**Dundas Parent Council Meeting**

**January 16, 2018 @ 6:30pm**

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| **Update** | **Topic** | **Details / Questions / Next Steps** |
| **Welcome**  *Audrey Gavin &*  *Jen Smith* | * Jennifer Smith introduction |  |
| **Updates from last meeting / Approval of minutes** | * **Parent Council Motion to staff re: changing dates of school concerts** (having one concert at end of year instead of having half students December and half in Spring) : This Motion has been rejected by teachers – they would prefer to have choice of two times during year for a number of reasons. * End of year is very busy w Grad, EQAO testing, athletic playdays etc. * **Playground update**: Parent Council rep James Dyson and Principal Chatzis met again with TDSB reps; current plan is groundbreaking as soon as Spring thaw. * Anticipating 2-3 days for installation of structure; 6-8 weeks to complete upgrade to space * **Update on STEM Lab @ Dundas: STEM LAB HAS BEEN APPROVED – FUNDING = $18K!!!** * Michael Waldman working closely with UofT to purchase resources. * Anticipate Lab will be up and running by April / June * Bringing in UofT student to train teachers and facilitate learning labs (May & June);; * Also approved for 2 weeks of STEM camp in late July/early August | * *New Update*: Because school is growing so quickly, may have to have a kindie only concert at some point soon – next year projected to have 6 kindie classes (approx. 180 students) * May have Spring Kindergarten Concert outside * Agreed to set dates in Sept 2018 – let parents know the schedule for their students.      * *New Update*: Principal Chatzis is also making progress on some changes to kindie yard; will be installing outdoor blackboard and also will have tree stumps installed (for climbing/creative play) * Question re: Can Dundas install 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 * Major communications, promotions and marketing plan will be needed to let parents know details for registration and all else * Will plan for Grand Opening event with media (federal and provincial politicians TBC) * U of T, Dundas, TDSB, Parent Council will have roles in communications * More details TBD |
| **Vice Principal’s Update**  *Kristin McDonald* | * **Caring & Safe Schools update:** Committee has finished data collection re: what makes students feel safe as well as survey of grounds re: safety/security * Will begin to draft Code of Conduct for staff, teachers, parents, students and all visitors to Dundas * Tackling big and little projects that improve our school: Lost & Found has been overhauled (new location; shelves, etc) * Also completed audit of all washrooms to ensure better handwashing (spa, dryers working) | * Request for Parent Council to include monthly Lost & Found reminder in Newsletter- request that parents pls come and look for lost stuff. * Next meeting of Caring & Safe Committee is January 22 11:30 – 12:30; all parents welcome to attend; Anne Smith and other reps from Exec can attend and report back |
| **Principal’s Update**  *Georgia Chatzis* | * **Update on Equity Goal for Dundas:** (One of the three goals that are required for every school by the TDSB) * Dundas has committed to bring up scores/grades for those students who have been identified as falling behind/underachieving * Using test scores from CAT4 & CAT7 assessment * Work with students to establish what are the criteria for success so they know what they working towards. * For Math: using 3-part Math Lesson, Leaps & Bound, mathology program for Kindergartens in English & French) * For Reading: Dundas offers a Reading Recovery program (staff person dedicated to that); Leveled reading intervention program for grades 2 & 3). * School Athletics: Very busy season for many students: Ball hockey, swimming, volleyball teams are all underway.   **Update on Chinese New Year**   * School is planning for an assembly and lunch on February 15; flyer is going home this week * Chinese food lunch will be free for students - $5 fee for parents joining in | **UPCOMING EVENTS:**   * January 22 – Grade 5 students attending at Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) LaunchPad – located on Jarvis; participating in interactive sport & nutrition program that promotes both physical and food literacy; promotion of living a healthy and active lifestyle. Will have hands- on cooking session and on-court session. * January 22 – Primary students will be participating in sewing workshops in the library at Dundas - led by Denise Wild from HGTV * Principal Chatzis needs help prior to event (stuff red envelopes w chocolate coin) and on day of (co-ordinate and deliver food to classrooms) * Parent Council Engagement Committee members may be able to help out; can put out a call in the Dundas Digest as well * **CALL OUT** - Parents willing to help out please contact Georgia and/or Parent Engagement Committee (Lead: Adele Shaw) |
| **Fundraising Committee Update**  *Michelle*  NOTE: Co-chair and Exec thanked the Fundraising team for the successful bake sale and Basket raffle at the Holiday Concert | * **Update on Teacher Assessment:** Further to last meeting, Mr. Waldman conducted an online survey of all teachers, as well needs were discussed at staff meeting today * Needs reported at meeting were: chart stands, small arm chairs/couches, small carpets/rugs for kindie “Calming Corners”, iPads, travelling artist shows, Orff-style music instruments, drums, dictionaries, “Scientists in the Schools” program funding, white boards, metre sticks, basketballs/playground balls, Frisbees, “HolyMoly belts (flag football type game) * Needs reported through online survey are TBC | * **VOTED:** PC voted on $400 for musical instruments (matching the amount contributed by the school) - PASSED * ***ACTION ITEM –*** Need to compile all items and determine costing; then Parent Council can vote on what to fund * Parent suggested having an online list of items that could be updated regularly; people could see at any time what school wants/needs; * ***ACTION ITEM –*** Michael Waldman to prepare a Google Doc for continuous wish list; Georgia will ensure the list and instructions are posted on the Dundas website. * Parent (Alex) offered to donate deflated basketballs. |
