

Don Valley Middle School School Council Meeting, October 29, 2024

(7pm, Virtual Microsoft Team)

Attendees: Principal Karailiadis, Vice Principal Bourjot, Amy C., A. Maksay, Alyssa, E. Aylin, Christie, Cristina P, Evy, Hamid, D. Hawker-Budlovsky, J. Kirsh, Joy N, K. Mayers, LF, M., M. Przemieniecki, L. Moore, L. Nay, Nooshin, M. Oztabak, R. Yang, Roozbeh, Salima, Tracey, Vidur, V. Castillo

School Updates

Curriculum night

- Successful evening with great turn out from parents/families
- Feedback provided from parents at the meeting
- Request for handouts to be virtually added to students' google classrooms for those parents who were not able to attend
- Speaking portion requested to be inside school due to issues with audio for some parents

Picture Day Provider

- Many parents have reported to the school about their disappointment with the photos received of their child. Discussion at the meeting confirmed and supported the school looking for a new provider in the future. Principal Karailiadis noted as a follow up.
- Photo retake day scheduled for November 14, 2024

Safety Procedures at DVMS – Construction Update

- Many on-going construction projects occurring at DVMS including- PA System; Updating Sensory Room; Removing carpet; Firewall for the internet (the Internet at the school is currently not working at times, but work should be completed shortly).
- Paving lines in the parking lot- Installation pending for 2 speed bumps in the parking lot round-about; Parents inquired about directional arrows for the parking lot for the exit (one for left turn and one for right turn). Principal Karailiadis confirmed that directional arrows were not in the original plans but will be reviewed to be added at a later point for safety from the school budget.

Indigo Grant

- DVMS is in its last year of the \$70K Indigo Grant
- Approximately \$20K remains to be spent before the school year ends
- The school will utilize the remaining budget mainly on books and fill any gaps. i.e. French section currently has a big gap, which will be filled as a priority
- Groups of students will be invited to help select some of the books
- Discussions about other library improvements that are not covered by this grant, such as furniture to store the books or to improve the library space
- Parent council agreed to write a letter to school community for donations for this cause

Overnight Trips

- **Grade 6** – Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre – Confirmed
- Confirmed two trip dates scheduled in the first week of December, Dec 2 - 6 (Monday – Wednesday and Wednesday – Friday)
- Finalize grouping and dates will be communicated via EMA for parents to approve and sign
- Cost of trip is \$150

- **Grade 7** – Island School – Waitlisted
- **Grade 8** – White Pine – (Planned for June – Date TBD) School verifying dates as attempting to avoid overlap with other competitions/finals

Indigenous Education Month and Treaty Week (November 4 – 11, 2024)

- School planning to increase knowledge within the classrooms throughout the year and not just for 1 week

Updates on Friday Flash, DV Dragons HQ, Virtual Announcements

Friday Flash- Communication and updates are sent out every week from school on Friday afternoons

Virtual Announcements- Student run initiative

- Students (Ms. Tonogbanua's Grade 8) create slides for all announcements to be shared in the classroom. Additional way to share information instead of just over the PA announcement system which can be muffled. Positive feedback received so far.

School Budget- School budget reviewed

- Area of focus for 2024/25 school year – Library Learning Commons

EQAO Results- Overview of EQAO Results

Report Cards

- Progress report cards go home November 11, 2024
- Term 1 Report cards- February 10, 2025
- Term 2 Report cards- June 25, 2025
- Note: Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place November 14 (evening) and November 15 (morning). Details TBD.

Pizza Lunch

- Pizza this year is from Pizza Nova and only positive feedback received so far
- Future pizza lunches planned for rest of the year

Tentative schedule (To be confirmed)

November – December Session: Nov 14, Nov 28, Dec 12

January – March Session: Jan 16, Jan 30, Feb 13, Feb 27 and Mar 20

April – June Session: Apr 3, 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, June 12, June 26.

Fundraising Ideas

- Harvey's Lunch (Reviewing)
- Terra Cotta Cookie Sales (Reviewing)
- Letter to community for Donations for Library (confirmed)

Family Engagement and Learning Session

- School planning to partner with Highland MS, Zion Heights MS and Cummer Valley MS for sessions with Paul Davis on Internet Safety
- Parent Council reviewing if possible to request for a grant to subsidize some of this cost

Future meetings

- Discussed future meetings are planned for 7pm – 8pm on the following days

Confirmed Parent Council Meeting dates for 2024 – 2025

- October 29, 2024
- November 26, 2024
- No Meeting in December
- January 28, 2025
- February 25, 2025
- No meeting in March
- April 29, 2024
- May 27, 2024
- June will be a meeting with the Admin Team and Co-Chairs to finalize the School Report only

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Amy Chan (Co-Secretary)