**Dundas Parent Council Meeting**

**February 6, 2018 @ 6:30pm**

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| **Update** | **Topic** | **Details / Questions / Next Steps** |
| **Welcome**  *Audrey Gavin &*  *Jen Smith* |  |  |
| **Updates from last meeting / Approval of minutes** | * Action items from last meeting that have **been completed** include: * prep for the Chinese New Year luncheon - envelopes stuffed with chocolate coins for all students at school , volunteers for food delivery to classes/clean up * promotion of ways to get in touch with school council (e-mail, web, FB etc) – posters put up around entrances to school; * Parent council support for JK Registration days - FAQ doc being developed and parents signed up to staff info table * Follow ups on the TDSB survey of child care needs for before and after school for 2018-19 – Principal was told that survey period for existing parents is closed. * Investigation of ways to improve communication with parents re: class trips and other school activities – Principal Chatzis is mounting a TV in the front lobby of Dundas that will have photos and announcements on it; as well, there will be weekly e-mails out to ALL parents that will list all class activities. | * Items that are **being followed up on** during this meeting: consolidation of wish lists from teachers/administrators to help determine parent council spending; fun fair planning; update on speakers for parent council * Item that is **still outstanding**: potential installation of decorations along the fences; eg. Other schools have wooden birds or fish that are painted by students – **ACTION:** bring forward for further discussion re: cost/logistics |
| **Principal’s Update**  *Georgia Chatzis* | * **STEM Lab update (Mr. Waldman):** space and equipment has been confirmed to include accordian tables, 3-D printers, 25 Lenova touch pads, robotic equipment, microscopes * Planning for April move in; students will be embedded for May and June * Still confirming with U of T re: launch and open house event for parents/students/media etc. * Summer camp will be offered for Grade 4-5 * **Chinese New Year Assembly and Luncheon:**  very exciting because 56 parents have RSVP’d to attend and there will be 385 students * **Playground Update:** still targeting for Spring groundbreaking for construction of the climber; will not disrupt the school grounds or field before Fun Fair in June; have also made progress to have some barricade to block cars from entering the Dundas property from Dundas and from Boulton (have had vehicles that have driven down the concrete walkways) * **Continuing to pursue the Equity goal for Dundas** – working with kids in terms of how can you be successful? – what can teachers do to help? * Principal worked with Grade 4 class who spoke about what they needed to be successful: safety of school environment in terms of clean/litterless and also the air quality and environment of the school, having fairness and respect, empathy for students, giving students equal chances, healthy food, creative lessons; spoke of teambuilding (importance of sports); some spoke about choosing kindness over “being right”. * Using a logic model called the ladder of influence – why are we here? How can we be successful – children also getting familiar with looking at ideas and the relationships between those ideas * **Update on School Testing:** Grades 2 – 4 and 5 will be /have already competed the Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test (C-CAT) testing; standardized multiple choice test that is used to assess verbal, nonverbal and aunatiative abilities for children; helpeful to determine academic strengths and weaknesses; teachers will be reviewing scores – will be worked into report cards etc. * **EQAO testing also coming up for Grade 3 students.** * School has been able to get free tickets for Grades 1 – 3 to attend a Blue Jays game in May; also have free tickets for Grade1 – 5 to attend the kids film festival (previously known as Sprockets) | **Reminder to parents about school safety:** Please go to the office when you are coming to the school during the day.  **Reminder about inclement weather procedures:** when it is raining/snowing or very cold out; children do not have to line up at the outside doors; can come into the gym just before school starts and line up from there; teachers will be at the regular doors to remind students and parents as well.  **Note for JK-SK Parents at morning drop off:** it’s really difficult to have parents in the back hallway close to the JK-SK entrance; please try to stay outside; if you need to speak you’re your child’s teacher for a more detailed chat, please contact them at another time.  **Scholastic Book Fair** will run from February 12-15; parents can go into the book fair after parent teacher interviews on the 15th. |
