**Dundas Parent Council Meeting**

**December 4, 2017 @ 6:30pm**

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| **Update** | **Details** | **Questions / Next Steps** |
| **At Sign in**  | * Handout to parents re: upcoming dates for Parent Council meetings; some dates may still change but hoping parents can plan to attend.
* Handout to summarize the November Ward Forum with Trustee Jennifer Story on the Education Quality Accountability Office and standardized testing across Ontario
 | * Parents are invited to participate in the province wide consultation on EQAO; all information available at [www.ontariolearningprovince.ca](http://www.ontariolearningprovince.ca)
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| **Welcome** | * Parents asked to have conversation icebreaker; topics covered included potential talents or “superpowers” that parents had that could help the parent council; sheets filled in and handed back to Co-Chair Audrey Gavin.
 | * Parent Council exec to file information confidentially but is hoping to use information to draw on parents skills/talents/interests.
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| **Election: Co-Chair Conflict of Interest***Principal Chatzis, Tracy Michaluk*  | * Tracy Michaluk stepped down from Co-chair position
* Jennifer Smith nominated. ***This was voted on and carried.***
 | * Parent Council Exec to contact Jennifer and onboard her into co-chair position
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| **Review/Approval of Past Meeting Minutes***Anne Smith* | * Action items from last meeting included:
* **Update on playground revitalization**; update was included on website and in Dundas Digest Newsletter; Principal Chatzis then gave further update that TDSB has committed to the playground for a March 2018 start date; has re-prioritized the playground ahead of the other campus upgrades that are also planned (fencing etc)
* **Update on STEM Lab**; parent council had promised to consider the STEM lab for funding; However, new funding from U of T is now on offer
 | * TDSB wants a parent rep to sit on the Playground meetings; **James Dyson** volunteered; he is professional General Contractor; meeting TBC next week.
* Further updates to follow.
* Final details are being worked out; anticipating $20K STEM lab + $5K annually to upgrade and replenish supplies
* Dundas will be downtown hub for STEM learnings/teacher training
* Anticipate collaborating with Queen A about them using it as well
* Potential that Dundas students will be offered opportunity for 2 weeks of STEM summer camp at no fee.
* Mr. Waldman continuing conversations with U of T to secure funding and other details.
* Announcement planned to all parents when details finalized.
* One edit to previous minutes: meetings are monthly NOT weekly.
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| **Committee Update** *Audrey Gavin & Anne Smith**Anne Smith**Georgia Chatzis**Laura Sosin**Susan Smith**Michelle Welsh**Adele Hagan**Updates from Treasurer Julie**Adele Hagan, Rebecca Navarro, Fara Mansour, one other TBC* | * Established committees at last meeting; want to vote on those committees; NOTE: Some suggestions re: changes to committees:
* Safety Committee is an overlap of Safe & Caring Schools Committee. Recommend this committee gets dissolved and those parents participate in Safe & Caring Schools Committee. Another Committee was Parent Onboarding. This overlaps with Parent Engagement committee. Recommend this committee gets dissolved, but have Onboarding as a project the Parent Engagement takes on.

**Committee Updates - Gardening*** Agreement to continue this Committee from last year. Tasks of this committee include: secure funding for garden maintenance and to have Gardener staff come in and work with students (every other week); investigate grants for gardening; co-ordinate summer care/watering of garden.
* Current funding for School Gardener will run out at end of January; in the past Council matched school funding to cover her salary.

**Committee Updates - Communications*** Provided excellent and thorough summary of existing communications and suggestions for improvement and adding additional channels.
* Hand out from Committee attached.

**Committee Updates - Fundraising*** Treasurer Julie has provided update on what the raffle funding can be spent on.
* Also reminder that monies are to be raised for a specific purpose and spent in a timely fashion.
* Committee members have already established both the QSP Campaign and the IndigoFlipGive campaign.
* Also working to organize the Bake Sale and Gift Basket Raffle at the Holiday Concert.
* Current ideas: music program, more arts in school; teacher supplies.

