

Duke SAC Meeting #2 - Minutes

Wednesday October 23, 2019, 6:30

Cafeteria

Attendance:

Duke of Connaught: Carol Shea (principal), Carl Gambacort (Vice-Principal), Kelli Helpert (Vice-Principal)

SAC: Michelle Arbuckle (co-chair), Melanie Tapson (co-chair), Aron McGrath (Fundraising), Nessa Cymbalisky (Secretary), Susan Munn (Treasurer), Stacey Iseman (Parent rep), Laurie Barnett (Parent rep), Jill Hollingsworth (Ward rep), Lanrick Bennett Jr (Ward rep)

Sign in: Vanessa Rossi, Joe Rossi, Marie Snyder, Edward Griffith, Daniela Fermo, Angie Law, Erin Scott

Absent: Francisco Laguan (Parent rep), Maria Oliveira (Staff representative), Natasha Garda (Staff representative)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment

- a. Welcome to the new SAC executive!

2. Other Business

- a. Action items to update:
 - i. Status of pool construction
 1. Carol reports deadline was October 31, updated construction meeting coming up next week and will provide an update after that.
 2. Scope of the job was mainly in the mechanical room (via an external company) while TDSB was working inside the pool on tiling, and neither project is completed yet
 - ii. Board game storage for lunch room/gym
 1. **SAC needs to talk about purchasing a cart to store them in.**

3. Previous business, Approval of minutes

- a. Moved - Stacey Iseman. Seconded - Sue Munn. Approved.

4. Principals' Reports

- a. Kelli:
 - i. Duke Caring and Safe Schools committee - first meeting two weeks ago, minutes are in transit;
 - ii. Second of 3 mandatory fall fire drills scheduled for tomorrow, had to be postponed and will occur on Monday November 5 is the final one

for this season; a change in date is likely required because this is the same date as our Photo Re-take Day 2 hold-and-secures mandated, next one before Christmas break, more info to come;

- iii. Photo retake day (including sibling day) is November 5;
- iv. Gr 7 vaccination day is December 3 – all day (Hep B, meningococcal, HPV) and boys are included this time, parents of grade 7 students will hear directly from admin. Families have done a great job submitting their child's vaccination consent forms; reminders will be sent to students and families leading up to the vaccination clinic.

b. Carl:

- i. Pediculosis checks took place on Oct 7 with public health nurse. Second annual check will take place in the new year.
- ii. Agendas now distributed at prorated amount of \$4/person
- iii. Grade 3 Universal Screening was completed last week. Tests have been sent to the Board to be analyzed and results will be sent to the school. Parents of Grade 3 students will receive results in 6 weeks. Results will be used to plan for the strengths and needs of all gr. 3 students.
- iv. Gr 6 students saw "The Mush Hole", as part of Indigenous studies into residential schools. Piece draws on interviews with and writings by residential school survivors - sections have been performed in the very rooms where young Indigenous people worked, ate, slept, prayed, and were abused. Young People's Theatre is presenting the piece.
- v. Eco Schools is well under way, A meeting occurred with our class eco reps - over 60 students. They've been divided to work on teams for waste reduction, energy efficiency, planning for special days, with eco tip announcements on Friday. There is a campaign to reduce plastics around school, 3 teachers are assisting (most teacher support in 7 years of doing Eco Schools);
- vi. Mme Dupont's class is tracking organic waste in the cafeteria and posting results so kids can see it, promoting litterless lunch.
- vii. Lost & Found - group of students have volunteered to assist with organizing. SAC will still be responsible for posting photos to FB, bagging and donating.
- viii. Gr 8 girls football team advanced to city finals next Monday.

c. Carol:

- i. Construction on N, W, S sides of exterior building continues, scope was larger than expected;
- ii. Spent \$5-6000 on a sensory room for room 51 for students to have time to learn the strategies in their IEPs and take them back in the classroom to get better traction, not a place to take kids who are dysregulated but instead a place to practice skills;

- iii. School improvement plan in place; data doesn't look that much different than last year, looking at having a parent interest group to help nail down goals and solidify them, data for EQAO math is the same compared to last year but gradually making improvements, focused on an equity goal, a student achievement goal, a wellbeing goal; 2 areas we want to focus on - gender differences (boys did less well in self regulation for example), discrepancy on how we report on EQAO vs report cards, and we want to work with parents around this; students are plateauing and staying at the same level from one test to the next; another issue is that they found 40% of intermediate students couldn't identify a caring adult in the building;
 - 1. Parent Q: Is this TDSB wide or local to our school? A: Local to our school.
 - 2. Parent Q: How do we develop standardization of marking between classes? A: Moderated marking of same assignments with co-marking can help to level marking, but time to do this means a lot of time of teachers will spend out of the classrooms with occasionals in the rooms.
 - 3. Parent Q: Are all grade classes having the same tests? A: No, some are standardized but some are not; the non-standardized ones are driven by the teacher's guide but responsive to the students in front of the teacher.
 - 4. Parent Q: How frequently are standardized tests? A: Often done at the beginning of the year to help get a baseline for planning programming rather than for evaluation, then after report cards in second term, and then at the end of the year for a planning cycle.
 - 5. Parent Q: Are goals across each grade the same? A: They should be for the most part very similar because they come from the curriculum.

