

September 28, 2022 School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Council Members: Su Date, Jeff Hackett, Chris Hazard, Jill Hollingsworth, Miranda Indrigo, Sue Munn

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

Community Partners: May Seto, Applegrove

Parent Attendees: Laura Byers, Philip Carpenter, JP Casino, Meghan Cox, Jason Davie, Sheri Davie, Sara Erhardt, Edward Griffith, Christina Jackson, Eric Kennedy, Melissa Kluger, Liz Lundy, Walsh McGuire, Sasha Renmick, Itzel Sánchez, Sean Sorvari, Bob Sexton, Sara Tropea, Sonya Velez, Sarah Lasch

(There were additional parents who did not sign the Attendance sheet.)

Land Acknowledgement (J.Hollingsworth)

Thanks to the outgoing School Council and former Chair Catherine Miller-Mort (who moved away in June).

Council Election (C. Jackson)

- 8 nominees acclaimed, spaces still available for members - 2 more parents decided to join (Itzel, JP) for 10 Parent Members:
 - Jill Hollingsworth (Chair)
 - Jeff Hackett (Treasurer)
 - Sarah Lash (Communications Lead)
 - Parent Reps: Megan Cox, Chris Hazard, Sonya Velez, Philip Carpenter, Jason Davie, Itzel Sanchez, JP Casino
- Ray McIntyre and Maria Oliviera to stay on as teacher reps
- Chair, Treasurer and Communications Lead form the SC Officers
- Additional roles such as Ward Rep to be chosen from School Council members
- School Council members have voting role and attend all meetings
- Parents can participate through opportunities on other SC committees, such as Budget, Fundraising, Bylaws, Dismantling Inequities, as well as other activities such as pizza lunch, holiday events
- There are also school-run committees where parents can be reps (Safe and Caring Schools, School Improvement Plan)
- New school council will share

Meeting Minutes:

Approval of June Minutes—Approved by Su Date, Seconded by Miranda Indrigo

Agenda Review—call for other business, no additions

Introductions and Welcome to new Admin - Principal Bill Vatzolas, VP Delphine Rule (VP Kosta Flegas in place since Jan 2022).

Community Partners Update (May Seto)

- SH Armstrong
 - New roof installed over gym
 - SH Armstrong as space in after school sports program
 - Winter break camps full
 - Space in adult yoga class as well (Parks and Rec)
 - Recreational swim starting at pool
 - Note: some rec programs are being cancelled due to low staffing (mostly swimming program)
- Woodfield Daycare—no updates
- Applegrove
 - Afterschool program has space
 - Applegrove's Seniors programs, EarlyON, Afterschool are now all In person
 - Seniors' bus trip to St. Jacobs planned for October 27
 - No PastaFest this year, pasta supplier no longer in business
 - Halloween community event planned for October 28
 - Movie night in Glen Rhodes United church, (children's movie, followed by later youth movie), partnered with Leslieville Farmers Market
 - Pay what you can
 - Youth Program starting after Thanksgiving: Tuesday night drop in, Leadership Program Thursdays at Neighbourhood Food Hub (ages 12 – 15)
 - All on Applegrove [website](#), Facebook, Instagram (@applegrovecc)

Principal's Report (B. Vatzolas, K. Flegas, D. Rule)

- School philosophy based on student's feeling safe, happy and included; following TDSB three pillars of joy, engagement, belonging
- Full speed ahead for opportunities for students (field trips, extracurriculars)

Communications

- Parent communication is critical; admin wants to hear from parents to build school community
- Weekly update through School Messenger emails
- School website—updated with daily announcements every morning, expanding in the future
- Reach out to your teachers with daily questions; first point of contact
- Admin is very open to hearing parent concerns, so please reach out and keep informed
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Extra curriculars (M. Oliveira)

- Running Club has started Monday to Thursday any student grade 1 -8, parents
- Cross country team meet has moved from Ashbridge's to Sunnybrook; TDSB is working out bussing, looking at renting TTC buses due to shortages
- Four soccer teams (two junior, two senior) and touch football have started
- Toronto Schools on the Move (TSM) has started—fitness leaders who cheer and lead the school in a workout, dance routines
- All sports teams running this year (volleyball, swim, etc)
- Strong arts department—Ms. Peirce, Mr. Pembroke, Ms. Clayton started divisional choirs during lunch hour
- Student tech committee—prepare sound equipment for movie nights, etc.
- Debate club (Ms. Kerr)

- Details will be sent by admin
- Clubs, trips have gone paperless, sign up through EMA (TDSB working on glitches, contact school if there are glitches)

Aquatics

- Pool is open, swim club and swim team to come
- Instructors assessing swimming levels
- All-gender washroom has been opened up this year, available to all students
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Construction outside of school

- Need enclosures around the trees in order to get permit for project
- Originally intended to be completed during the summer, supply chain delays
- Soil cells being installed around the trees to promote filtration and growth
- Timeline: project will begin early October; estimated 2 months construction
- Whole area will be fenced off (up to playground)

Parent Question: What is the status of larger schoolyard construction plan that was decided in 2017/18?