| **Garden Committee Update**  *Audrey Gavin for Christine Schloen* | * Christine is new Garden Committee Lead for Parent Council * Planning to meet with Laura Khoo (who led GC last year) to do handover * Further to last meeting, wanted to make motion that council support the Garden Educator for another half year – would need $2150 | * ***VOTED*** on proposal for PC to contribute $2150 to Garden Educator (Elin) – PASSED |
| **Communication Committee**  *Anne Smith for Laura Sosin* | * Laura Sosin and Sue Simpson were able to put together summary (see attachment); overarching principles for all PC Comms, review of existing tactics, suggestions for improvements and some already completed, future tactics to pursue. * Call out to other committees by preparing communications, posters, etc. | * Parent pointed out the need for a poster showing all the ways Parent Council communicates; had recently learned that many parents had never heard of Dundas Digest e-newsletter; * **ACTION**: Comms committee to prepare poster of all the different ways that parents can be contacted * **CALL OUT –** Comms Committee looking for Graphic Designer to rebrand the logo (contact Laura Sosin) |
| **Bylaws Committee**  *Hugo Neri & Tracy Michalak* | * Reviewing bylaws to improve, amend and change according to regulatory requirements * Identified that we were not compliant (ie. falling below minimum regulatory requirements) in several areas * Will be proposing a number of recommendations for 2018 / 2019 school year | * Need to determine logistics for having parent council members present at two subsequent meetings in order to vote and approve the by-law changes. * Agreed to present chart with “current – proposed change” and “new additions” with rationale. |
| **Parent Engagement Committee Update**  *Rebecca Navarro*  *Adele & Gabby* | **Update re: Orientation to Dundas:**   * Creating 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   (handed out a guideline of questions that will be included – see attached.)   * Other activities will be Parent Council reps at the Kindergarten Registration Day on Feb 21 & 22; can help lead tours/answer questions. * Also need to have Parent Council reps at Welcome to Kindergarten event in May / June.   **Update re: Parent Engagement Activities**   * Reviewed calendar of events proposed for remainder of year (see attached). * Events are set for Feb, Mar, May & June * Need input on an event for April; suggestion made to book a speaker for parents | * **CALL OUT** - If you can think of other info to include in handbook - please get in touch * **CALL OUT -** Parents who are interested/available to help with either event asked to please indicate their availability – e-mail to [Dundasparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Dundasparentcouncil@gmail.com) and info will be passed along. * **ACTION:** Anne to work with Georgia and with Gabby re: booking a speaker. Bring forward to next meeting |
| **NEW ITEM – Fun Fair Planning** | * Want to set the date as early as possible, but mindful of Ramadan (May 17 – June 17) * Also mindful of Father’s Day and Mother’s Day * Suggested to do a survey of neighbouring schools – when are they doing theirs? (confirmed that Withrow is scheduled May 26) | * **ACTION ITEM *–*** Fundraising Committee needs to meet to review proposal for Fun Fair. (Sarah Johnson led the Fun Fair last year and would be a good resource to reach out to with questions re: size, scope, volunteers, etc.) * Detailed proposal to be voted on next meeting. |
| **Financial Update**  *Julie Duray Kikuchi* | * Review of monies for Parent Council – about $11 currently * Reminder that funds from any Raffle (including the Basket Raffle just completed at Holiday Concert) must be spent by June 2018 * See attached. |  |
| **Ward Council Update (***Anne Smith)* | * This month’s Ward Forum was addressing Inclusion and Anti-Oppression for the TDSB and specifically for Parent Councils * Trustee Jennifer Story had two guest speakers who were able to educate on unconscious bias, and stereotypes, unearned power dynamics in North American society, and concepts of equity, fairness and inclusion. * Despite years of innovative programs and consciousness of race/culture/economic disparities, there are still specific identified groups across the TDSB who are not succeeding. * TDSB is absolutely committed to changing this – Ministry of Education and Premier Wynne are determined this will not continue. Have made concrete changes to Ministry and TDSB requirements for this. * Parent Councils need to ensure that diverse parent voices ARE being heard – at combination of meetings / events / other channels. Funding decisions made by Parent Councils must benefit all students in an equitable manner * See attached. | * Please review list of concrete actions Parent Councils can take to be more inclusive (see attachment). * Parent Council Exec is organizing with Georgia to have a session available to parents to cover some of the same topics. (will not be at a PC meeting – time and date TBC) * One resource that we may draw on is the Learning Coach assigned to Dundas from TDSB - Melvin Lowe who is knowledgable on equity issues |
| **Other Business** | * **Childcare Needs Survey** *(Audrey Gavin)* * Parents were surveyed in terms of what care they need for Before and After school; many parents reported not getting the survey or it being returned to them/finding it in backpacks | * ***ACTION ITEM –*** Georgia will follow up with Kathy to contact Early Years department to determine how survey was distributed; see whether survey is still open, etc. * Will update through Dundas Digest***.*** |
| **Other Business** | **Discussion of need for better communication from teachers and from school**  Many parents in room (especially with younger kids) are frustrated with “note in backpack” – many times they are lost  Very difficult for parents if their teachers don’t use online classroom apps  Suggestion that info could be posted on outdoor sign (marquee) | * Parent Council exec to determine how they could assist to post notices somewhere? * ***ACTION ITEM –*** VP McDonald to investigate cost / process to get marquee outside school |