

ATTENDANCE

Duke of Connaught: C. Shea, C. Gambacort, K. Helpert, M. Oliveira

SAC: Bev Grondin (Co-Chair), Tanya Barrett (Co-Chair), Margie Akins (Secretary), Daniela Fermo (Treasurer), Stacey Iseman (Parent Rep), Lisa Casino (Parent Rep), Alison Orr (Fundraising)

Sign-In: Francisco Laguan, Sheri McKay, Vanessa & Joe Rossi, David Darling, Aron McGrath, Lanrick Bennett Jr. Michelle Arbuckle, Melanie Tapson, Jill Hollingsworth, Nessa Cymbalisky, Laurie Barnett, Erin Scott, Marie Snyder, Alysha Brown, Laura Byers, Sophie Lafaille, Kristine Browne, Victoria Bowman

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome, request for all other business, Treaty Acknowledgment – Bev Grondin
 - 2) Approval of Minutes: Margie Akins
 - 3) Treasurer's Report: Daniela Fermo
 - 4) Principal's Report (10 min)
 - Academic review
 - Staffing
 - Extracurricular
 - Facilities
 - 5) Other Business
 - a) Dance-a-thon
 - b) X-Movement
 - c) Pest Control Action Plan
 - d) Gym Lunch
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1) Welcome and request for all other business

- Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the SAC. Welcome to:
 - Co- Chairs: Michelle Arbuckle and Melanie Tapson
 - Secretary: Vanessa Cymbalisky
 - Treasurer: Sue Munn
 - Fundraising: Aron McGrath
 - Ward Rep: Jill Hollingsworth, Lanrick Bennett Jr.
 - Parent Reps: Stacey Iseman, Francisco Laguan, Laurie Barnett
- For those who self-nominated but were unable to attend, they cannot be appointed today but it can be done by the new SAC Exec if they're still interested.
- Does anyone want to walk away or put their name forward? No
- There are 2 stand-by parent reps to fill the last spot if they are still interested. Bev will follow-up with them.
- Natasha Garda will be the new staff representative. Maria O. is stepping in today and when needed. She will be kept on the email list.
- Thank you to the previous SAC.

2) Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from June 2019, seconded, approved.

3) Treasurers Report

- Daniela passed around summary of last year's financials.
- Overall we had a very successful fundraising campaign - almost \$40k was raised. Our biggest events were: pizza (Jill), dance-a-thon (exceeded expectations), adult social, and musical/talent show
- Examples of where the funds went: athletics, music program, school technology (\$4k), graduation, etc.

4) Principal's Report

- Photo retake day and sibling pictures – Nov. 5th
- Caring, Safe & Accepting Schools Committee Meeting - Wed. Oct. 2nd during lunch because kids and staff join in
- Vaccination day – Dec. 3rd – all grade 7s (hep B, HPV, meningococcal disease)
- Tomorrow is Terry Fox Run
- Ray day is Friday Sep. 27
- Orange Shirt Day – Sep. 30
- TDSB does require police clearance for **regular volunteers**: see Kathleen Jarvis in the office
 - For a first time clearance there is a fee of \$20, but if this is an issue please contact the SAC or admin and it will be covered.
 - No fee for repeat clearances but a form needs to be signed.
- Recipients of volunteer award: Jill Hollingsworth, Aron McGrath, Angie Law, Jim Valentine
- Gr. 3 universal screening next week – Canadian Cognitive Abilities test – parents get results (helps us see students at higher end of functioning or those who need support)
- Roots of Empathy coming back to our school – “interacting with a newborn”
- Lots of sports underway
- Chess Club is about to start
- Art in Action is about to start
- International languages began last week
- ReadUP is about to start
- Contact Antoine Newhouse (Antoine.newhouse@tdsb.on.ca) about joining robotics/lego club
- Construction on outside of historical building is ongoing and will continue on through the Fall. It's taking longer because the number of bricks and mortar that needed replacement was bigger than the original scope. Precautions are being taken when children are outside (e.g. stopping cutting and sawing, extra fencing).
- Construction on the pool is ongoing and is still to be completed by the end of October. The mechanical room is being demolished and boiler replaced.
- Staffing – student enrollment drives everything that happens in this school (e.g. staffing, equipment). Projections gave us an allocation of teachers

