



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL

S.A.C.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Dovercourt Junior Public School School Advisory Council Meeting Agenda –Tuesday, October 1st, 2013 – 6:30pm

- PRESENT:** Heather Posgate, Karen Craine, Karen Rothfels, Anne Mark, Grace Fabiano, Christina Santos, Tara Alcide, Catherine McRae, Kelly Ferguson, Daphne McKenzie, Nadien Godkewitsch, Daphne McKenzie, Kelly Ferguson
- PARENTS:** Patricia MacLeod, Hiang Hong, Crystal Reid, Michelle Shook, Emma Chadwick, Lindsay Windhager, Erica Wilson, Juan Luna, Jennifer Wong, Lewis Poplak, Jeff Kleinman, Lisa Hutt
- STAFF:** Principal Judith Kramer, Teacher Peter Genova

The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Heather Posgate at 6:30pm. She acknowledged and thanked all who volunteered at the Welcome Back Breakfast.

GUEST: Mannie- Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club work actively with Dovercourt. Mannie was present to promote the services offered at the Club. After School program for ages 4-17 with promotes healthy eating. Wednesday, Family Yoga class for members at 7pm (starting Oct 9th). All-day program for the PD Day on Oct 11th for ages 4 and up- from 8am - 6pm(\$20). The club is in the process of implementing (swimming) during school hours for Dovercourt if there is interest from Administration/Teachers. The club offers fall and winter Swim lessons (\$40/term).

1. PRINCIPALS REPORT: Budget

The budget's accountability document is available on the TDSB website. There is a formula that is used in order to account for items that are budgeted in the school. School received extra money for the library, primary grades, grade 7/8 for math manipulative programs, as well as for technology, text books and teacher release. It was noted that SAC also provides money for enrichment support for students who are unable to afford fees pertaining to field trips and other programs. Money has also been set aside for band instruments.

EQAO

EQAO Results are in - available at the office or on the TDSB website. Province wide, numeracy is an issue. Dovercourt will emphasize numeracy, and lateral and critical thinking to see where the students are and how to move them forward. School is on track with literacy, but there is room for improvement. Parents raised concern as to whether the tests are a good measure for the children as some students showed signs of stress. Ms Kramer responded that kids should not be stressed and if this is the case at this school, then we will need to address, as a school, to find ways to support the students so their stress level is lessened/minimized. A parent noted that the results are a biased real estate measure for factoring where the better schools are. Ms. Kramer noted these concerns and emphasized that it is an assessment for the curriculum. Lisa Hutt noted that the EQAO has been a very divided topic for a long time and bears discussion in a separate setting, and suggested a parent committee look at the pro and cons of the testing.

PARTNERSHIP –COMMUNITY

York University Nursing students are coming into the school (October - December 2013) to take part in a Toronto Community Assessment Program. They will be working with the grade students on a variety of health related and social issues.

Social networking and kids is a big issue today. Ms. Kramer would like to hold a full day event for the students and a parent evening session on February 20th, 2014. The cost for this event is \$585. She requested financial assistance from the SAC to support the event. The item was motioned, seconded and passed. Event will have Paul Davis as the speaker. More info to follow. Check out the site: socialnetworkingsafety.net

ACORN FUND-RAISING

The Acorn card fund-raising event was presented to the staff and noted that it will be looked at for 2014 promotions. The fall calendar is already packed with activities.

AANGEN CHARITY - SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL

School staff is very interested in this fund-raiser and is willing to support it. It is a non-profit NGO to raise funding and purchase feminine products for girls in Africa (Kenya) because they have no access to these products. She said that the teachers needed more information and Catherine said that she will contact Gurbeen.

SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SESSION

Empowering Families workshop is taking place on Saturday, October 19, 2013 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Avenue, Toronto, Ontario). She encourages parents who might think their children need some assistance to go to the event.

- 3. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Anne met with Gina (previous Treasurer) and the documents were handed over to her. There is a total of \$14,700.19 in the bank. Earmarked monies for the school trip to Island School are no longer required (TDSB paid). Money will be required for the Grade 8 trip to Ottawa. Mr. Genova noted that there is a problem with the bus transportation, there is an excess of six students- therefore an extra bus will be needed. Catherine suggested that the funds originally set aside for the Island trip (no longer needed) go towards the Grade 8's trip to Ottawa and it was agreed upon.

