

Duke of Connaught
SAC MEETING – October 23, 2018 (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

ATTENDANCE

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea, Kelli Helpert, Carl Gambacourt

SAC: Bev Grondin (chair), Tanya Barrett (chair), Stacey Iseman (parent rep)
(SAC Members not in attendance: Margie Akins, Daniela Fermo, Kelly Ackerman, Dan Torrence, Lisa Casino, Darcy Ketchum)

Sign in: Alison Orr, Aron McGrath, Laurie Barnett, Erin Scott, Marie Snyder, Jill Hollingsworth, Laura Byers, Eilleen Buchholz, TeeTee Begley

Agenda:

1.) Welcome and request for all other business: Tanya Barrett, Bev Grondin

- reading of the Land Treaty Acknowledgement, which will now be read at the beginning of each SAC meeting.

1a.) Appointment of Alison Orr to vice-chair, Fundraising (2 min): Bev Grondin

- We did not have quorum so could not officially appoint Alison to Vice-Chair, Fundraising. Pushed to next meeting. Those present stated there are no objections.

2.) Approval of Minutes (2 min): Tanya Barrett

- We did not have quorum so could not approve. Pushed to next meeting. No objections

3.) Treasurer's Report - Presentation of final 2018-2019 budget and fundraising initiatives (30 min) : Daniela Fermo

- Daniela was away with an illness so Tanya Barrett presented.
- minor changes including removing the Marlies Game Day.

Q: Is that over 17 thousand that was held over from last year?

A: Money held over for a number of initiatives, \$3000 to fund Spring Fair, \$3000 for “Duke Plays” playground redesign, \$3000 for funding towards Duke theatrical performance, \$3000 towards Library Learning Commons, and \$5000 towards music & arts funding within the school that has been funded from the 2018 Talent Show and 2017 theatrical production.

- Budget proposals – the basketball net request was removed because it would be too big of an initiative to do in multiple parts as had been planned. Instead \$1700 has been approved to purchase new uniforms for the Cross-County team.

Q: What is Flight Club?

A: explained as a club where students will learn about aerodynamics and build model airplanes.

Q: What are Recess Bags?

A: Inexpensive bags with toys for outdoor recess play, i.e. skipping ropes, balls, etc.

Q: What is the Mobile Gardens?

A: Mr Misner looking for seed money to start building 3 mobile climbing gardens that will eventually be used within the school. The students will be building the gardens themselves.

4.) Principals' Reports (20 min) : Carol Shea, Carl Gambacourt, Kelli Helpert

- JungleSport Package will be distributed to parents this week by Ms. Oliveira. JungleSport staff will be building the climbing equipment and managing it for each class. A waiver is being sent home for parents to sign which states that parents are AWARE of risk of injury. Hard copy will be distributed and a school messenger copy. Only for grades 1-8. Kindergarden students are not participating. We will need to look into a waiver form for the Adult event that SAC is running during the week.
- Ski Trip is being planned for Snow Valley. January 8th and January 14th. These two days will have a cost reduction. 1-day \$60, 2-day \$120. Families will be polled if they will want to do a second day or just one

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day. There will be a day (or possibly two) for 5-6 students and one day (or possibly two days) for 7-8 students.

Construction Update: will know by Thursday if we'll have access to the front of the building by Monday, Oct 29. The communication will come either late Friday or over the weekend, depending upon when Facilities informs Carol Shea. She wants to wait until the decision is final before it is communicated. The access at Door 5 has been helpful and there haven't been any issues being communicated to Admin. The swipe, camera and intercom will be returned to Door 7 (Front door) eventually.

- In follow up to a parent question from the first meeting, the none of the doors were never fully barred as part of the fire plan.

Lunch Routine. New lunch routine for students in grades 1-6 rolled out this week. The kids seem to appreciate the 40 minutes of uninterrupted play time. Still looking at/discussing seating for kids eating in the gym. During inclement weather or during the JungleSport week will have to find alternate plans. Perhaps using SH Gym during "special" days.

This plan was decided with discussion with students and appears to be the best play for the situation.

The 3 fans for the cafeteria have arrived. A work order has been submitted and awaiting installation.

Comment: a couple of parents expressed that their child is very pleased with the new routine. That they are able to eat quickly and go outside almost as soon as they are done eating.

A: Maureen said the kids are out of the hot lunch line faster than before.

Comment: question about the winter – kids bringing their winter gear with them.

A: This should reduce some of the mess of slush/wet when kids are going in and out during the winter. Should hopefully be better

Look at 7-8 lunch. Next plan. Will discuss with intermediate staff. Not enough room in the 7-8 lunch room and no supervision, other than supervisor in cafeteria.

Q: students in grades 7 & 8 aren't allowed to hang out on benches outside to eat? It's a concern that they are wandering the neighbourhood.

