dates (Melanie)

- a. Pizza Lunch - Jan 29, deadline was today for ordering, last minute orders should go directly to the office, pizza lunch will go ahead next Wednesday barring labor action
- b. SAC Coffee - February 7 in the lobby, hot chocolate will be added (kids can join their parents if they wish), bring travel mug
- c. Skating Social - February 13
- d. Next SAC meeting - February 27

15. Other Business

- a. Recess Length - Nicole MacDonald (previously added to agenda)
 - i. As a new parent, commented that son is complaining about 10 min recess because of limited time to play after getting dressed, why is it not 15 mins and what can we do?
 - ii. Carol: some kids don't like recess and have difficulty with the transition so there will always be kids who complain; usually schools with grade 7 & 8 don't have recess but we do to make school unified; between entry, exit, and lunch, we need to balance the day; reducing lunch to 50 mins and recess to 15 affects length of teacher supervision which means fewer people on duty at any given time = safety issue; busing kids in means lunch is the only time they can mingle and need to eat and practice/rehearse/have activities; it would be a larger conversation and would take a full year to make adjustments; we can look at it through striking a committee
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM: Nicole to chair a committee to discuss with Carol**
 - iv. **ACTION ITEM: Laurie to send out a call to the community to ask for interested parties to join committee to discuss recess length**
- b. Added tonight:

- i. Stacey reported that a parent commented it is hard to access minutes from previous meetings and asked how can we make them accessible
- ii. A: we need a secretary
- iii. Due to Work to Rule, Vanessa Rossi spoke for parents concerned about the grade 7 & 8 trip and grad cruise, and asked can parents step in
- iv. A: we can't use parents in lieu of teachers and SAC can't assume that kind of liability, but it can help parents get together who want to come up with contingency plans; the ski day has been tentatively rebooked for March and if families want a refund they can talk to admin
- v. **ACTION ITEM: Vanessa Rossi to gather interested parents for contingency planning in discussion with teachers who are supervising the grad trip and cruise**
- vi. Stacey reported that she has heard of students who are not drinking at school because they don't want to have to use the bathrooms because of poor maintenance conditions. She expressed concerns that washrooms have been an ongoing issue.
- vii. A: Carol said this is the first she's heard of it and Stacey should take this to Caring & Safe Schools

Meeting adjourned 8:18