

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - 7pm-8:30pm

Attendance:

Sherron Grant	Mavis Ayippey
Minakshi Das (Co-Chair)	Nancy Kin
Sarah Butterwick (Secretary)	Mrs. Alexander
Donald Case	Tanisha Denton
Nadhira Soud (Treasurer)	Shaquel Victory

Minakshi

Discussed neighborhood grant carryover from last year and the approval of purchasing Indigo gift cards for students

Delivered \$2500 cheque to Mrs. Grant today

Discussed \$1200 Grant for Anti-oppression event/speaker

Update from Patrick (CSW)

Spoke about tagging along with colleague Yetunde and her schools Fairbanks Memorial and Gateway another school for an event with Kojo Institute between with May 20th-Jun. 10th.

First date provided was not a reasonable time for our parents, Yetunde is reaching back to Kojo for another time.

Suggests Parent Council reach out to some of the other speakers from revised list, Patrick to provide updated list <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RHJuckPCJczU-7sNwYbI17rZ5d8qCxqc0qs6v6TPgBI/edit?ts=6035176e>

Virtual Community walk tomorrow (April 7, 2021) 1pm

Community Hub (CSW Hub) – <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/csww/home>

Mrs Grant – Principal's Report

School improvement (Achievement, Well-being, Equity)

Financial Grants - Mrs Naik and Mrs. Romanovich

Music Grant - to get new instruments - was approved for \$12,000

Used to purchase Diverse Cultural instruments Steel pans, percussion, African drums, etc

Plans to pair up with student mentorship from CW Jefferys, Elia MS as they both have good music programs for when the pandemic is over

Important for students as a lot don't have extra-curricular music activities outside of school

Budget and Priorities

Equity within the staff is important and don't restrict professional development, speakers, and seminars to just teachers – involves support personal as well

Receiving just under \$5000 for math strategy money, would normally spend on Professional Development

Teachers are suggesting robotics, time keepers for students, weights and balances, etc

\$2,000 in positive climate activity resources – to be spent on recess equipment/activity to help students learn how to play, social skills building. Skipping ropes, balls, scoops, etc. Playground will also be painted

Early Literacy resources – select staff are working on packaging everything up - early years and junior resources

Second water station to be installed upstairs at no cost, funded by board

Jr. Team has been going to workshops focusing on Junior Literacy – to ensure students are at reading appropriate grade levels

Ordered Junior Literacy resources

Some books came out on Equity, how boys learn to read, how black boys learn, how to identify the needs and how to adjust the teaching towards the different learning styles

Safe and Caring and Accepting schools

6 classes had to be sent home over the last few weeks to isolate

Derrydown has been doing a good job with health safety precautions, students wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing which is demonstrated in the low numbers of Covid cases within the school

Staffing

Projection for school enrollment:

Last year – 2020/2021 412 students

This year – 2021/2022 377 students

Down 1.5 teachers

1 French Primary

.5 English

ESL self-contained program Mr. Kristensen will have no intensive class in the morning

(1 Eng teacher identified as surplus) (1 French teacher taking a LOA next year)

Class Model for next year

Staffing committee of teachers – crunch numbers, and help to figure out splits and what classes look like (students, their behaviors and their needs) Have to plan for the virtual learners coming back as well.

Breakdown of class sizes

English

3 - Kindergarten – 14 JKs/11 SKs per class

1 - Grade 1 – 20 students

1 - Grade 1/ 2 – 15 and 5 students

1 - Grade 2 – 20 students

1 - Grade 2/ 3 – 11 and 9 students

1 - Grade 3 – 20 students

1 – Grade 3/ 4 – 19 and 4 students

3 - Grade 4/ 5 – 10 and 14, 11 and 13, 11 and 14 students

LOI (Learning Opportunities Index) – 3 or 4 kids from each class to work with the teacher in the morning

French

1 - SK – 25 enrolled

1 – Grade 1/ 2 - 17 and 4 students

1 – Grade 2/ 3 - 12 and 7 students

1 – Grade 3/ 4 - 11 and 10 students

1 – Grade 4/ 5 - 4 and 15 students

Thinking about the model that would best meet student needs

Don't know how the prep will be delivered for the teachers but probably (core French, music, gym, arts)

Round table

Nadhira – Agrees with what has been said about how we have to plan accordingly for the virtual students to come back. Due to the great team at Derrydown kids are enjoying their learning experiences and praised Mrs. Naik's lip-syncing program presentation.

Minaksi – STUDENT (her daughter) has had a good experience but she still wants to go back to school, it all depends on how it is delivered online by the teachers. Model that has been delivered the last three years has been a good learning experience and she thinks whatever is decided will be effective.

Shaquel – online experience was ok, but he's been reintegrated back to school and the experience has been great.

Tanisha – STUDENT has had a good experience in school and likes to listen in on her son's experience during the online learning. Not everyone has the same household and other things going on in the background, others need to remember that it's still school mode. She likes that she has more management over her sons learning, she doesn't think her son likes it much. Learning curve for everyone.

Mme Alexander – homework, they try not to give homework just for the sake of giving homework. Most of the work gets done during the day. Trying not to push paper at the kids, if work doesn't get done during the day then yes it's expected to be done in the evenings.

Nancy – Agrees and indicated during online with a simple math sheet, it takes a lot longer online then it would in class. Online work is presented a bit different, its more technical, more time is spent figuring out how to fill it out.

Mrs Grant – Gave thanks for feedback, and spoke on how teachers sometimes have challenge on taking the book work and putting it online. Staff has been good supports to each other, training and coaching each other, etc.

Donald – In response to Nancy, PDF forms are sometimes hard if you don't have a printer. PDFs take a bit of time to learn, some of it is a challenge. He's still trying to analyze which is working better for his son, in-school or on-line.

Shaquel – Asked about how transition will work to on-line for this shut-down as her son was virtual and has only recently transitioned to in-school.

Nancy – spoke about a Virtual book fair, through Scholastic Canada to be decided after the break through a sub-committee.

Meeting wrap-up

Next meeting Jun. 1st Final meeting

Minakshi closed off the meeting, thanking everyone for attending at approx. 8:39pm