THE CHESS CLUB, Karen suggested that money be set aside for the Chess club for students who can not afford to pay the fees. \$150.00 from last years funding remains- the SAC will top that up to \$200 Motion was made, seconded and passed.

A question was asked as to where the school is placed in monies raised across the GTA. Ms. Kramer said that the school is just under the halfway mark.

4. CO-VICE CHAIR POSITION & Gr7/8 CLASS REPS

Nadien said she is fine with going solo on the Vice Chair role. Although if anyone is keen to help out please contact the SAC. Crystal (Class Rep)said that she's only received 8 responses from her class parents. It was noted that was a good start. Class rep's needed for one grade 8 (Ms. Brougham) and one grade 7 class (Mr. Williams).

5. UPCOMING EVENTS – TARA ALCIDE

October 25th -Halloween Harvest festival is the first fundraiser this year. The events planned are haunted house (\$2.00 entry fee) costume contests, crafts, etc. Food will be sold. There will be a flyer going home with the upcoming newsletter and announcements the week prior. Motion by Lisa Hutt for funding of \$500 for the event. Seconded and passed. The monies will go towards decorations, prizes and food purchases. Tara called for an Events meeting next Thursday, Oct 10th @ 6:00pm .

NOTE: Tara needs more volunteers to this event for decoratig the gym and setting up craft tables, selling food and tidying up . Please take the time to come out and be part of your community for a few hours.

Dance-a-thon is coming November 29th. Need key people to lead this event (this event makes over \$5,000 annually, so it's important we pull this together). There was a call for a change in the sale of items such as glow sticks, for environmental reasons.

6. ECO TEAM

Eco Team met last week- 3 parent volunteers, 5 teachers and Ms Kramer. Eco team students to be chosen from each class. The TDSB Eco-Schools launch takes place on October 10th. Dovercourt will be there to find out what the priorities are this year for Platinum Status. This year the eco team would like to have Mountsborg Raptor Centre to come in and talk to the students. It is an educational rehab centre for owls/raptors/hawks. They are also intending to bring in a apiarist from the Toronto Urban Bee Association to educate the students about bees and the eco-system. The Eco Team is asking for \$600.00 to pay for these visits. Motion made, seconded and passed. These initiatives with help maintain platinum status. The school is running a walk to school day every month. The Eco team is working on this.

7. THE SCHOOL HANDBOOK- HEATHER

Dovercourt has been awarded a grant to re-print the school handbook (on re-cycled paper). Heather needs a co-partner to edit and make any changes that may have occurred over the previous year and help launch the new school handbook. Andrea Bartliff volunteered.

8. ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – KELLY

Kelly made a suggestion that during the early spring, a list of possible enrichment ideas for the teachers should be mapped out for the following year so that in September everything falls quickly into place. There are a few ideas like TIFF (which puts together different workshops for various grade levels, e.g., animation workshop films and documentaries), Young People's Theatre, Hot Docs, Canadian League of Poets.

9. GREENING - TREE MONEY (KAREN CRAINE)

Karen said that four trees are to be planted on the west side of the building as greening/shading. These are to be planted in early November

She asked that on Sunday October 6, 2013, a team of join her in the south yard for a couple of hours to prep the gardens for winter.

SOLAR PANELS FOR TDSB SCHOOLS Ms. Kramer said the school is not getting any solar panels in the initial round of installation.

Karen also noted that the city is now taking the school's green bins.

10. ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE – GRACE

Grace would like to have more anti-bullying information and programs available at the school. She will pen an article for the newsletter on bullying and info-lines parents and students can access if bullying occurs. Ms. Kramer said that a social worker is in on Thursdays. There is also the Roots of Empathy program for the kindergarten classes this year.

11. DOVERCOURT CHILDREN'S BOOK (GRACE)

Grace said that they can get money from the Green Apple Grant to go towards producing a Dovercourt book (written by the students). She has spoken to the teachers. Lisa said that she can write the grant application. Need to know if teachers want to proceed with this.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 pm.

**Next SAC meeting is 6:30pm, Tuesday, November 5th, 2013, in the main floor staff room.
All are welcome. Free childcare is available.**