and staff and caretaking. We lost 1 extended French position but gained one French immersion position due to our projections. We also lost 1.5 caretakers and were forced to close 6 rooms (certain amount of caretaking hours equals certain square footage). However, within a few weeks of school starting the numbers are updated based on “butts in seats”. As a result, Duke was reorganized and gained one staff for extended French. Grade 7/8 had 38 kids and we now have a new allocation which results in a straight grade 7 and straight grade 8 classes. We are also going through the hiring process for the French teacher. This year we only have 2 new teachers so staff can get more comfortable. Duke has 1 more classroom than we did last year so that requires time-tabling. The Grade 7s and 8s are back as 38 just for music and gym.

- Itinerant Music Instruction – many school models are based on inclusion and equity (e.g making sure that schools that didn’t receive band instruments or strings get it). Duke has been fortunate with IMI for a number of years but IMI was reduced in a number of schools. Originally we lost 1.5 hrs for strings and band. Any kid who wants to play or try can do so. But after the “butts in seats” we gained back an hour of strings and band. Ontario certified teacher must supervise music times. Question: Can an OCT certified parent volunteer? Or do we need to use currently employed? A: I like that thinking outside the box but it may be a union issue.
- Projection vs. actual student numbers is within 30 total.

5) Other Business

- Dance-a-thon: Following success of last year's event, and the minimal requirement of volunteers, the outgoing SAC decided to do it again for this year. Many parts of this event had to start rolling early (e.g. booking Professor Jamz). Dance-a-thon is scheduled for Oct. 30th and will be Halloween-themed, though the use of costumes is to be discussed by the new SAC and admin. No minimum donation to get in but we will "challenge" each child to raise \$5. The event takes place during school hours and there will not be any incentive items like last year, though glow sticks will be provided to all students. We are considering whether to do a classroom prize instead of personal incentives (to be discussed by new SAC and organizers). Last year we raised \$15k and paid the maximum of \$2k to Professor Jamz. Some suggestions were made: every class that achieves x-amount gets a prize; raffle for classes that raise x-amount to be even less about winners and losers. Last year the volunteers in the library for kids who prefer to opt-out were unable to fulfill their duties so maybe this year we will pay someone to do it. It was suggested that a silent rave could help these kids participate without being overwhelmed. Maybe that's something to consider for the following year if it cannot be arranged in time for this year. Suggestion: can Professor Jamz take the waste with them to help our eco-status? Will discuss.
- Cash online will not include fundraising. Only Jenn can generate reports, and it needs several days of notice to have up and running.
- X-Movement: 2nd week of December. Dance movement option has been selected. Entire school is involved, including Kindies. Not dance lessons, more creative movement/dance. Exploration through movement and dance and helping through self-regulation. Visit the website (<https://www.xmovement.com/>). Not a money-maker, more of a community event. Brought up to address class disruptions that were common last year. Staff has a year-long additional resource for regulation suggestions and exercises.
- If all other fundraisers can't happen, these 2 will help greatly.
- Pest control: re-occurring issue. Lisa has brought this up with the school admin.
 - Always on a regular pest control cycle due to location and the age of the building. They'll never be completely gone. We increase our Orkin visits to specific areas. When there are sightings they get additional assessments. How do we handle communication to the parents? Talk to admin bc there's no need to inflame an issue.

Why is it Room 6 so often? Location and condition of the room (tiles, caulking, etc.).

- 20 minutes in the gym, up to 30 or they're moved to a space to finish. How do you supervised 800 kids with 8 lunchroom supervisors? Supervision is done by a ratio (e.g. 1:120). Collecting a list of a sub-committee of parents to discuss options from last year. School needs the parents on the sub-committee to bring it up again. Moveable benches? Majority of kids don't want the benches, which are available for every classroom. Some benches are out there already.
 - Why did it change? Too many transitions. Didn't know where any one kid was during the lunch hour. Let's all eat and go outside together.
- Board game donations for rainy days – need a cart or storage. Cart for lunchroom, cart for gym. SAC to discuss further.
- Coles has another event this Saturday for raising funds for Duke. Library gets gift certificates for our library to shop there.
- For NTR: Cross country – 180 students to ashbridges bay, need parent volunteers Oct. 3rd. Aaron Kitask is the contact.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes by SAC Secretary M. Akins