

Dufferin Parent Council - Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 6:30pm

Present: Gord McCreary (Chair), Sandra Bonbled, Trisha Simon, Jessica Kennedy, Erica Lapage, Michelle Yull, Daniel Pickersgill, Kathryn Romphf, Becky Holmes, Brandi Dalby, Mike Long, Monika Van't Spyker, Temple Swift, Cathy Costa-Morris, Jen O'Brien, Ashley Swain, Sean Gibbon, Brittany Munro, Ivy McCreary (Student Rep), Catherine Hebert (Recorder)

All Voting Members Present

Recognition of October minutes: Previously circulated and approved via email and posted in the DPC Facebook group

Pizza (moved to first item):

- Discussion of the confusion around pizza dates thus far; highlighting difficulties with School Cash Online (ie: having to add and adjust dates, two refund cycles, etc) and acknowledging that new volunteers and office staff have come on board this year
- With the now up to date pizza dates, there are more days available than last year; however, there has been much discussion in the Facebook group about parents' frustration with the process thus far
 - Confirmation once again that payments must go through School Cash Online as per the Board
 - If DPC members receive feedback in person or via the Facebook group about parents having difficulty with School Cash Online, agreed that the direction will be to encourage them to call the office and speak with Kristin; however, it was noted that Kristin is not in everyday
- Ashley raised the suggestion of offering a complimentary pizza day in light of the difficulties thus far and in hopes of smoother sailing going ahead; discussion of planning it close to the Holiday open house
- Motion by Monika to provide a school pizza party (ie: one party/large enough pizza per class), seconded by Temple and approved; being planned for Friday December 14
- A communication about this additional pizza day is being drafted via email for circulation to parents

Principal's Report:

- Crunch Day happening tomorrow in support of United Way; Dufferin was one of the top contributing schools last year
 - This year, the ukulele club will play and media will be in attendance
- The holiday open house was discussed at the most recent staff meeting and staff will be signing up for activities with just over half the staff confirming participation
 - Discussion around timing for the event with initial suggestion being 6:30-8pm with classroom activities from 6:30-7:30 and then everyone to the gym from 7:30-8pm for a story

- Discussion around timing in relation to families being able to pick up Cinnabon and poinsettia orders at the event and suggestion made to adjust timing of the evening from 6-7:30pm if staff in agreement with starting earlier and, thus, getting out earlier
- Need raised for someone to dress as Santa and someone to read The Night Before Christmas – Gord to don suit, Monika to read

Financial Report:

Current balance: \$5919.08

- Payment for Mindful Movement still not withdrawn
- Some Cinnabon orders and many pizza orders (some right through until June) are already showing as revenue
- The previously approved \$10/student supplement has been accessed by approximately 25% of staff

Teacher's Report:

- Update from Mme. Macaretta re: the Forest of Reading program:
 - The school has been registered for 2018-19 after some technical difficulties and communication with the Library Association
 - 1 set of nominated titles/division has been acquired and Mme. Macaretta in reading them now in preparation (10 grade 6 books, 10 grades 7/8 books)
 - A short presentation for grades 6-8 is being prepared in order to explain the program and elicit interest
 - Once up and running, a full set of books will be required for every 8 participants
 - At present, \$323.86 has been spent on registration and the 20 novels
- Updates from Mme. McGrail:
 - Junior and Intermediate soccer teams made the playoffs but not the finals; much skill and sportsmanship shown by the teams
 - Registration complete to become an eco-certified school and Mmes. McGrail and St-Denis will co-organize the eco club; question of whether or not any parents are interested in helping
 - A survey is forthcoming to determine the scope and scale of the club's efforts
- Note made regarding technical difficulties in completing initial report cards; predominantly having very limited character space for text entry – parents may note missing punctuation (left out in favour of more letters) and/or text boxes that look as though they have much more space for comments; however, on the back end, staff was unable to enter more/fill the space
- Parent teacher interviews taking place November 15 and 16; will continue to use Sign Up Genius in the future and Mme. Bonbled may oversee the whole sign up process next year

