

## **Minutes for Dunlace Parent Council Meeting - March 31st, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Minutes are prepared by:** Naadia Mirza

**Council Executive:** Manisha Mehta (Co-Chair), Parsi Mina (Co-Chair), Munir Malik (treasurer), Naadia Mirza (Secretary), Anna Triandafyllidou and Christine Griffon Du Bellay (Grade 5 Chairs)

**Attendees (some are online names):** Julie Kwon (principal), Anna Triandafyllidou, Nick Lal, Manisha Mehta, Loveleen Thind, Christine Griffon Du Bellay, Parsi Mina, Farah Merchant, Isabel de Abreu, Jennifer Wong, Mati Pajo, Naadia Mirza

1. Welcome Back
  - a. Manisha chaired the meeting by presenting all topics of the Agenda. A few council members briefly introduced themselves to others in attendance.
  - b. Manisha summarized the minutes from the last parent council meeting held on January 20th, 2021 that Naadia had prepared. Loveleen Thind and Manisha Mehta approved the minutes.
  
2. Principal Updates
  - a. Julie Kwon gave the update about the March Break at school being about STEAM, designing and engineering. She said kids made paper airplanes, bridges, used different technologies and robotics, built bridges and nests. Kids are still doing this and really enjoyed the week.
  - b. From April 1st to 9th, the school will be the celebration of French language and culture. Grade 5 Core French students, along with Mme Anslow, have created a variety of activities for classes to participate in over the week's celebration, including a scavenger hunt.
  - c. Students this week have been drumming with Mr. McKeen using big Rona paint buckets to create rhythm. The Parent Council purchased the paint buckets and drumsticks for these drumming classes.
  - d. Julie mentioned Telus coming in virtually to teach the students about digital citizenship and digital footprint (like tik tok, instagram, etc.).
  - e. Julie mentioned that the Graduation Committee met with some grade 5 parents about ideas for graduation. Anna will talk in more detail about this later.
  - f. Julie mentioned the possibility of pivoting to online due to covid cases rising to over 2000 daily. As a precaution, teachers will be sending students' belongings like indoor shoes, math textbooks, notebooks and devices home over the weekend. Depending on what the Premier and the Education minister decides, the TDSB may switch to virtual learning as of Tuesday, April 6th. The other possibility is switching to online learning after the Spring break in April. If any families need devices like chromebooks, they are to request them from their teachers or Julie Kwon directly tonight or tomorrow. Julie can always come back to school to deliver chromebooks to parents next week as well. All the staff hopes that they are able to come back to in-person school on Tuesday but are waiting

for direction from the Education Minister. Manisha and Julie mentioned that 6 schools in the TDSB have already closed due to covid cases.

- g. Julie mentioned that although they are taking precautions during the school day to get kids to mask up indoors and outdoors; after school, some families are staying after school and kids are using the playscape or the grounds not masked up and not social distancing. Staff feels that all their efforts of sanitizing and masking the kids and cohorting them during the school day are diminished by the behaviour of families after school. Julie is urging parents and children to observe social distancing and be masked on the playscape. Loveleen suggested that Julie should let parents know in a different channel, such as signs or an email to them to observe social distancing and masking after school on the school grounds.
  - h. Julie mentioned some construction over the summer in July and August: part of the roof being replaced and fixing the water main break.
3. Grade 5 Graduation Planning
- a. Anna met some grade 5 parents and 2 kids. They are thinking of giving cookies and sweatshirts with the school logo to graduates: there are 31 kids in person, 10 to 12 kids online. Ms. Hannah agreed to produce a video for the virtual ceremony. It will be held on the 17th of June at 6pm or 7pm. There will be 20 to 30 minutes of playing kahoot or bingo online and a virtual graduation ceremony for 20 to 30 minutes. They proposed an idea of gathering pictures of grade 5 children of when they were babies and how they are now. Due to grey lockdown restriction, official graduation photos could not be taken, as robes cannot be shared among students. The graduation committee proposes teachers taking candid photos outdoors of the graduates instead, with Dunlace sweatshirts. Naadia suggested that the grade 5s could make black graduation hats out of construction paper and get photos taken with those so they look more like graduation photos that parents can put up in their homes. She mentioned both her sons did this for their kindergarten graduation photos and they still happily keep the cardboard graduation hats in their rooms as mementos from their kindergarten graduation.
  - b. Jennifer Wong suggested growing a grad tree...however, Julie mentioned how they need a lot of water to grow over the summer. Therefore, Julie mentioned getting a park bench installed and a plaque saying "grads of 2021" on the back of it, was a good option instead.
4. Yearbooks
- a. The yearbooks will be thinner this year as there are no team or club photos and no class photos this year due to covid restrictions.; however, there are an assortment of spirit days and the Terry Fox Walk and Run. The staff is looking at templates for the yearbook, digital vs. paper copies. A lot of members on the team said that their kids prefer paper copies of yearbooks so that they can flip through them over the summer and years to come. Julie mentioned that if the schools close in-person, it is hard to get paper copies to families. Still some

yearbooks from last year have been left by students who turned virtual this year. Loveleen mentioned that they could get the Academy for Math and English to partly sponsor the yearbooks. Manisha offered to help Loveleen with this. Naadia also asked if the council will be fully or partially paying for the yearbooks. The council may do what they did last year...only pay for 1 per family. If families want more than one per family, they can pay for it. Nothing has been decided on this front. We need to see the costs and see if it is in the budget to pay for the yearbooks partially. The council has to take into account that the council has no revenue this year due to covid restrictions.

- b. Parsi asked if virtual students from Dunlace need to be in the yearbook. Naadia piped up that her youngest child in JK is in virtual school and his teacher is preparing an online yearbook on book creator for her class, where each student does their own page; so, there probably is no need to include virtual students from Dunlace in the yearbook. Julie did say that it is probably up to the virtual teacher if they want to create their own yearbook. Not all virtual school teachers may be doing this. A suggestion was made by Anna that perhaps Julie could possibly send an email out to virtual parents from Dunlace that if they want their kids to be in the Dunlace yearbook, they could send photos in via email.
- c. It was suggested by one member of the Parent Council that we could do a google meet grid view or a zoom gallery view of each class and put that in the yearbook, as class photos for the yearbook. Julie mentioned a collage of photos of the students can also be put in the yearbook to create class group photos. Parsi thought it might be nice to ask the students to contribute something for the yearbook, like Naadia's youngest son is doing. The design of the yearbook is really up to the staff that are taking care of it; however, they will take the council's input of ideas.

## 5. Other Business

- a. An online pizza night was suggested. The pizza place could either give 10% off to Dunlace families who order pizza or 10% of proceeds could go to the parent council. This could be combined with a trivia or bingo night. Parsi will look into it with Mamma's Pizza, Paisanos, Dominos on Mallard, and Pizza by the Slice, to see if this is possible to do logistically and realistically.
- b. Naadia mentioned that no letter requesting donations from Dunlace parents was sent out, as had been suggested last meeting. Naadia said she is willing to make a draft of this kind of letter and let the Parent Council look over it. Loveleen said it was too late in the year to send out such a letter. Usually something like this is sent out near the beginning of the school year saying their donations will benefit certain programs during the school year. As well, because times are uncertain right now as to whether school will be virtual or in-person for the rest of the year, it is not a good time to do this. Loveleen did mention the council does have drafts of such letters from previous years and we can look into sending such a letter next school year.

6. Closing Remarks

- a. Julie said the staff will look into the yearbook ideas mentioned. The graduation committee will look into the ideas mentioned today. The meeting was adjourned approximately at 8:00pm. The next parent council meeting will be held in June.