**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) |
| **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. |
| **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 |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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 – Performance  Intermission 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 |
| **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. |  |
| **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 |
| **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 |  |

Parking Lot – vote on Council to fund $2250 for Gardener