- Plan is outdated. Funding is to the fence line
- Benches will be replaced in the front of the school
- Bill to follow up about resurfacing basketball court, playground
- Bill to follow up on status of plans: what impacted changes, were the assigned funds diverted?
- Parents noted budget was established for original plan; they are now considered “outdated” but parents have been hearing about this for awhile
- Parent question whether we fundraise to improve playground
- Resurfacing, drainage cannot be fundraised; playground can be fundraised and council had some money put aside for this; need TDSB to commit to the plan, as it’s been ongoing for several years.
- Outdoor classrooms are also something a lot of parents would like incorporated into plan
- Admin to investigate and update at the next SC meeting

Curriculum night

- October 6th curriculum night (October 7 is a PA day)
- 6 PM to 7:30, two 45-minute sessions
- Opportunity to go to classrooms and take part in sessions
- If you have more than 2 students, connect with your teacher and they will share information with you directly
- Kids are welcome to come to curriculum night
- Possible opportunity for older students to act as guides

Parent Question: Can parents see the whole school? Yes, everything will be open.

Lunch

- Three rooms for lunch: cafeteria, smaller quiet space, some to gym
- Primary and most juniors go to cafeteria; all hot lunch in cafeteria
- 270 to 300 students in cafeteria
- Chairs added to gym for lunch, enough for all students; some students prefer picnic style

- On average, 50 to 80 students in gym right now, mostly intermediates, some juniors.
- Capacity is adequate for winter; most intermediate students leave the property but there is space if they stay.
- **Students can go outside as soon as they've finished their lunch, or stay as long as needed to finish eating**
- Looking for volunteers for breakfast club and lunch, let admin know if interested
- Snack starts Monday

Parent question: Some grade 7s would stay, but they don't like the gym.

In most cases, students are happy but staff will work with parents to accommodate individual concerns

Parent question: Are desks a possibility?

Storage is an issue. In the Woodfield gym, there is not enough storage space. Looking at options available to accommodate 20 tables, alternate spaces (e.g. drama room). Chairs are the first step.

Parent question: Can students go to classrooms and supervisors rotate?

Students are from different classrooms; admin has safety concerns/challenges

Parent question: How many people are eating in the quiet space and could young student (Grade 2) be moved there?

Speak to your teacher to see if they can go there, usually there are about 20 students there, room for 40 students. Tables and chairs as per cafeteria. Lunchroom supervisors are on site.

Parent Question: If kids want to buy hot lunch, can they bring money on the day? Yes.

Reorganisation of Classrooms

- Process: projected numbers received in the spring for school. Board provides a staffing allocation based on projection.
- By 3rd week of September, actual count is made. If number is different, staff allocations will change.
- Enrollment went down in kindergarten so lost one teacher from staff. Seniority decides who leaves. Intermediate gifted teacher was bumped and teacher from staff filled in spot
- Kindergarten students adjusted, 12 students moved and change of teacher in gifted program
- Parents have been contacted if affected.

Cell Phone Usage

- Please remind students that phones are not during instruction time. Recess and lunch ok, but not during class time, in the halls between classes
- Call the office or email their teacher if you are picking up your child so that school has a record of absences

Parent Question—at what age can they sign themselves out? Grade 7 and 8

- All other ages require sign out in the office

Parent question: Tech use at recess (cell phones and laptops) and in the classroom as a reward after completing work, can this be limited?

Admin to talk to staff as a whole to develop school policy.

Treasurer's Report (J. Hackett)

- \$17,911 in our PACE account
- \$878 in Duke Cares fund; more people reached out over summer, looking for donations

- \$13, 000 in carryover amounts for projects from previous years that haven't happened - some of it has been held too long, will be evaluated in this budget process
- Raised \$17,000 last year through letter-writing campaign, pizza lunch
- Spent \$20,000 last year on tech enrichment, indigenous lacrosse.
- Kindies classes getting an additional iPad/class - in last year's Stage 2 of budget.
- Looking for staff, parent input on projects for the year and working with fundraising committee
- SC focuses on projects that benefit the school as a whole, vs. individual classrooms

Other Business

- Babysitters at the SC meetings, would parents use that service? Overall feeling is yes
- Would parents be comfortable with movie nights? Yes
- Duke Cares: fund to help with field trips, grocery cards, winter clothes, etc. Reach out to admin, staff, SC. Privacy is respected.
- **Reach out with comments, concerns via school council email dukeschoolcouncil@gmail.com, visit SC website: dukesac.ca**
- Halloween in person event? yes
- SC to survey all parents regarding in-person events and how they feel/suggestions
- Skate library—donations welcome, helmets welcome
- Concerns or issues? Reach out to school council (via email) or admin directly with concerns - Duke FB parent group is not an official channel - community group,

Parent question: Will future meetings be in person or virtual, combo?

In person. Hybrid is not possible because we don't have equipment (conference microphone) to support large meetings with a combo of virtually & in person. Will watch the covid status and if need be will revert to Zoom Meetings.

Student Participatory budgeting

- Money is put aside for students to plan a project, and see project through
- Promotes student leadership and voice
- SC has funds set aside

Parent question: Will clubs led by external companies (e. g. chess club) resume? Yes, chess has reached out already

Parent question: Is there any interest in creating a Day of the Dead cultural event? Yes.