**Dundas Parent Council Meeting**

**November 7, 2017 @ 6:30pm**

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| **Update** | **Details** | **Questions / Next Steps** |
| **Introduction** | * Recommending Council meets once a week for 1.5 hrs (vs every six weeks for 2 hrs) * Trying a different format for meetings – brainstorming, sharing ideas, collaborating … making a difference together. * Rules of engagement for Parent Council meetings: this is safe place for opinions, give benefit of doubt, work towards solutions. * Thank you to Tracey for idea of Hallowe’en Swap – a great idea and very successful event. * Thank you to previous Exec – focus on fundraising has left council in a good position to start this year * Note: Council members and voting members: as part of election of new executive, TDSB also recommended parents at that election night be voting members of council; we will not be implementing that – all parents who attend Council meetings will be able to vote on issues. | * Next Parent Council Meetings - add these dates to your calendar:   + December 5, 2017   + January 9, 2018   + February 6, 2018   + March 27, 2018   + April 24, 2018   + May 1, 2018   + June 5, 2018 * Need to update council by-laws. |
| **Priority Setting / Planning / Brainstorming**  *Tracy Michaluk & Audrey Gavin* | * Parents brainstormed on a variety of topics:   + Communication   + Fundraising   + Student/Parent Engagement   + Bylaws   + Safety – JK-SK Class sizes and overall * The above topics are proposed for Sub-committees. In order to make progress on any of these topics, we need volunteers to contribute their time to drive the initiative forward … small, manageable projects. Sub-committees meet and present ideas back to the broader Parent Council for a vote. | * Asked parents to let Parent Council know in the next week which Sub-committee they would like to be part of. * Would be good to understand everyone’s “Special Talents”. Suggest that as the Ice Breaker for next week.   **Re: safety discussion**   * + Principal mentioned a couple of different programs run by Board and by Toronto Health that we can use to help kids with self-regulation and other health concerns * School Social worker is using “Minds UP program” * Georgia can report back with update.   Re: Dundas status as “Model School for Inner Cities”   * + do receive extra funding now because of the demographics and special needs of Dundas kids; need to re-engage with Duane who is our contact for Model Schools. * Georgia to meet with him on Friday – will report back with update.   **Re: Parent Engagement**   * Additional group needed to provide onboarding/orientation to new parents – both for JK (completely new to school) and for all new kids in any grade; will work towards events and perhaps a introductory booklet that could be provided at registration. (TBC) * How does Parent Council piggy back on existing initiatives (eg. Welcome to Kindergarten night) |
| **Financial Update**  *Julie Duray Kikuchi* | * Banking information has been updated to reflect new Parent Council executive members. * Presented Parent Council banking information. See report attached. | * Would like to organize Fundraising sub-committee to make recommendations on fundraising goal for 2017 (will likely need additional sub-sub-committees to organize and coordinate these fundraising events) * NOTE: reminder that monies in the Raffle account MUST be spent within the year and on the designated areas. |
| **Update from Ward Council / TDSB**  *Anne Smith* | * Review of formal structure for parent involvement with the TDSB * Flow of input from school councils, ward council for our Ward 15 and wards across the City, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) * Debrief from October Ward Council Meeting – which was session on Parent Council 101 re: purpose/role/procedures. * See Handout attached. | * Anne will attend November Ward Council Meeting –happening at Dundas on November 29. Other parents also welcome to attend; can bring forward various items that are relevant. * Also Note: The PIAC Conference is November 25 – Georgia will be presenting there on engaging with Principals; @ Earl Haig Secondary School. Details available online and in Dundas Digest. |
| **Request for Parent Council Funding - STEM initiatives and opportunities**  *Michael Waldman* | * Proposing to set up a STEM lab – the first of its kind in for an elementary school in Toronto . * Would be adapted for use from JK to Grade 5 students. * Last year, bought a robotics set. Already have pulleys, dash & dot robots, microscopes, etc. * Is asking Parent Council for funding for STEM lab design (ie. an exciting science and technology hub where teachers can bring their classes to perform large-scale science activities, comprised of 2 different fabrication centres (one focused on digital fabrication and one focused on manual fabrication); 3D printers; robotics centre (raised platform; LEGO robotics, additional robotics kit). * Asking for between $1,000 (basics, no 3D printer) to $3,000 (fully decked out lab) * If funding received right away, lab could be up and running as soon as the New Year. * Some assets (science tables) have already been gathered from a highschool that was closed down. | * Erika to email Michael Waldman to get a detailed proposal with costs that parents can vote on (eg. option 1, 2 & 3) * Need more information from Georgia / teachers on what other needs are in the school * Need to confirm that raffle license money can be spent on STEM lab. * Do a DoodleVote so we can vote on this item sooner vs later. (TBC) |
| **Principal’s Update** *Georgia Chatzis* | **Presented overview of the School Improvement Plan**   * Academic goals – improve math scores using more STEM techniques and 3-part math – teachers are being trained up on how to adapt their lesson plans from JK – Grade 5 * Well-being goal – for staff and students how to manage stress better; self regulation. * Staff Equity Goal – will be training staff on addressing unconscious bias and being aware of bias when dealing with students/parents and when dealing with each other   **Gave overview of the current focus by the TDSB on Enhancing Equity**   * Showed video (available online on TDSB site) of TDSB Director John Malloy talking about the overarching Task Force that was set up to look at equity throughout TDSB schools – try to eliminate the divisions that exist now between schools and within schools   **Update on Playground – Overall Revitalization of School Grounds**   * Playground was grouped in with a number of other aspects (new fencing, gates, track resurfacing, tree planting, field repair) * Entire project was tendered and bids came in too high * Board has re-tendered in another way and are hoping for lower bids * Due November 9 * Now thinking of a March 2018 start | * Task Force DRAFT REPORT now available online – asking for parents to review and provide input – everything available online * Deadline is November 20. * Parents are looking for additional updates on status of playground and school grounds revitalization project. * Very disappointing that we thought the project would be fast tracked when it was grouped; turned out that plan backfired. * Georgia can provide updates on stages of revitalization which can be posted for all parents to see. Need to communicate TBC. |
| **Vice-Principal’s Update**  *Kristin MacDonald* | * Had to postpone this item because of time constraints. | * Will update on Safe & Caring Schools at next meeting . |
| **Other Business** | * No other business presented formally at meeting. * One suggestion was made about potential for Parent Council to have a speaker in for parents to discuss equity and anti-racism/white privilege. | * Ensure next meeting has option for people to raise Other Business. * Seminar topics need further investigation by Engagement Committee. (TBC) |