

Dundas Public School Parent Council Meeting

October 9, 2018

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Item	Update	Questions/Next Steps
<p>Introduction & Welcome (Georgia Chatzis and Audrey Gavin)</p>	<p>Welcome to parents and thank you for attending. Special thanks to those parents considering becoming executive members or voting members of Parent Council</p>	
<p>Principal Update EQAO Results (Georgia Chatzis)</p> <p><i>Note: EQAO stands for Education Quality & Accountability Office – this is run out of the provincial Ministry of Education that administers the standardized test to all school districts across Ontario. Testing is in Grades 3, 6 and 9.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grade 3 EQAO tests that were completed in the Spring are now available • Overall TDSB results dropped, however Dundas PS results increased • Note that of the 36 Grade 3 Dundas students who wrote the EQAO test, 14 had been identified as needing extra supports (were able to take the test on computer or allowed extra time etc). • Results of the EQAO tests for Dundas were included in Principal's Sept 28 update: Reading & Writing: 68% above provincial standard; Math: 58% above the provincial standard. 	<p>Teachers at Dundas will now review the results and will look to incorporate various things; will use some of the language or similar wording that was used so students will be familiar for next round of testing. Teachers use EQAO results along with other assessments including report cards and other testing to target teaching and supports to students.</p>
<p>Other Testing Updates (Georgia Chatzis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grade 2, 4 and 5 will also be writing the CAT4 test • This is the fourth version of the Canadian Achievement Test, a standard test administered across the TDSB; assesses skills in reading, language, spelling, and mathematics. • Grade 3 students will also write the CCAT test - this is the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. This is a way to screen for kids who may need extra support at school and also for children who are well above the class average (gifted) and may need more enrichment. • Parents will receive letters and more information before these tests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Is the CAT4 administered in French for French immersion students? No - students in French immersion do not write the CAT4.

<p>Vice Principal Update Recap of PD Day on October 5 <i>(Kristin McDonald)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers participated in a workshop facilitated by Mike Izzo from the Aboriginal Education Centre at the TDSB. • Had meaningful dialogue around perceptions of First Nations and how to link TDSB character traits to the Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel. • Spoke more in detail about the opening announcement that mentions the traditional Native territories. 	<p>Goal is for teachers to be more comfortable in bringing Indigenous aspects into all classroom teaching; this all stems from the TDSB commitment to the goals of the federal Truth & Reconciliation Report.</p>
<p>Parent Council Vote <i>(Georgia Chatzis)</i></p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> As required by TDSB policy, we will now hold elections for the Parent Council.</p> <p>The newly updated council by-laws state that Parent Council should have 15 permanent voting members (this includes executive members and regular voting members). This is an attempt to have more accountability and transparency when it comes to voting; especially voting on how to spend Council funds.</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> Voting members of council are EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL meetings of council so that votes can take place and decisions made in a timely manner. If voting members do not show to 3 meetings they will lose their voting member position on council.</p> <p>NOTE: ALL PARENTS CONTINUE TO BE WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS AND RAISE ISSUES/CONCERNS AS REQUIRED. All parents are encouraged to still suggest various events or activities for the council to pursue and to volunteer for various events as well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All nomination forms were collected from people at the meeting and parents who submitted nominations into the office. - The by-laws indicated that parents had to be present at the election meeting. (unfortunately some nominated parents were not included in vote because they were not available) - Because there are more than 15 parents interested in being a voting member of council, we will have to proceed with a secret ballot to elect the 15 voting members of council. - All parents present at the meeting were allowed 30 seconds to introduce themselves and talk about their interest in parent council and any efforts they have worked towards to date. - Note: The executive members from 2017-18 indicated they were all interested in reprising their executive roles for this year. 	<p>- All the votes were tallied by Georgia and Kristin: Voting results were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs: Audrey Gavin / Jennifer Smith • Secretaries: Anne Smith / Erika Reid • Treasurer: Juliana Duray Kikuchi <p>Voting members are: Stacey Petersen Jenn Vurma Akemi Nishidera Michelle Welsh Fara Mahmood Hugo Leal-Neri James Dyson Tracy Michalak Jon Bowes Adele Shaw</p>

