

Minutes for Dunlace Parent Council Meeting - January 20, 2021

Minutes are prepared by: Naadia Mirza

Council Executive: Manisha Mehta (Co-Chair), Parsi Mina (Co-Chair), Munir Malik (treasurer), Naadia Mirza (Secretary), Anna Triandafyllidou (Grade 5 Chair)

Attendees (some are online names): Manisha Mehta, Loveleen Thind (past Chair), Heiki Pajo, Roger Affonso (past treasurer), Alexia Donoghue, Anna Triandafyllidou, Elizabeth A., Jennifer Wong, Linda Zhang, Martin Minkor, Michael Pan, Nick Lal, Parsi Mina, Syed Hossein, Naadia Mirza, Julie Kwon, Nancy Hannah.

1. Welcome
 - a. Manisha did an introduction explaining she is a co-chair of the Dunlace Parent Council and has 3 children at Dunlace.
2. Principal Updates
 - a. Julie Kwon gave the following information in her principal update:
 - i. 58 chromebooks handed out to students for virtual learning.
 - ii. There are 225 minutes of synchronous live time, for grades 1 to 5; this includes small groups and individual one to one reading.
 - iii. JK and SK have 180 synchronous minutes a day.
 - iv. Only 2 classes signed up for supervised lunch recess; today they played scattergories and told jokes.
 - v. Julie Kwon drops into every class; she gets a general sense of kids thriving.
 - vi. There have been activities such as silly Dunlace staff and teacher trivia, junior trivia, Kahoot, chrome music lab; it gives teachers a break. Julie Kwon is trying to keep kids engaged; staff is doing their best.
 - vii. Report cards are coming out before family day weekend. Report cards will be sent out during the week of February 8th electronically. Teachers will be reaching out to parents for appointments. Although the math curriculum has changed; the social, emotional component of math has been added. However, due to virtual learning pivot, the TDSB has decided to take a pause with the change in the math curriculum. The other change to the report cards is that there will only be 1 mark for math and more comments vs. one mark for each math strand (there are 4 to 5 math strands).
3. Presentation of Budget - the budget is in another document.
 - a. The revenue in the budget is "net of expenses".
 - b. The first column is for the 2019-2020 school year and the second column is for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - c. Computer Technology explanation - Julie Kwon explained that last year in the spring when school turned virtual due to Covid, 100 ipads at Dunlace were dispersed to students around the city. So, this year we need 20 ipads with cases (enough for one class). Smart boards are ancient and need to be replaced with 65' Apple TVs and stands. These Apple TVs allow teachers to cast and students can work on IPADS with TV on. 60 Chromebooks were purchased with the school budget but 58 had to be dispersed this year for virtual learning. The school proposes only buying a few Apple TVs to experiment. Nancy Hannah and Kristine Kim, some staff, will teach others how to use it.

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- d. The line on the budget related to Scientist in School Program is a discretionary \$450 per class (11 classes); it includes 4 Je lis online French Reading programs (SK to Grade 4), Financial Literacy online workshop and Speech arts (public speaking) virtual program, for the classes.
 - e. For the music program line on the budget, money has already been spent by Ms. Tai for a Drumming Workshop for Students for the spring.
 - f. The Bovait McDermid Program and Stem Program lines on the budget are other programs that can be delivered online to students. Ms. Hannah mentioned that there is \$25 per student in the budget given to teachers. This includes enough for papers, pencils and other stationary from the TDSB catalogue. The Bovait McDermid program and Stem Program will enrich the educational program.
 - g. Naadia did make a comment expressing the \$2,000 revenue from the donation request letter should not be counted on and we should only spend the money we actually have, the balance from the 2019-2020 budget. Naadia did ask for an explanation regarding the various programs such as the Bovait McDermid Program and Stem Program and whether they can be delivered if virtual learning continues.
 - h. The expenses of \$28,670.00 are coming from the ending book balance of the 2019-2020 school year of \$31,786.31. It is now requested that there not be much left of balance every year; we are trying to spend everything. Furthermore, the total revenue net of expenses in the 2020-2021 budget will be \$2,000 from fundraising letter donations. Hopefully, this email donation request letter will go out to parents in February or March. Naadia asked if a draft of this letter was not done yet, that she could make a draft. It was mentioned by Loveleen Thind that a draft was in the drive. Naadia has requested access to the drive via email to Co-Chairs in order to see a draft and give comments. Loveleen did mention that before a donation request letter is sent out to parents, a draft will need to be approved by executive members of the Parent Council.
4. Approval of Budget- The budget was approved by Loveleen Thind, Manisha Mehta, Parsi Mina, Roger Affonso and Anna Triandafyllidou.
 5. Grade 5 Graduation - Schedule a meeting to review plans for Grade 5 graduation - Anna Triandafyllidou said she sent out a google form to Grade 5 parents (this was before the lockdown). At that time, they thought they could do an outdoor event like a picnic in a park with games. Michael Pan mentioned that there was a deposit given for a reservation at botanical gardens for June 17, 2021. However, if the lockdown continues, we will need to go the online route.
 6. Discussion - Ways for the Dunlace community to connect -
 - a. A Class Parent Rep email went out to parents and there was not much interest. Julie Kwon said that this could be due to the fact that a weekly email is sent out by her, and the teachers send out weekly communications as well to parents.
 - b. Loveleen suggested coffee time chats for parents.
 - c. Kahoot, lunchtime recess games and other games online between students are another way for the Dunlace community to connect.
 - d. Naadia expressed that her kids don't have time to interact with each other during the school day because they have different recess times for the morning and afternoon. She suggested making common recess times for all students. Julie Kwon said this is not

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possible because of the cohort system of different recesses and making new schedules for online learning would be too complicated. They have been told to keep the same schedules as in-person school. Julie Kwon said mental health is more important than academics. If kids need a break and need to get outside or take a break and play with siblings, they should. She suggested if siblings don't have common break times, they should maybe interact during common independent work times as mental health is more important than academics.

7. Other Business - By-Laws - Mati mentioned that the amendments included such topics as council meetings can be done online, through video. In video conferences, voting can be done by show of hands; so that works. Attached is another document explaining this.
8. Closing Remarks - Our next parent council meeting will be held on March 31st at 6:30pm, virtually on Zoom or another video chat program.