

Dunlace Parent Council Meeting Minutes January 26, 2023 from 7:00pm to 8:40pm

Minutes are prepared by: Pete Korogonas

Council Executive from 2022-2023 school year: Jonathan Krieger (Co-Chair), Pramod Parvel (Co-Chair), Pete Korogonas (Secretary), Iris Scales (Co-Treasurer), Azadeh Kalhori (Co-Treasurer), Naadia Mirza (Canadian Parent for French Rep/Extra Curricular Activities Rep/Grade 5 Chair)

Attendees (some are online names - in the order they showed up on Zoom screen): Julie Kwon (Principal), Vanessa Weston, Jonathan Krieger, Pramod Parvel, Pete Korogonas, Iris Scales, Azadeh Kalhori, Naadia Mirza; Loveleen Thind, Parsi Mina, Nancy Hanna, Iris H (?)

1. Chair Message

Jon - Discussed how Council hosted our first event. It was chaotic but successful. Next, we are planning the Valentine gram, Games Night, Fun Fair and we have an event we will organize from the grant award. We will also discuss the budget (we have surplus that we can use for any additional event or purchase, such as technology), and Naadia will provide an update on the Grade 5 grad planning.

Pramod - nothing further to add.

2. Minutes & Approval of Agenda

Nov 7, 2022 meeting minutes - Jon motioned to approve the minutes; Naadia second - approved. Motion approved.

Agenda - nothing added; Jon motioned to approve the agenda; Naadia seconded. Motion approved.

3. Principal Updates (by Julie Kwon)

We have had an awesome start to the new year. Most recently, the Prologue - Snow White - came in. They brought kids up on stage to participate. The Prologue period - staff did an amazing job. Julie thanked the Council for its support

Jungle Sport - everyone had a really great time. Before we invite them back though, Julie is going to provide them with some feedback. Their staff was tardy, equipment wasn't always setup properly (although safety was not a concern). The kids were complaining of the lack of variety and it wasn't until the school provided feedback to their staff they changed up the course. Julie thinks they need feedback. Kids had an amazing time. Overall, every child said they had a great time. One additional example, they had 2 helmet shorts, even though we had to organize a maximum of 60 kids and they were still short. We pay good money, but Julie will provide feedback.

Mental Health - Let's Talk Day was on Jan 25 - we take the approach that mental health awareness isn't just one day. Staff is talking about how it's ok not to be ok and helping the kids with strategies on how to deal with their feelings. The pandemic showed us that there are higher levels of anxiety. This week was a lot of self care

Tomorrow is Family Literacy Day. Families will be coming in. We are promoting reading and a love for reading and a love for literacy.

Tonight was Barbara Reed plastercern artist.

Theme this year is to share your heritage (cultural or not). For example it can be pizza night with the family.

EQAO Scores

Grade 3s that do this. Provincially is it all grade 3, 6, and 9 students

Dunlace - English students do the reading, writing, math tests; French students only do the math test. Last year was 100% online

Julie presented the results from the students and breakdown by level. (Julie to provide the summary to share with the minutes - see attached.)

Julie explained the differences with the results from last year may be impacted from the technology. Educators used to be able to look at the patterns and see where the students were struggling, but they no longer create reports that break down the areas to identify any areas the students need additional help with.. As administrators, Julie explained how the report that is no longer provided is important. Julie also acknowledged the sample size was also small.

Parsi - added that in Grade 2 they were on computers and then in Grade 3 they were masters; but due to the pandemic their academics were impacted.

Julie agreed - we look at the results to help plan and improve certain areas. Every child in grade 5 has a chromebook; in the next three years every child in grades 5 - 9 will do assignments on the chromebook.

Newsletter Items

1. Winter Extracurriculars - to be at lunch for all students to attend
2. Volleyball teams starting
3. Speech and art contest - with neighbouring community schools

Q&A For Julie

Loveline - are the tests administered electronically?

Julie - Yes and it is likely because it is easier to mark. Julie hasn't heard otherwise; Dashboard isn't up and running yet, but suspect all will be electronic.

Pramod - some may not have the typing abilities

Julie - agreed and explained how she voiced this in our feedback. The writing section is shorter, but you have more time. This is to help reduce the amount of frustration if the children are having difficulties typing.

4. Agenda - Events Update

Movie Night

Vanessa - recap of Movie Night

Held movie night Dec 8; it ended up well attended; we did pizza and popcorn pre orders in \$120 in popcorn and sold 100 slices of pizzas. Overall good sales and some overage of sales. Overall a big success in the plus in terms of support for Dunlace. We had some lessons learned

How to communicate? Asking for parent involvement? How to watch out for the kids. Attention span might have been running around. We had popcorn crushed into the carpet, furniture, books scattered. Next time we'll ask parents to care for their kids.

Pramod - in the gym?

Vanessa - 2 spaces - gym for the older and library for the younger based on age and movie

Overall everyone was eager to attend at the school.

Jon - parents came to socialize and left their kids alone - happened in the gym and library.