<p>Council Motion: Request for Funds for Garden Educator at Dundas (Audrey & Christine)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For approx 8 years, Dundas has garden planter boxes at the corner of Dundas and Boulton; these were initially started with a \$15K grant from the South Riverdale Community Centre - Additionally the school has invested in a Garden Educator named Elin. She attends at Dundas 2 times/month in Fall and in Spring sessions. - She is able to teach all students from JK-Grade 5 in English and French about soil, ecosystems, nutrition, growing plants, composting etc - She also can teach about First Nations plantings (sweetgrass etc) and also tie in some Indigenous land information etc - The school has covered \$2450 towards her salary; request for Parent Council to cover an additional \$2450. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: Christine is the Garden Committee Lead from last year and has indicated she would like to continue this role this year. - Question: Has to council looked into other sources of funding that could be applied to this? Answer; Yes - Christine is also looking into other grants/funding that could potentially be applied to the garden - She notes that the bulb sale with Vesey's in the Spring was able to net \$500 that can be put toward the garden educator as well. - Question: Has the council considered other educators to offer this service: Answer: No. - Motion called to a vote; voting members passed this vote.
<p>Council Motion: Request for Funds for new Tables in Cafeteria (Georgia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of the growth of the school and the hot lunch program, the cafeteria needs new tables for students to sit at during lunch. - Long tables with benches on either side that flip up and in. - Cost of tables are approximately \$2K each. - Tables have been ordered and paid for through the school; Principal Chatzis concerned that school budget may be stretched to the max. - Can Council pay for one or two tables? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voting members decided to table this vote to the next meeting. - Need more information on the School Council budget and on the School's budget before being able to make a decision. (see some preliminary information below)
<p>Finance Update - Dundas PS Budget (Georgia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Chatzis will present the overall school budget to Parents at a later meeting (November TBC) but here is a summary: \$81K - overall funding from Ministry \$17K - to Dundas from the Model Schools initiative (funded by TDSB and by Province) - this money is yet to be received. - generally speaking all JK-SK classes get \$600 each for materials and supplies (teacher discretion); Grade 1-5 gets \$400 each (teacher discretion) - other categories include Professional Development, Special Education, classroom Books/Materials (Eng-French), library books and materials, tech equipment, field trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: Dundas subsidizes every child up to \$8 for field trips in the year; teachers can spend for buses or other expenses. - Note: \$23K has already been spent in start up; new chairs, new tech, new books, math books. - Question: How do parents give money to the school? Answer: Can write a cheque to TDSB, can give money online to TDSB; both ways you can indicate this money is intended for Dundas PS. Note: Any money going to TDSB is eligible for a tax receipt (TDSB is a registered charity)

<p>Finance Update - Dundas Parent Council (Juliana)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final amount in PC school account approx. \$12K; - still confirming final donations from various sponsors of the Spring Fun Fair - will need to establish fundraising committee for this year - likely that we will continue with various events to raise money (bake sales, Fun Fair etc) and also with ongoing online/passive fundraisers (Mabel's Labels, cookie dough sales, magazine subscriptions, Indigo FlipGive campaign) etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: Have already received questions about doing the magazine/cookie dough campaign for this year - Michelle Welsh agreed to co-ordinate with vendor and with Principal to establish campaign dates and get flyers out in backpacks; Laura Sosin and Anne Smith to help with communications (posters, Digest and FB channels) - Note: 2017/2018 Parent Council voted to contribute funds to school beautification projects; more details on this to follow
<p>Other Items - New Motion re: holding Halloween Costume Swap (Tracey Ho-Lung)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suggestion to hold the second annual Hallowe'en Costume Swap this year - not fundraising initiative but a team building and early parent engagement event. -last year, received about 25-30 costumes and kids enjoyed the event - would require co-ordination with school to set date and have tables set up, communications and promotions, parents to do early shift to accept costumes and then after school shift to arrange costumes by size and lay out and supervise swap; take any unwanted costumes to charity following 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General agreement to proceed; Audrey to follow up and initiate preliminary co-ordination. - Laura Sosin and Anne Smith to help with poster creation and distribution, FB posting, Digest content etc.
<p>Wrap Up (Executive Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>commit to get back to all voting members with potential next meeting date and all meeting dates for the year</i> - <i>updates to website/FaceBook and parent council Bulletin Board</i> - <i>will bring in information on funds available and voting decisions from last year</i> - <i>need to update Teacher wish list for this year.</i> 	