

ATTENDANCE

Duke of Connaught: B. O'Brien, K. Helpert, C. Gambacourt

SAC: Bev Grondin (Chair), Margie Akins (Co-Secretary), Rachel Schmidt (Treasurer), Daniela Fermo (Treasurer), Daniel Torrance (Ward Rep), Ameet Sengar (Ward Rep), Dawn Chapman (Parent Rep), Lisa Casino (Parent Rep)

Sign-In: Jill Hollingsworth, Janice Dobbie, Susan Munn, Rosalie Fine, Marie Snider

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and request for all other business – pizza lunch (J. Hollingsworth)
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Principal's Report
 - Academic review
 - Staffing
 - Extracurricular
 - Facilities
 - Caring & Safe Schools Committee (K. Helpert)
- 5) All other business:
 - a. Bathroom Artspiration (Dawn Chapman)
 - b. Pink Shirts
 - c. Discussion on KnowledgeHook presentation dates
 - d. Ward

2) Approval of Minutes

Jenn and Daniela should be added to attendance. Bev motion to approve, Dawn seconds. Minutes approved.

3) Treasurers Report

- Pink shirt sales are doing well. To be discussed later in meeting.
- Duke Plays is at \$685.
- Not many teacher requests to spend the \$150. Duke Admin to send a reminder to staff to use up their portion.

4) Principal's Report

- Report cards just went home and interviews held.
- Currently IPRCs are being held this week for this school. Next week will be for other schools.
- Invite SAC to look at Global Competencies (critical thinking and problem solving,

global citizenship, communication, entrepreneurship, etc.) on the TDSB website. These will eventually be Future Learning skills on report cards and used to measure class rooms. Look on the TDSB website to get informed about these criteria.

- **Director's 7 responses to enhanced equity framework** – look at highlights on the TDSB website. Driving our work at this school. Duke is obligated to use these 7 areas. Duke Admin can look at it with the SAC if interested.
- **Well-being** – clothing bank – teachers were identifying a need in their classes for clothing donations. Initiative has been successful. Teachers tell admin, Ellen talks to her people and drops off the clothes.
- **MAAD presentation** – has evolved dramatically. Grade 7/8 staff were surveyed and teachers wanted it to come back (cost is \$1000 which is paid by the LCBO if requested the prior year). The kids were very interested and affected. The message was clear. Important message: don't get in the car with anyone who was drinking or smoking marijuana. A representative from MAAD comes and first talks to the kids, asks questions, engages. Then a film is played with Q & A after.
 - Initiative was successful as kids have been talking to their parents about it.
- **Caring and Safe Schools** – 3 people attended but heavy topics were addressed. *Read-up* was a major issue regarding a perceived inequity. The premise is a child arrives with a guardian with a bag of books they've read that week, then at *Read-up* they're met with a trained volunteer who reads their books with them (**ACTION:** lately no volunteers have been present). However, some unsupervised kids are attending and the requirement is that a guardian needs to attend with the child, which is where the perceived inequity arises. But it's a charity-driven program and funds are limited and heavily reliant on volunteers, which are currently not available. Need to bring awareness to what *Read-up* is. Sheila is going to write a summary of what her expectation for the program is, then admin will send it out to the community to attend or volunteer (**ACTION**).
- **Facilities** – March 12th scaffolding going up. Good part of the front of the building (Doors 7, 8 and 12) will be closed and re-routed. Families will be receiving a map. This construction will involve pointing at the top part of the building. They will also be centering the name of the school and dealing with water issues between Duke and Woodfield. Impacts Applegrove and Woodfield as well.
- **Hub Meetings** – Duke, TDSB, Applegrove, Woodfield, SH Armstrong – Youth Director is keen at looking at coordinating programs between all the attached facilities.
- Division 54 and 55 Police are coming together. Looking at Applegrove for 55 Division. Parents may be interested in this.
- Swipe cards – system is installed but cards will take 4 more weeks.
- School performances and updates:
 - African Heritage Month – includes morning announcements and each class is doing age-appropriate activities. Chinese New Year display was created as well.
 - Prologue performances – Grades 4 to 8 – Spoken Word Artist performing Live Your Legacy March 26. Using hip hop as a means of inspiring young people.

