

Duke of Connaught
SAC MEETING – October 24, 2017 (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

In attendance:

Duke of Connaught: B. O'Brien, K. Helpert, C. Gambacourt, Maureen Allen-Doorhey, Amir Chaudhry

SAC: Bev Grondin (Chair), Tanya Barrett (Chair), Chad Wiseman (Vice-chair Fundraising), Jennifer Farr (Vice-chair Fundraising), Margie Akins (Co-Secretary), Rachel Schmidt (Treasurer), Daniela Fermo (Treasurer), Daniel Torrance (Ward Rep), Lisa Casino (Parent Rep), Susan Munn (Parent Rep)

Sign-In: David Darling, Holly Jordan, Siobhan McMenemy, Laurie Barrett, Caitlyn Reynolds (teacher), Jill Hollingsworth, Edward Griffith, Anette Chawk, Geoff Hill, Sara Tropea, Karen Pumpa, Kimberley McQuay, Chanta Baier, Sophie Lafaille,

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and request for all other business
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Bright Pics
- 5) Hot Lunch Program
- 6) Principal's Report
- 7) All other business:
 - a. Hold and Secure
 - b. Drinking Water Safety
 - c. Pool
 - d. Basketball Courts

2) Approval of Minutes

Contested information regarding gate and EQAO. Contested information is "business arising from the minutes". Sarah Tropea motion to approve, Tanya seconds. Minutes approved.

3) Treasurers Report

- Budget needs to be finalized/approved at end of week. Usual fundraising initiatives, like pizza lunch and holiday breakfast, are continuing. QSP is changing to just magazine sales. New initiatives suggested: poinsettia sales, greeting cards (Acorn Cards). Cards could also be done through Bright Pics.
- **Action: review budget digitally with SAC members before Friday.**
- **Action: SAC to look into Bright Pics for Cards fundraising initiative.**
- Suggested that a budget committee needs to be developed, since budget has been rushed. Tanya suggested that a committee be developed near the end of the year (i.e. April) for the following year's SAC to utilize.

- Who sets the budget deadline? TDSB sets the budget deadline.
- Suggested that we solicit ideas digitally in the future.
- SAC has found that we've already missed deadlines for fundraising with some suggested companies.
- What are we spending the budget on?
 - We've received funding requests from teachers and are accommodating all of them.
 - **Action: Funding requests will be posted on the SAC board and Facebook page, along with budget.**

4) Bright Pics – Spiro Maragoudakis (co-owner)

- Concerns raised:
 - Kids not smiling
 - Photographers should be good at dealing with kids
 - Timing of pictures
 - Lack of options
 - Review of pictures
 - More eco-friendly options / fully digital
 - Discounts for multiple kids
 - Late fees
- How many pictures does a photographer take and are they reviewed in the moment?
 - We're there to sell packages and want them to look good. The more schools that are done, the more chances Bright Pics has to critique photographer's work and suggest improvements.
 - **Action: Review time that pictures are conducted. Later date may be better.**
- Parent comment: Bright Pics does try to get kids to smile, but kids are shell-shocked. Perhaps parent volunteers are needed to keep kids happy and the environment less chaotic?
 - **Action: solicit parent volunteers or remind parents that they are welcome to attend the session.**
- More eco-friendly options should be provided. Smaller brochure or fully digital.
 - These options are available and used at other schools that have asked for them.
 - **Action: Implement eco-friendly option**
- Discount doesn't show up for multiple kids.
 - Online should be deducting. **Bright Pics to confirm.**
- What are the benefits of working with Bright Pics?
 - Approved Board vendor
 - Provided medical alerts for school, yearbook, OSR, directories, ID pictures, fun fairs, etc.
 - **Action: Invite Bright Pics to Fun Fair**
- Need to see more differences between poses, not just background.
 - Bright Pics treat it as a traditional school photo. Some schools have asked for

different poses. Is that something Duke is interested in?

- **Action: Duke to request less traditional poses as option? One traditional, one “fun”.**
- Remind children/parents not to wear green.
 - Bright Pics can and does fix the green screen issues in post-production. Order cards are sent quickly and may still include the issues.
- Suggested that a committee of parents form? **SAC to develop a poll for improvement suggestions.**
- Photo retake day on Nov. 9
- What’s the rush with pictures?
 - Everybody wants Holiday pictures
- Why late fees? I didn’t order pictures because of the late fees.
 - It’s to encourage folks to order on time. Later orders are more time consuming to produce.

5) Hot Lunch Program

- Concerns:
 - Clubs – when do they have access? How?
 - Volunteers – when do they have access? How?
 - Access – attendance / name tracking – why is it done? Negative impact
 - Is this a new process?
 - Lunch being denied to children - no money/no food
 - Stigma of not having money
 - Kindergarten lunch. How is that handled?

C. Gambacourt, VP, and M. Allen-Doorhey, Nutrition Program Coordinator for Duke, addressed questions. There are 3 full-time staff and 10 lunch room supervisors.

