Minutes 03APR2023 \*pronouns are assumed; pls contact for any corrections.

In attendance: Kyle Salmon, Jessica Whitmore, Bruno K, Diana K, Gayle David, Melissa Sayer, Aisha Boyd, Alice Rankin, Ayan Rassle, Helen Lyronis, Jennifer Moore, Jolene Watt, Megan Corby and Nick Hendricks, Paula Adam, Raisa Rashid, Stacey Marshall, Terrence Gakman, Dana Coke

Comm rep: Amy Sit,

Parents Timea Tomi, Misha Perozak.

18:42 introduction by Kyle S. Quorum was reached (17), Jessica W proceeded with land acknowledgment. Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Ms David and Ms Sayer proceeded with the school updates. Ms David reinforced that students are at the centre of all decisions. The school will continue to work so that families feel they are part of the school community. Events will continue to bring the families to the school: Raise a Reader, Heritage Fair evening on April 26, STEM night on May 10. Hallways are being decorated with student art. Current teacher staffing is 28.5 teachers, next year will be 29 teachers, and provided the planned breakdown for the following year. Ms David spoke about the facilities and replacement of damaged items, and student art for classrooms around the four DGPS mottos. Cash online is implemented but 100 families are not enrolled yet. It will not be a barrier for families who don’t have credit or debit cards; for these families Ms Michelle will provide envelopes.

Ms Sayer spoke about student engagement activities, such as STEM activities and 3D printing. It was a good partnership with the library and for students to access it. All students are engaged with STEM activities and had a chance to interact with robots.

In response to questions, Ms Sayer clarified that the snack program is going online in May, and that the school is still looking for a music teacher after the previous teacher went on maternity leave. While the school prefers straight grades, next year there may be split classes. Jessica W will update events in the school website, and Ms David advised there were a number of activities for student enrichment and also for activities that include caregivers.

Bruno K presented the treasurer report. The goal for the grade 8 trip was to hold 4 pizza lunches to raise the funds for their graduation, nearly met in two pizza lunches. Jessica W and Bruno K addressed the grants and bank account balance; less was spent in the babysitting course than originally approved.

Family bingo will be postponed to the next school year. The parent engagement funds will be used to purchase a complete bingo set as the current one is incomplete. Ms David clarified that there are no summer programs in DGPS because it’s a central decision based on needs in different communities and the school has no say in the decision.

Jessica W clarified that the bylaws have been submitted, and that the language suggested to change the name from parent council to school advocacy council was rejected. There can be more than one teacher reps but they cannot outnumber parents and only stand for one vote. Jessica W will check about student representative attend parent council; and wants to print the bylaws so they’re accessible at the school.

Jessica W spoke about the Light into literacy workshop, which will take place on June 05, open for all caregivers to attend and neighboring schools too. Kyle S offered to help with the event. Jessica W updated the council on the art show and is looking for door prize donations, Megan offered to help. Volunteers are still needed for the two dates: May 26 for set up and May 29 for the event at the gym. Jessica W also provided updates about the balcony garden workshop with Nazmul Haq from Access Alliance, and about the sensory kindergarten.

Jessica W advised that Ms Templin could not attend the meeting but would like to raise funds for grade 8 graduation. The pizza lunches fundraisers had been approved to support the grade 8 graduation activities and after debate it was decided they will remain in that purpose. The next calendar year will be decided in the last meeting to plan next year’s activities, including revisiting the pizza lunch.

Kyle S Advised that the pizza lunch was successful and thanked Bruno, Quyen and Jamie. Misha P advised that the spirit wear sale was lower than last year and suggested skipping a year to maintain high sales, so next spirit wear sale should be in the fall 2024. The logo revamp will be revisited in June. Alice suggested a contest for the new logo and Megan offered to design and contribute with swag. Ms David advised it was good to have students design their own graduation logo.

There were no updates for Read-a-thon. Jessica W would like to look into hybrid meeting for next parent council meeting, but process for babysitter grant a little more complicated than before.

Next meeting will be on May 4th. End of meeting 20:20.