

Don Mills Collegiate Institute

School Council Meeting

MINUTES

November 20, 2012

Attendees

Jean-Paul Ngana (Chair), Suzie Wang (Vice-Chair), Alise Rimniceanu (Secretary), Cindy Browne (Principal), David Fewson (Vice-Principal), Angella Williams, Zahra Sutani, Parisa Tashakori, Krys McMeekin, Jenny Hay, Tracey Salis,

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Mover: Jenny Hay

Seconded: Krys McMeekin

Chair's Update:

1. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

- TDSB has held Town Hall meetings on Special Education Inclusion. There is a plan to hold a consultation for the SEAC members in the New Year.

Action items:

- Ask parents to bring forward any special education issues
- Betty Garnett will send out an invite to parents.
- SEAC established a working group to explore collaboration with Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) on special education. PIAC's purpose is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement in order to improve student achievement and well being.

2. 2012 School Statement of Needs (SSON)

- As a result of the parent survey conducted at the October 16 meeting, the following top 6 priorities have been identified:
 1. Parent engagement through innovative ways
 2. Support for highly valued range of unique programs
 3. Visible school administration
 4. Support for students in achieving their full potential
 5. Support and positive change for students with special needs within the school
 6. Transparency with School Council

3. Breakfast Appreciation for Teachers

- Consensus: postponed to a later date when labour disputes resolve

4. Chair's conversation with Trustee Harout Manougian

The chair shared the essence of the update he had from the Trustee, including:

- the Board's discussion on severing school land in North York, Scarborough, and Etobicoke to raise funds to address capital's challenges.
- the labour relations, which ongoing update can be found on the Board website
- Trustee's invitation to attend School Council meeting in January

5. Feedback on Parent/Teacher Interviews

- The following concerns were identified by parents who were present:
 - Some parents were not able to get interviews with all their child/ren's teachers
 - 10 minute time limit seemed insufficient for some parents
 - Principal clarified:
 - All teachers are available by phone/email
 - Contact the VP or the school office to obtain a teacher's phone number or email address
 - Administration will look at ways of accommodating families beyond first-come-first-serve. Asking parents to provide feedback on whether or not a window of time during the day, i.e. 2-4 p.m. would be feasible
- Next Parent/Teacher interviews: April 4, 2013

6. Building Parent Engagement

- Kits were provided to DMCI by the Board and distributed to parents who were present

7. Parent Involvement Conference

- Generally well attended, successful event, delivered on November 17 at Earl Haig SS
- Keynote address focussed on research conducted on productive use of the summer
- Some breakout sessions were cancelled due to job action

Vice Principal's Update:

- Report cards will be distributed on November 22. They will only have numeric grades; no teacher comments will be included due to job to action
- Attendance letters: first round already sent out in October. Next rounds will be on November 23 and December 21
- Next PA Day is on December 7
- Grad photos: December 10-14 by appointment only
- Exams: January 23-30 (please note new dates)
 - Child illness with a doctor's note is the only acceptable reason to miss any exam
 - Schedule will be released on the next two weeks
 - No assignments/test will be given 4 days prior to exam period
 - No more than 2 exams per day/per student will be scheduled

- Guide on “How to Study/Prepare for Exams” is being drafted. Will be delayed due to job to action

Principal’s Update:

1. “Work to Rule”

- Should not impact the day-to-day
- Teachers are still available to parents via email/phone
- If it becomes difficult to make contact with teachers please contact VP or Principal
- Extra-curricular activities are still running but likely next to be cancelled if dispute worsens: e.g. basketball, volleyball, swimming
- Teachers not covering for each other as part of “work to rule”
- Labour relations updates are available on the TDSB home page

2. After “8”

- Principal and VPs will deliver the information session on November 21

3. Staff Meeting – November 27

- May be cancelled as part of “work to rule”
- Notification will be sent out to parents via email by Betty Garnett

4. Breakfast Program Fundraiser

- November 28 is the deadline for parents to order gift certificates for major retailers
- A percentage from each gift certificate will go towards funding the breakfast program

5. 2012-13 School Budget

- The school’s budget is available on the TDSB website at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/about_us/budget_information/schoolbudget201213.asp?schoolid=3415
- The definitions of the budget cost centres can be accessed at (placeholder for Principal to insert link to definitions)
- Some cost centres cannot be reallocated
- Budget is subsidized by the parent fees collected at the beginning of the year
- Parents encouraged to review the budget and bring questions to the next meeting

6. Don Mills College Institute Website

- The school’s website is maintained by administration and can be accessed at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/donmillsci/Home.aspx>
- School Council minutes can be accessed
- Information on departments is available
- More school information will be gradually uploaded

Next meeting: January 22, 2013 at 7 p.m.