5. Presentation of proposed 2019-20 budget (Sue)

- a. SAC currently has a little over \$28,000 in bank
- b. Danceathon has only generated \$3500 of the anticipated \$10,000 so far - **need to encourage parents more!**
- c. Aron will notify teachers of the status of their budget request after SAC exec approves tonight.

6. Fundraising Update (Aron)

- a. Parents are encouraged to sign up for the following subcommittees:
 - i. Holiday Breakfast, Fun Fair/Maker Fair, Adult Social, Movie Nights, Pizza Lunch, Grant Writing, Political Action Subcommittees
- b. These will be distributed through NTR and social media in the coming weeks.

7. Programming Update (Stacey)

- a. Last year we ran successful parent workshops funded by the PRO grant; despite the fact it is no longer available, we would like to have them again.
- b. Topics of interest include parent challenges, self regulation, diffusing power struggles.
- c. Ross Greene school of thought Plan B collaborative problem solving, would cost about \$1000 - this is dependant on the PRO grant.
- d. Inreach at Duke is now called Duke Cares (as of last year), and had \$1500 to spend on grocery gift cards, warm winter clothes, field trips, holiday help, etc. The tricky part is how to help people feel comfortable asking for help. Kelli manages this and finds sponsors. Kelli reported that she received requests this week from parents, provided hot and pizza lunches for families.
- e. Amber Austin, teacher-librarian has been offering assistive tech workshops to help students, and has offered to run an open workshop in the library on parent interview nights. Carol asked if she would do a workshop for parents to learn along with kids, and she will offer it.
- f. **ACTION ITEM: Stacey will work to create a poll to engage parents through NTR/social media on the types of workshops they would like to attend.**

8. Ward Rep Update (Lanrick)

- a. Lanrick represented SAC at the Ward 15 planning meeting.
- b. Duke is a heritage building so it's not in danger of big changes. They touched on class size; this will be addressed when government gives their next update.
- c. The borders for feeder high schools Malvern and Riverdale may be expanded but they're waiting on the Ontario government to give us that information.
- d. The next school council round table is November 25, open to everyone, and SAC will advertise widely.
- e. Extra ward meeting February 20 which is joint between Ward 15 & 16 and TDSB Director John Molloy will be there.
- f. **ACTION ITEM: Lanrick will send out the pdf from the meeting to everyone.**

9. Lost & Found Cleanup - volunteers needed

- a. Carl shared that it has been standard practice that the room is cleaned out at end of month, and adult volunteers are needed to help bag up the clothes on November 1. A notice will be posted in the NTR.
- b. Previously, a parent used to come in to photograph and post on Facebook prior to bagging. Many parents found this very useful.
- c. There are 3 unofficial lost & founds that need to be consolidated into the large one - cafeteria, gym and somewhere else???
- d. SAC seeks a volunteer to assist with laundering of the lost & found items before donation.
- e. Clothes are washed and donated to Bumbleberry. Money earned from those sales goes towards Duke Cares.

- f. **ACTION: Call out for volunteers to assist with lost & found photography, cleaning and bagging.**

10. SAC Coffee - November 1

- a. Discussion about the usefulness of SAC coffee. How can we better reach parents? Suggestions for placement of coffee in different areas, and giving consideration to the kiss & rides.
- b. Agreement that this is a marketing expense, money is not earned from this initiative, but important nonetheless.
- c. **ACTION: Promote Nov 1 Coffee.**

11. Movie Night - November 8 (Sue)

- a. This is an alternate date because the last one was the week of the strike; it starts at 5:30pm and is done by 8pm at the latest.
- b. Sue will poll community for movie preference (Lion King v. Toy Story 4)
- c. This is our first time attempting movie night on a Friday in many years, SAC will evaluate success. Staffing from admin on a Friday is a concern.
- d. Consider alternatives to cash to allay this issue (admin need to be present to lock up the cash box).
- e. **ACTION: Sue to create poll and post to NTR/Socials.**

12. Other Business

- a. October 30 is the teacher strike to vote; the high school already had theirs and elementary schools typically fall close behind.
- b. **Final budget will be posted by the end of the week for approval by the end of October.**
- c. November 20 is the next SAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:35pm