- Discussion around logistical difficulties of ensuring optimal access for parents of multiple children to secure coordinated interview times
- Prep teachers available for interviews too and did have sign up tabs online if you scrolled along far enough
- A silent auction for staff, in support of the United Way, was highly successful and a lot of fun – question raised re: the possibility of organizing another event during education week for parents to bid

Student Report:

- High participation in the Halloween door decoration contest
- Holiday ideas are being brainstormed and will be discussed further tomorrow
 - Ivy was asked to inform Student Council about the holiday open house on December 13 and the school pizza party being planned for December 14
 - Flyer re: Cinnabon orders will be created tomorrow
- Discussion around completing a Fill a Bus campaign; Jessica to include information in weekly updates

Fundraising Committee:

- Cathy and Erica will pick up Cinnabon orders December 12-14 and will update if more drivers are needed, Temple and Monika to assist with counting
- Question about Dufferin swag, primarily tote bags as Mme. McGrail has inquired about a storage option for students' indoor shoes
 - Any bags that are left are in the basement; however, quantity unknown
 - Discussion of the house colour system having been discontinued; this year's assemblies have been themed around character traits and multicultural holidays
- Poinsettia fundraiser is coming, information circulated for review
 - Petals & Blooms increasing the school's profit margin and offering grade A/florist plants; \$1240 raised in 2014
 - Poinsettias, mum-settias and a Cyprus gift box will be available for purchase; question raised re: the possibility of obtaining a sample of each to display near the office

Social Committee:

- The band has been booked for the year-end event

Playground Discussion (moved up agenda):

- Temple advised of John Utley and 2 City Councillors having attended the school today and advising that they will speak with, and put (further) pressure on, City engineers about the drainage issue; potential for wood chips to block sewer/drains raised again
 - Advice given to form and prepare a delegation to the Board

- Discussion of the availability of Eco School grants; however, many application deadlines have passed and uncertainty raised whether or not our yard needs would meet eligibility criteria (ie: much focus on outdoor classrooms)
- Scott Bailey from the Board has stated that pavement is the only solution; however, discussion around there having been pavement 20 years ago, then dirt and the drainage issue worsened
 - Discussion around Dufferin being an old school and issues with the playground not being a new fight
- Mme. Bonbled advised of an inspection of indoor and outdoor equipment taking place annually and, if something is deemed in need of repair/replacement, the school has a set amount of time to act with school funds not parent council funds (new mulch/chip was a result of this inspection)
- Discussion around potential new solutions – ie: questioning the ability to move portables, plant trees to drink up more water, “Pride of Place” focus
- Discussion to be brought forward to next month’s meeting; Monika to form a committee to begin preparing a delegation

Communications Committee:

- Mme. Coretti will receive yearbook photos via a dedicated email address, not to be shared widely
- Not many updates being received from staff; however, Mme. Bonbled has been using her agenda to help populate the weekly updates
- Discussion around posts in the Facebook group about community centre events, ie: Holmedale
 - Such posts are being deleted by group admins if they do not directly relate to the school
 - DPC members can report unrelated posts to assist admins in seeing them more easily
- On behalf of Mme. Farrow, concerns raised about snack program
 - The program and funding are more organized now and, while the supplies may appear plentiful, food is ordered to specific student numbers and is intended for solely student consumption
 - Items have gone missing from the fridge and question raised about possibility of discussing same at a staff meeting
 - J. Obrien offered to share information with staff
- Brief discussion of online workspace (Igloo) that was set up and managed by a prior DPC member; question of whether the Communications Committee could/should revitalize it for ongoing use

Policy Committee:

DPC.002 reviewed – cash handling policy/procedure; copy to be kept in the cash box.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday December 12, 2018 at 6:30pm (potluck)