

Attendees:

School Officials: Beverly O'Brien (Principal), Kelli Helpert (VP)

SAC Executive: Tanya Barrett, Bev Grondin, Daniela Fermo, Dan Torrence, Ameet Sengar, Margie Akins, Colin Foster, Lisa Casino

Lynne Gray, Phil Pothen (from Secord Elementary)

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

2.) Approval of Minutes from last meeting: Colin Foster

- Approved

3.) Treasurer's Report: Daniela Fermo

- Talent Show: After all expenses, raised \$999 for their arts fund.
- Duke Plays & Library Reno "Enrichment Letter" has raised \$1300 of its \$3000 goal.
- SAC is \$10000 short of its fundraising goal for this year so far.
 - Less money has been raised on most events. Pizza lunch is almost double its usual amount.
- A P.R.O. grant covered the Knowledgehook presentation. Bev Grondin is working on next year's.
- Almost all teachers have submitted receipts for their \$150 allotment for classroom supplies.
- Creator Fair is coming up. Hoping to raise \$5000.
- Straw budget is now being created for next year. SAC is starting now to get ahead of the fall requirements. We are looking for submissions for how money should be spent.
- **Tanya Barrett:**
 - SAC has formed a committee and asked for volunteers for drafting next year's budget. So far it's just the chair and Treasurers on the committee.
 - The committee is currently looking at proposals. Items include fixing music instruments, replacing lost equipment, Grade 8 trip to Wahnawin, mobile gardens (2 for Duke, 1 for Woodfield), etc.
 - If anyone has ideas for future fundraisers that require minimal effort to run, please send them to the committee at info@dukesac.ca.
 - Idea: Adult talent show. Bring parents out to get to know one another and perform.
 - Ameet Sengar:
 - Earl Beatty: "Wine Survivor." parents night.
 - Kew Beach: Asked for donations up front at the start of the school year, with pamphlet outlining all the work that gets done with this money.
 - Needed to get more volunteers to help with Adult Social.
 - We're always short on volunteers to help run every event.
 - Q. Lynne Gray: What about having parents reps for each grade?
 - A. There are privacy issues (PIPEDA) with having reps.
- Straw budget for next year will be shared at next SAC meeting for initial approval.

4.) Ward Rep. : Ameet Sengar

- There was a ward meeting! First in a long while.
- Issue: Lack of teacher resources available in the French programs brought up at last SAC meeting.
 - Sheila Carrie-Meagher suggested writing a letter to her that she can then forward to the board. It doesn't mean anything would happen right away, but it would be a formal letter documenting the issue.
- The problem is there are no teachers to hire. The French program's popularity has used up all available French teachers. There simply aren't enough to hire anywhere.

4.) Ward Rep. : Ameet Sengar (cont'd)

- Sheila Carrie-Meagher is going to be hosting a all-candidates meeting. Details to come. The question of promoting the need for French-Immersion teachers could be raised.
- SAC should try to create a list of questions to be presented to candidates.
- Will try to put together a formal letter to the TDSB about the issue.
- One approach that can take some stress off the system is to have the TDSB hire a full-time staff of substitute teachers. Some may be not-working sometimes but it provides a more reliably available pool of teachers.
- Q. Dan Torrence: Is Sheila running again?
A. No one asked her. Uncertain.

5.) Principals' Reports : Beverly O'Brien

Achievement:

- Grade 3 or 6: EQAO is underway and for next 2 weeks.
- Report Cards will be sent home on Wednesday, June 27th.

Athletics

- 100+ kids are going to track & field. We are able to send kids in every event type.
 - Duke is able to teach all Track & Field events in gym classes.

Staffing:

- The school is currently in its 3rd round of "Transfer and Surplus." 2 more mini rounds to come.
- Staffing is very active until mid-June. Things can even change well into October. This is the standard formal staffing process.
- May newsletter contains next year's classroom model
- The June newsletter should be able to indicate who the teachers will be for each class.
 - The final report cards should contain your child's room number for next year.

Facilities:

- Exterior shell maintenance is ongoing. No end date yet. No date on next phase.
- Library construction will take place this summer.

General:

- Folk Fest at East York Collegiate (mostly gr 1 & 2) .
 - Students come together and dance to 12 songs together.
 - 3 different types of dances: rounds, lines, etc.
- TDSB Creates:
 - Large event that takes place across the board. Present and idea in spoken word, drama, dance and it's adjudicated. We had 2 presentations: dance and spoken word.
 - TDSB provides artists to help students create productions.
 - Duke's spoken-word group (Gr 5/6) moved on and made it to the final round.
 - "Student voice at its best." Their art, their issues.
 - Go online and check it out. <http://tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Get-Involved/TDSBCreates>
- Camp Wahanowin trip is happening now. Left today.
 - First year where there was a required swim test due to the tragedy last year.
 - The swim testing was done in-house. (Test was always done, but now it was more formal and much more paperwork.)
 - The kids are all tested again at the camp.
 - Kids who can't pass do alternative programming at the camp, but can still go to camp.

5.) Principals' Reports : Beverly O'Brien (cont'd)

- Heat in the school:
 - The boilers can't be turned off completely. They are used to heat the pool and the hot water.
 - Day-care needs the water at a certain temperature for health reasons.
 - Water that moves through the school radiates heat off the pipes.
 - Duke is slated for a boiler retrofit at some point because of its age. However... we have great boilers never break down right now. New boilers need more servicing.
- Solutions:
 - Make sure every classroom has a fan.
 - Teachers are provided the "Hot Weather Action Plan" (HWAP)
 - On days meeting certain criteria, a "heat alert" is communicated. Classes take turns in the library or other cooler parts of the building. Or shady areas outside.
 - The school knows it's not perfect and it can be uncomfortable. They manage the situation carefully when it's warm, watch students for heat stress, etc.
- **Q. Lisa Casino:** Why aren't we able to add air conditioning units to classrooms?
A. It's up to the TDSB and they have said "no."
 - Reasons *may* include:
 - Too much power for the electrical system to handle.
 - Classroom windows not designed to hold AC units.
 - Library is a "cooling station"
 - Daycare has an AC because they have separate rules & regulations for nurseries and is outside the TDSB. ("Nursery law")
 - There are two AC units in the main office. 3rd is broken and can't be turned on because it blows the circuit breaker.
 - To get a full answer on the TDSB's position, it would be best to put the question to Sheila Cary-Meagher.

5.) All Other Business:

- Questions about plans for the Playground redesign were tabled as VP Gambacort is away.

Hazards on the trip to school : Phil Pothén, Secord Elementary

- Secord is actively working on a Safe to School campaign to raise the awareness of parents and students about hazards that endanger them on their way to school.
- "If you don't feel it's safe enough for your child to walk or bike to school, why not?"
 - e.g., the new TTC stops now have kids crowding into a small area, dangerously close to Queen.
- There's no coordination between the TDSB and city council to look at where students live in relation to the the school, and whether they can make the trip safely.
- Secord is trying to initiate a bigger conversation.
- They have organized a meeting with Toronto transportation services manager.
 - They want to compile a list of all the problems people have and put these on the city's plate.
 - Pressure the city to have a systematic approach for getting kids to school safely.
 - Meeting is May 29th: 2174 Danforth. 7-9pm.
- Secord's survey is available on the Duke SAC website (dukesac.ca) under the "Community" menu.
- Any thoughts or questions, please email phil.pothén@safetoschool.ca.