A: there are only 7-8 kids in their designated lunchroom. No supervision outside

Question/Comment: there has been some "shinanigans" in the lunch room that have made some kids uncomfortable. Kelli: she hasn't seen/heard it. Last year the majority would be offsite and a "nice little cohort" depending on the weather, the numbers ranged from "full to really full". Kids playing cards. Kelli never had to deal with behavioural issues. TT says the same.

Carol: the next plan is the focus on the 7-8 students. The expectation is that students are expected to be inside designated lunchroom or off property. This isn't different from the previous plan. The improvement is that there are now 6 supervisors outside for 40 minutes, so they are able to access the whole yard, not just the front of the school for most of the lunchtime.

Kelli: we pride ourselves on the relationship with community partners. She will be reaching out to McDonald's and KFC to discuss if there are issues with children's behaviour while off school property.

Carol: We need to adjust the permission form so that parents are able to adjust the expectations of which days they are able to leave property. Currently the permission form gives grade 7/8 students general permission to leave school property.

Q: What happened to the Grade 7/8 lounge?

A: The positive space room was lost about 2 years ago because of the growing school.

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Q: worry about the older kids intermingling with the younger kids. 6 supervisors for all the kids doesn't seem like enough.

A: the kids were always all mixed for part of the lunch already, but previously only in the front of the school.

The TDSB decides on how many supervisors there are per number of students, approximately: 1-120; 2-300; 4-450, etc.; 6-800 kids

Last 10 minutes there are 6 or 7 teachers on duty in the field as well.

Staff are encouraged to wear orange vests to be visible.

- Grade 3 universal screening is complete. The results will come back and will be mailed out to parents.
- Photo retake day Nov 7. Also Sibling Photo Day
- Oct 29 Eco-school day.
- Eco team. Among other initiatives members of Eco-Team once a week they go around the school and make sure the lights out in empty
- Nov 20 Earth Rangers is coming to the school.
- Soccer and football – all teams have made the playoffs. Girls soccer team lost in playoffs today.
- In process of getting ready for progress reports.
- Choices for 9. Thursday night, October 25. Grade 8 kids learning about highschool choices. It has also been opened to grade 7 students this year. It's helpful for grade 7s – it's the final grade 7 report card that goes to high schools special.
- Duke's clothing bank is up and running. When it is brought to Admin's attention that there is a need we have a system in place to assist as best we can. We have a relationship with Bumbleberry Kids, where we have a running credit. Ellen Duckman created a voucher, which Kelli hands out to those who come forward with a clothing need, so parents can go to pick the items. If Bumbleberry doesn't meet their needs then it is brought back to SAC where we will make other arrangements to get the necessary items for the child.

Q: if I bring items to Bumbleberry Kids can I have a credit applied to the Duke account?

A: yes! That is a great idea.

Caring & Safe Schools: While it is off to a late start, the first Caring and Safe Schools meeting is happening Nov 7. One of the items to be discussed is the safety on Kerr street.

Nov 13. First lock down drill of the year.

- Each year there are three fire drills in fall and three in the spring. Lock down drills in both seasons. We also have to have 2 hold & secure drills.
- Toronto police services will be on site during the lock down drill. No time yet.
- There will be signage in the front windows. No one will be allowed into the school during the drill. "We want to empower people. Want to communicate with the community to keep them informed."

Q: are kids always informed in advance?

A: Yes.

5.) All Other Business:

* **Giving Tree** (Aron McGrath)

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The Giving Tree is Christmas tree set up in the lobby of school. Aron communicates with a chosen charity, they tell her what they need, ornaments are hung on the tree with needed items listed. Parents choose an ornament, purchase the required item and returns to the school. Aron delivers items to the charity. There is also a food drive.

The charity is usually Covenant House.

Some students approached Kelli H. about wanting to help The Good Shepherd.

Q: Looking to help within the community – there are kids/families within the school community who may be in need assistance. Perhaps we could help some of these people as well.

Q: How do we know who to help?

A: Social worker within the school can help identify and also knows of families from outside the school who may be in need of assistance.

Q: How do we do this without making it personally identifying? Can we do something that incorporates everyone? Gift cards for the families in need, donations for Good Shepherd, donations for Covenant House? Ornament on the tree would identify the need.

Comment: we should try to help people within our community if we know there those in need, but it must be done confidentially and respectfully.

Alternate idea - try to raise money for families within the community in other ways. Some brainstorming of how to help/who to help.

Suggested plan: For the Giving Tree, work with a charity that is organized and is easy to donate to. If we want to help those within our community we can approach it differently. Aron is going to work with Kelli to complete the plan.

Stacey: we've already started "Duke Cares" if we add to that during the holiday season, we can add a note on the NTR and send out a note in hardcopy. Add this on the Enrichment Fundraising Letter, which will be distributed in hard-copy within the next week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes by SAC Co-Chair Beverley Grondin