| **Bylaws Committee**  *Hugo Neri & Tracy Michalak* | * Have completed review of bylaws to improve, amend and change according to regulatory requirements * Have created chart that shows “current – proposed change” and “new additions” with rationale. * Main change will be to parent council membership – need parents to commit to coming to a majority of meetings – those parents will be voting members of council. * The Education Act and various regulations and by laws all prescribe that membership should be set so that there is consistency, accountability and decisions can be made fairly. | * Audrey will send edited version to all parent council members who have attended meetings and provided their e-mails * Feb 28 is the deadline for feedback to Dundas Parent Council e-mail * Will vote on changes at next meeting |
| **Parent Engagement Committee Update**  *Audrey Gavin on behalf of Rebecca Navarro*  *Adele* | **Update re: Orientation to Dundas:**   * Working to hand out a FAQ document at the Feb 21 and 22 JK registration days * Still working to create an orientation booklet that can be handed out to all families new to Dundas for 2018-2019; most info is JK-SK but all grades will find useful * Rebecca is surveying teachers in terms of what are the biggest things that you wish parents knew   **Update re: Parent Engagement Activities**   * Moving forward with X Movement event on March 6; co-ordination of volunteers for bake sale, pizza sale. (Adele, Jen Smith) * Also still pursuing an outdoor movie night in May (TBC) * Have confirmed an Equity session for Dundas parents – March 22 evening session with Melvin Lowe, Learning Coach from TDSB | * Promote X Movement event through Dundas Digest, direct comms to all students/parents (email or backpack flyer) and posters throughout school. (Anne) * Julie working to confirm a speaker on how to talk to your kids about $ - sometime in April or May |
| **Fundraising Committee Update**  *Michelle* | * **New Funding Option:** Committee is recommending that Parent Council again fund “Scientists in the School” – many teachers reported that they want to have them in again – this would be an expenditure of $200/workshop x 17 classes = $3400 * This would perfectly align with what we have available in the raffle account – raffle monies can be used on Scientists in the School * Still need better resolution of what to invest in * Need to know the funding needed from the administration (school items for gym/cafeteria or similar) as well as teacher needs * Confirmed that the pre-Christmas FlipGive campaign gave proceeds of $1626 | * **VOTED:** Scientists in the School should be funded out of the raffle account – PASSED * Principal Chatzis mentioned she would like funding for murals in the school – would like to have the hallways have murals and art on them * Familiar with grants through Evergreen Foundation or through Blank Canvases – need to follow up |
| **Communication Committee**  *Laura Sosin* | * Laura Sosin handed out sheet to show all the available communication channels that we should use to get word out about Parent Council activities | * Reminder to other committees if they need comms support to please work with the Communications Committee. |
| **Fun Fair Planning** | * Several people were able to have an initial meeting; were able to locate a number of planning documents on the Parent Council Google drive * Are proposing approval of June 23 as the date for the Fun Fair; timing would be 10:00 – 2:00. * Want to have an end of the year party feeling * May be able to work in a teacher appreciation element * Will maintain several elements: * *Games (sponge toss, Plinko, bean bag toss etc)* * *Entertainment stage* * *Food (Taste of Dundas) with eating area (tables and chairs)* * *Bouncy houses* * *Pony rides* * *Cake walk* * *Facepainting* * *Marketplace area – local stores/services can have info tables for people to peruse* * Other items: reminder to get volunteers from Queen A to help – Principal Chatzis can help co-ordinate * Use SignUp.com to co-ordinate volunteers – very user friendly | * CALL OUT for anyone to come out to Fun Fair Committee planning session on Feb 13 at Boxcar Social. * Will report back at next parent council meeting. |
| **Financial Update** | * **Did not complete due to time restraints.** |  |
| **Other Business** | * **Discussion of art at Dundas –** Parent mentioned that it seems like the students don’t do a lot of art projects * Principal Confirmed that Dundas did make the decision to have a dedicated Drama and Music teacher (Ms. Eldridge) * art is to be taught by classroom teachers | * Need to carry this discussion to next meeting. |