**Comm. Updates – Parent Engagement*** Committee has already been able to recruit two new people.
* Have generated a list of great ideas that would require funding:
* **X-Movement**  – come into school during day for phys ed with all students; also offer an evening dance party for students/families; already committed to through the previous council’s ‘Parent Reaching Out’ (PRO) grant from Ministry; total cost is $2000 – school provides $1000 – grant is $1000.
* **Reptilia Event** – Company can come in with lizards etc; engage kids/parents; cost is approx. $350.
* **Maker Fest** – Could be Saturday event at school; kids can make things such as LEGO, t-shirts, buttons, art etc;
* Also have ideas that are low-cost/no-cost:
* **Movie Night** – set up screen with relatively recent kids movie; sell popcorn and pizza.
* **Art Night** – Setting up school like an art gallery for parents to come and tour around; could involve student mentors from Rosedale School for the Arts (Tracy is teacher there); also have parent Akemi who is former art facilitator from Harbourfront and other orgs;
* **Math Night** – Parents and kids could do fun & engaging math activities in various classrooms; would have “passport” to fill out;
* **Literacy Night** – Could organize literacy initiatives with guest authors
 | * ***Safety Committee to be folded; voted on and carried.***
* ***Parent Onboarding to be project of Parent Engagement Committee: voted on and carried***
* **Christine Schloen** has offered to lead this committee.
* Need to vote on funding for gardening at next meeting.
* Moved to change name and description of FB group from Dundas Council to Dundas Parents.
* Also need to change Admin (from Sara Johnson to Communication Committee).
* Laura Sosin to pursue.
* See attached letter from City of Toronto re: raffle license.
* Principal Chatzis/Mr. Waldman to poll all teachers re: what they need AND what they would like (bigger items).
* NOTE: School completed Scholastic book fair in November and planning another one for February (TBC); parents are asked to buy books here, monies raised are provided to teachers for books; had very good sales from Scholastic – school raised $3000 – teachers will get $185/class for in class books.
* Committee to submit schedule of proposed events with monies required to Fundraising Committee/Treasurer in terms of the events that would cost.
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| **NEW Agenda Item: Immediate item for Parent Engagement – Chinese New Year** | * Principal Chatzis suggested Parent Council needs to support a parent engagement event around the Chinese New Year.
* School is planning an assembly that morning; will have lion dancers, drums, songs/poems etc
* Hoping to have parents attend that assembly; then could stay in school for one hour – have session with Chinese calligraphy or similar;
* Then have Chinese buffet lunch – in classrooms or gym (TBC)
* Need to have parents volunteer.
 | * Community Support Worker Duane Spencer (Model Schools) – is meant to support Parent Involvement & Engagement in model schools – he has seven in his division: offered to source resources, connect us with other schools, share information on what other schools are doing.
* Parent Engagement Committee will connect with Duane & Principal Chatzis to plan.
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| **NEW Agenda Item:** **Holiday Concert** | * Principal Chatzis met with teachers on how to manage number of seats and attendees; concerned we’re reaching capacity in gym and will not be able to hold concerts at Dundas for much longer
* School will be preparing handouts for students in two different colours – one for first ½ of performance and one for second ½ of performance.
* Concert A: (TBC)

 5:45 – Arrival 6:00 – PerformanceIntermission 6:20 – 6:30 Break between first and second half, conduct raffle, bake sale, etc.* Concert B:

6:15 – Arrival 6:30 performance* Discussed having pizza for kids who are performing; pizza could be served in their classrooms before the show.
 | * Comms Team and Fundraising/Bake Sale team meet to discuss postering options to advertise concert plus posters for night of concert (eg advertising raffle, etc.)
* **MOTION: Principal Chatzis to approach teachers/staff regarding having one concert/year, held over two nights.**
* **Concert will be closer to year-end; longer timeframe to prepare and students have more confidence**
* **Moved by : Adele Shaw, seconded by Jason Moore.**
* Need to review the logistics of having pizza; need one parent volunteer per participating classroom to clean up pizza boxes
* Principal and Vice-Principal are looking into possibility of having concerts at Queen A
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| **Financial Update** | * Juliana outlined the Parent Council budget to date – see attached.
* Notes: objective is to establish what you want to raise $ for, raise the money and then spend it; not supposed to be holding funds in account over long periods of time.
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| **Principal’s Update** *Georgia Chatzis* | **Process for Suggesting Changes – to School and to TDSB*** Reminder of items that Principal is required to consult on with Parent Council; potential changes to code of conduct, appropriate dress for school, EQAO results/ School Improvement Plans, staffing models, school budget, overarching processes for communicating with parents (using monthly calendars or student agenda handbooks)
* When Parent Council wants to suggest a change, TDSB has directed that it be in the form of a motion, with a time limit. Principal will consider that motion with staff and then come back saying motion has been accepts, accepted with modifications or rejected.
* If Parent Council OR individual parents want to make a motion to the Board; they should notify the Principal and school council and then follow the process to make motion to trustees and board. These are to address system-wide general issues, but not staff related.

**School Budget Update:** Total Budget – 2017-18: $93,558 (including $17K allocated thru Model Schools program)Highlights: $13K - start up costs in September (extra staff and maintenance)$400-$600 – For each class - depending on # of students $6,851 for Library$6,640 for computers (carts, screens, digital cameras (Elmos) iPads$15K for Professional development for teachers (latest session is on mental health – how teachers can be aware and also to assist students)$XX to pay teachers to accompany students to sporting events (TBC) | Question re: gender parity for sports teams; clarification that Dundas always strives to have a boys and girls team; if not enough girls for one team, they play with boys. |
| **Vice-Principal’s Update** *Kristin MacDonald* | *(Not able to present at meeting: minutes contributed from attendance at the Safe & Caring Committee Meetings):** Safe & Caring Committee is a committee of the school (not parent council) that is mandated by the TDSB
* Committee has met twice; VP is the head, has teacher/staff reps and parent reps (Audrey Gavin, Anne Smith & Tracy Michaluk are all parent reps)
* First meeting was review of the actual Board policy
* Desire to have a renewed Code of Conduct for all staff/students and parents at school
* Desire to have baseline of safety / climate at school (what does school sound like/look like with students/teachers?)
* Current code of conduct is in Student Planner ; very short and reads like a list of what not to do (Don’t hit etc)
* Discussion of safety issues on school: dogs/bikes on campus and in school; lunch supervision for Grade 1-3; both in cafeteria and on playground climber
* Second meeting; reviewed results from student poll re: where they feel safe in/outside school
* Also completed an audit of the school – check of specific items/ characteristics noted by the TDSB inside and on school grounds – identified several areas that need to be improved including fencing of school grounds, defined area for pick-up and drop offs; entrances to school property can be observed from office/adequately secured after hours; communication of the Code of Conduct with students/staff and parents; school safety planning reflective of neighbourhood, including crime stats and hazardous conditions and more.
 | Some suggestions to improve safety and health: * Start programs/days of Random Acts of Kindness (RAOK)
* Have older students recognizing younger students for leadership behavior
* Better handwashing facilities for kids throughout school – VP said she would do an audit
* Training to bring all teachers and staff onboard in terms of helping kids learn to behave – punishment and discipline cannot be only answer
* VP to follow up with building caretakers for several items
* Lost & Found area is one that was identified by students and parent rep as not safe & not acceptable; all items were cleaned out and put on display during report card time for parents to come in and retrieve items; lost & found closet is now being re-organized and will be much improved
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| **Other Business** | * NOTE: Mentioned in meeting that the TDSB would like teachers to discontinue the use of classroom communication apps like “Bloomz” and “SeeSaw” perhaps “Classroom Dojo”
* Concerned that these sites are not secure and information could be compromised if anyone ever hacked into someone’s e-mail or into the site itself
* TDSB is proposing all teachers use the Google platform – Google is offered to hold complete liability for any data breaches.
* More information TBC
* Next PC meeting – January 16, 2018
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Parking Lot – vote on Council to fund $2250 for Gardener