Primary – Tribal Vision Dance – First Nations dance troupe from Brantford March 22nd. Visions of Turtle Island – respect the natural world and learn more about FN communities.

- Kindie concert Thursday Feb 27, 5:30-6pm.
- Ms. Reynolds (Room 7A) is on medical leave. No French teachers at the moment so teacher keeps changing and it is challenging finding replacements. Duke admin is working toward finding a more permanent solution.
- March 29th last steering committee meeting for playground redevelopment. 2019 construction start.
- Winter Walk Day – 30% participation rate. Examples of how we are trying to improve eco-school status. Final eco-school walk-through in late-May. Big issue is organic waste produced in cafeteria. Generating too much organic so we need to determine how that can be improved. Also using too much energy. Doing an energy walkthrough.
- Nuit Blanche – talent show April 19th. TBD – looking at week before May long weekend. C. Gambacourt to follow up (**ACTION**).

5) All Other Business

- **Pizza Lunch Program** – 40% increase in people participating. 1000 slices need to be handed out. This year, pizza lunch is the same as a regular lunch day; people are not eating all at the same time. We need parents help in communicating to their Grades 4-8 that they need to go outside as usual and line up at 11:50am outside the gym. They also need to behave in the line, e.g. no pushing, no blocking the doors, no hanging around areas they should not be, and no rushing the tables once they go inside. A child was hurt in the chaos in January.
 - Streamlining the process / Pizzagate – colour coded cards have been provided to all students but a group of students modified their cards to alter their orders and get more slices than paid. This resulted in kids at the end of the line who did not get their pizza. While we do cross check orders at the end of the lunch, we do not have time to confirm orders during lunch. We are asking all parents to talk to their kids about not modifying their orders so that everybody gets their food. Modifications will be identified and paid for by the student. This message will be included in the NTR (**ACTION**). Ms. Pappoff class came up with solutions for managing the lineup as a student was injured in the line. 1) Need students to self-regulate. 2) Parents need to talk to their kids about how to behave. Also mention that it is Halal (**ACTION**).
- **Bathroom Artspiration** – Huge response from parents. Took the idea to Ms. Astor and student council, who received suggestions. Parent volunteers will illustrate the murals. Met last week for final designs and quotes:
 - Boys #1: Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there's footsteps on the moon
 - Boys #2: When something goes wrong yell, "Plot twist!" and move on.
 - Girls #1: A flower does not compete with the one next to it. It just blooms.
 - Girls #2: Kindness is free, sprinkle that stuff everywhere.
- **Pink shirts** – build on equality and anti-bullying. April 11th International Day of

Bullying. Sold just under 200, no profit. Any minor profit would go to the school. Any more suggestions are welcome for addressing the issue of bullying and pink shirt day. Carl to follow up with Equity Committee (**ACTION**).

- **KnowledgeHook** - Parent Reaching Out grant re: mathematics was submitted by SAC. KnowledgeHook was suggested by Carl and Beverly that Duke already has. Interactive / game-based way of learning math fundamentals. Geared from Gr. 4-6, but 7/8 can use as well. Reinforcement of basic concepts in a way that's engaging for kids. Programmable to the student's skill-level and measurable so teachers can see where there are gaps in learning. Parents can also use this at home – communication between the school and home. SAC has arranged for someone to attend March 28th. Parents will be encouraged to attend to learn about it. Send an evite to parents to track attendance/interest. Need an info sheet similar to *ReadUp* so the parents know clearly about the program (**ACTION – Carl and Bev**).
- **Ward/Trustee Update** – Sheila is on leave at the moment. Currently we don't have a trustee. Contacted the Chair and her response isn't encouraging. 4 trustees were suggested as being able to help if we had any issues. Dan identified that he was concerned that we'd have no representation at TDSB and Ward meetings. Want consensus from SAC whether to pursue this further. First find out when the boundaries are changing, as that may change who our Trustee is and when they are changing. Contact Jennifer Story, one of the 4 reps suggested by the Chair, if she has a plan since she's been recommended. Also find out when the decision will be made whether she's stepping down permanently.
 - Are we communicating out to the parents? TBD based on further investigation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes by SAC Co-Secretary M. Akins