Vanessa

Valentine gram Feb 14 - intent to have a heart shaped cookie and treat for every child. Idea to include something for everyone. Teachers to distribute and will do a card writing exercise.

Naadia - Is it available on cash online?

Vanessa - just a nice to have and able to contribute - we have the budget without any support

Loveleen - recommended that the PAC also email about a PAC event to avoid any confusion.

Julie - the cash online went out by accident. A follow up email will go out to explain that this is for donations only.

Vanessa - to send separate and clarify not mandatory; every student is getting one.

Jon - we can send it from his account via school messenger; we can send it out

Julie - offered to send it out as she's drafting tomorrow's email; she can do it before the email too.

Vanessa - to send it to Julie to send it out as a standalone email

Jon - future - cash online should be careful on the start date so to avoid any confusion.

Games Night

Date - March 30; Jule confirmed the date

Intent for the evening

- Bingo with the sales of pizza and snacks
- Should we include prizes from sponsors or PAC - need to discuss further
- Volunteers - have a few people on a list, but looking to setup a call for that.

Varuska - going to help with sponsorship; ideally to have a full picture of other events we are planning; in the past we offered different packages to the vendors; or if we scale back can ask for just gifts; eg dentist gave an electric toothbrush, gift cards; if we can add their logo on the email

Vanessa - total events only the Games Night and the Fun Fair; we only have 2; how should we leverage the sponsors? What do you think is best?

Varuska - can connect off online and circle back with the PAC and Julie

Naadia - suggest asking a parent volunteer request

Jon - we've done that; for day of; we have very few people

Naadia - for specific events - send out a month before for each event

Jon - don't want to lose them. Parent involvement is low this year. It is hard for everyone to be at everything; people aren't opening emails; people aren't interested.

Loveline - not new; volunteer is carried by Council members; carried by our own network; in the past we've solicited like you've done and then subsequently we solicit again. It can be daunting to commit until we get to the day of.

Jon - tried using the email account; only 40 people read it; we don't want to over use Julie too.

Naadia - if you have a date and have a month in advance notice, might be more effective

Vanessa - maybe have a regular email update

Jon - we'll try it for Game Night

Loveline - but also, Julie's weekly email to call for volunteers

Julie - offered to use both school council email and her email; do a combination? We shouldn't be asking for high school kids; Sponsorship - Games Night - Sponsors get biggest bang for their buck at the Fun Fair - maybe focus on one event; Games Night - the bingo was mostly the food needed the support to distribute and prep the bingo cards

Iris - it was our first time working together and we can work together, along with Naadia and Lovelines' experience

Fun Fair

- High level Vanessa - we had date June 1 (may come we thoughts/feelings) two reasons - conflicts with other events and success with last year's event
- Loveline - an afterschool event extremely challenging; to get parent volunteer during parents were late/missing - have to think of the scale and the number of hours to make as much money as possible
- Jon - none of the weekends are free; May long weekend; conflicts and then Dunlow's Fun Fair first weekend; then pushing close to grad and end of year (not on the weekend, but close)
- Naadia - June 10/11 weekend if possible
- Jon - we had a whole meeting and we can go back and the whole executive was invited

- Iris - commented how it was successful on a weekday
- Jon - we aren't wanting to replicate what you did pre covid 3 years ago. Goal is to have a fun event for the kids; we don't have the capacity

Vanessa - how much of an effort / time commitment?

Loveline - has an outline to provide; have the vendors and can leverage from eg food, games. She suggested that we just need to understand the budget; Fun Fair should pay for itself.

Jon - all this info that you have, can you share it? Nothing can be found in the Google Drive for previous Fun Fair events. Our org planning is starting from scratch.

Loveline - it is in the Drive; Varuska has some and can share it as well

Vanessa - to setup a follow up meeting; Iris to volunteer

5. Budget

Iris - the last 3 months have been successful. We have made \$12K and budget was \$1K

- This year overall, performing well. We can support more expenses.
- We have the grant of \$800 (not in the budget) this is based on the budget as of June 2022.
- We have surplus; our target is \$5K to carry forward, but we can easily make that, or more.

Valentine - an example we can meet, or exceed our target.; Popcorn for the grade 5 - goes to students;

Nancy - has already started the popcorn - her budget is going to be \$1300

Julie - popcorn has been purchased - waiting to for the valentines to done first

Iris - any other events - we have a budget, but we have surplus and can accommodate.

Azadeh - Pizza - is this we are going to continue?

Iris - we were going to spend \$2K?

Julie - we missed a couple of Fridays due to snow days; we'll start in Feb to make up the missed 3 lunches; we are offering 3 slices this time; new session Feb 24 - 15 weeks of pizza;

Iris - we'll have more revenue from the new pizza sales; explained how we can have some savings

6. Grad Update

Naaida - the grad ceremony is set for June 27; they will do popcorn/cookie fundraising to raise more money

7. Bylaws

- Rasheed has the flu - he was not able to provide an update

Julie - we should ask him. He reformatted the bylaws and he did all the legwork. All updated in the new template. Good to go this year.

Adjournment - Pramod motioned to end the meeting; Naadia second (8:40)