Clubs

- Practice in past has been that kids bring their lunch to the clubs for logistical reasons (only have 1 hour). Proposing club kids have lunch first so they can go to club. Developing list of “club kids”. Additionally, there are 2 lunches – kids can come down to eat lunch at any time, before/after program.
 - Can kids bring their own Tupperware to pick up hot lunch to then take to their club? It’s not any different from a packed lunch.
 - Yes. They can’t be travelling with forks and plates however. If they forget their Tupperware they’ll have to eat in the cafeteria.
 - How soon can this be implemented? Next week. Duke is in the process of generating the list and messaging.

Volunteers

- Welcome all adult volunteers and always looking. Student volunteers get a free lunch on volunteer days. **Action: improve this messaging.** Also high school kids can get volunteer hours by helping at lunch, by serving or cleaning up. Grade 5 and up can volunteer; however, there are some Grade 4s that have expressed interest. If the

child is able to take on the role then there is not really an age limit.

- What about kindergarten volunteers? When/where do they eat?
 - **Action: Kindergarten volunteers should bring Tupperware in and grab hot lunch before volunteering.**

Access

This issue came up last year when we noticed that there was a lot of organic waste. A Waste Audit was conducted and 100 lbs of waste was found on some days. Everybody likes hot lunch and noticing kids were ditching lunch from home to get hot lunch. We're a platinum eco school and want to manage waste being developed, so we decided to start tracking kids by class by lunchroom supervisor.

Kids being denied food

- No child should ever be denied food. **If that's happening, please see C. Gambacourt.** If there are financial concerns, parents need to contact the office to get the children on the list, which is done privately and respectfully.
- Is the system being cheated or is it a need? If it's a need then the SAC can discuss covering it.
 - Nutrition program coordinator noticed that numbers were going up. 50-80 extra kids a day in both lunches were having hot lunch. Very difficult for kitchen to track how much lunch to make and it needed to be dealt with. Lunch is a registered program, vs. the morning meal donation program, which is universal. Tracking is also used for funding, to determine whether we need to request more money. If kids are still hungry they should come to us and tell us they want more and they won't be denied.
 - **Action: If you don't wish to donate but want your child to participate you should sign the form anyway.** This needs to be specified for religious or allergy restrictions.
- Kindergarten always gets extra food sent, despite the form. For older kids, coordinator needs to get the form and checklist done. First of the month kids usually are just provided with food.
- **Action:** Lunch room supervisors need to watch the kids and see if they are not eating, talk to the kids and tell them to go get hot lunch. Or alternatively go talk to their teachers to talk to parents confidentially. Reach out to the parents instead of parents reaching out to school.
- **Action: Develop Committee** (Kimberley McQuay to run committee) to liaison between families and school. Send email to info@dukesac.ca if interested in joining committee and advertise committee in the NTR.

6 & 7) Principal's Report

- Hold and Secure Update – steps taken were outlined last Friday in a school and SAC update. Friday updates will continue as long as there is something to share, and Duke will decide with SAC what the end date will be for those updates.

- Immediate change is that the front door is locked, as was requested at the Hold and Secure meeting. This has created issues with staff getting in since the daycare is refusing to let staff in. In the short-term, Beverley, Kelly, and Carl are letting staff in. Swipe cards have been applied for (\$20,000) and are expected to start in December. Also, the safety monitor is here indefinitely.
- Another big issue at the Hold and Secure meeting was the SH Armstrong fire doors. The doors cannot be locked. TDSB Facilities and City of Toronto are in discussions. Duke is no longer involved in the discussion but will be kept apprised. Beverley mentioned that she feels safe in the building and coming to work. The locked doors will definitely be a big shift, but the buzzers caused a culture change a few years ago and everybody adjusted.
- If you have an issue, please talk to Beverley or other administration staff. Complaints on social media cannot be addressed.
- The TDSB is paying for half the swipe cards, and Duke pays for each door. This was an unanticipated, large expense; **however, nothing is going to be removed from the budget.**
- China Delegation – came to visit Duke due to excellence in teacher collaboration(?)
- In house PD is being run - releasing teachers to improve and develop better programs.
- Cross Country and flag football teams are outstanding this year.
- Coding and computational thinking - to return for November to discuss computational thinking (**action: add to November agenda**).
- How can we as parents help to advocate for the SH door issue?
 - A: The issue is well known and a letter campaign is not necessary at the time. Continue to follow up with Sheila Cary-Meagher (SCM), TDSB Trustee, and ask her how it's progressing. If you feel it's stalling, talk to the City Councillor, Mary-Margaret McMahon (councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca).
 - **Action: SAC to follow up with SCM for SAC meetings.**

Drinking Water

The Star article was referring to a study results from 2 years ago to one specific sink, which was replaced completely. Recent tests were well below the threshold last year and currently being done for this year.

Action: B. O'Brien will look into getting a copy of the reports.

SH Armstrong Pool

Walk through at the pool was conducted by staff, of the change rooms and facilities. Health and safety issues were provided to the school from the City. Suggestions: change tables, hooks in shower, more mopping/squeegeeing of floors, elevator access. Gallery glass is behind schedule but still being pursued by Duke.

Basketball court

Issues have been raised regarding condition of pavement. Duke made the area part of the master design and is breaking ground in 2018. This is a budget item in the SAC budget.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes by SAC Co-Secretary M. Akins