

Dufferin Parent Council - Wednesday October 10, 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, Erica James, Chantal St-Denis, Jeff, Dawn McGrail (on behalf of Jen O'Brien), Cathy Costa-Marris, Francois Milbin, Catherine Hebert (Recorder)

Voting Members Present: Gord McCreary, Trisha Simon, Jessica Kennedy, Erica Lapage, Daniel Pickersgill, Kathryn Romphf, Becky Holmes, Mike Long, Monika Van't Spyker, Temple Swift, Cathy Costa-Morris, Catherine Hebert

Voting Member and Rep Regrets: Ashley Swain, Sean Gibbon, Jen O'Brien

Recognition of September minutes: Minutes circulated via email and approved in meeting

Principal's Report:

- The Mindful Movement program has started. Each class to receive 5 sessions at a cost of \$6/student, with overall cost being offset by \$2000 donated by DPC. The evening sessions for family that were offered last year were covered by a grant and, as such, have been discontinued for this year.
- The Labours of Love document that was posted on the DPC Facebook group has been removed at the request of some staff from a comfort and privacy standpoint. Moving forward, Mme. Bonbled and J. Kennedy to maintain communication about upcoming clubs/sports for inclusion in the weekly update/messenger blast. J. Kennedy has requested that staff share their upcoming dates/information with her and food dates/deadlines will also be included in the communications. Comment made about sports, especially upcoming offerings, being of high interest and J. Kennedy shared plan to include information about proposed months of activities even if exact dates not yet known.
- Discussion of EQAO results (please see report in attachments for breakdown of results for Dufferin, Grand Erie and the province).
 - Overall trends noted: Dufferin is scoring well in reading and writing, with older students being well prepared to move onto high school, and progress is being seen in math. Discussion and question at what this year's results might show with new English curriculum and math instruction occurring in English. Mme. Bonbled provided context around typical results being for grade 3s to score better than the 6s in math; however, our results are opposite which leads to questioning of whether it is a linguistic issue rather than conceptual. The recent PD Day was focused on the fundamentals of math, a Board task for junior and intermediate divisions. EQAO math results being used to determine where kids are at in order to plan for how to remediate students who are still behind in mental math and number sense by grade 3 (ie: still more reliant on counting than multiplication). Discussion around the typical ability to compare the same kids across grade 3 and 6 results; however, this not being possible for last year's 6s as they were the 3s during 2014-15 work to rule.

- 2018-19 EQAO – Breakfast to be offered again and only one test to be administered per day.

Financial Report:

Current balance: \$4105.77

- \$10000 to match schoolyard enhancement grant has already been withdrawn
- \$2000 for Mindful Movement has not yet been withdrawn

Discussion around account set up with multiple sub accounts in the past (ie: fundraising, Yuk Yuks lottery) which necessitated transferring of funds between sub accounts as needed. Account has now been streamlined with all funds sitting in the general account and suggestion from Mme. Bonbled to close all sub accounts except the lottery account which must remain separate as per the City.

Question around the ability to export account activity to Excel in order to report and minute actual amounts raised by each fundraising campaign.

Discussion around money reconciliation processes if you are volunteering at an event involving cash. Temple requested that, if the volunteer has time, the funds be counted and tallied by type of money (ie: # of loonies, toonies, etc), placed in an envelope labelled DPC and locked in the safe. If short on time, the money at very least needs to be placed in the labelled envelope and locked in the safe for counting at a later time. Suggestion raised around the value of developing a policy for money handling by DPC volunteers.

No further communication about schoolyard enhancement despite multiple emails by Mme. Bonbled. Primary issue at this time continues to be the need for a drainage solution prior to embarking on any enhancement.

Teacher's Report (Dawn McGrail, on behalf of Jen O'Brien):

- Appreciation extended from staff for the increase from \$6 to \$10/student for enhancement of educational experience or to promote parental engagement
- M. Zylstra overseeing multiple sports: soccer in process, baseball and slo-pitch have ended
- Mme. Gorecki took students to cross country relays last week and individual races to occur October 11; CAGE event on October 30th for the top 10 runners in the area (including Haldimand Norfolk)
- \$1235.41 raised for the Terry Fox run, overseen by Mme. Gorecki and Mme. Guy
- Ukulele to start soon with Mme. Coretti and Mme. Gorecki; grade 3s to be invited at a later time
- Mme. Simmonds to oversee the "ed tech crew" – 10 students between grades 4-8 (primarily grades 5-7) who will be trained by the Board to be "on-call" tech support for teachers

- Orange Shirt Day assembly brought up questions of how to seat students; did not sit in Maisons and, with the departure of Mme. Soules, Maisons may in fact be discontinued
- No new Student Council rep to replace Mme. McGrail yet
- Staff continuing to adjust to recent staff departures and arrivals
- Request made for an update at next meeting regarding the Forest of Reading program which was approved last year

Community Report (Erica James):

- City Council elections taking place October 22
- After school and evening programming at the Boys and Girls Club, with bus pick up points to transport kids to program, for \$33/year. For more information, can call 519-752-2964

Social Committee:

- Holiday open house discussed at last month's meeting has been proposed to staff by Mme. Bonbled with favourable response; however, requests that it not occur the last week before winter break
 - Proposed date for evening event: Thursday December 13
 - Proposed ideas: activities in classrooms that children and caregivers may partake in together, choir/uke performance, hot chocolate, stories or a movie, use of a passport and stamps to visit multiple rooms and be entered in a draw
- Year-end event confirmed for June 6 with wild west theme; Temple finalizing the contract for a live band at \$500. Motion by Temple for an overall budget of \$1000, seconded and approved with 9 in favour.
- Meet the Teacher raised approximately \$976 minus the cost of pizza (\$690.98)
- Fill a Bus campaign very successful and quick; 232 lbs of food donated to the food bank just before Thanksgiving and the school now owns the buses, which may be used for other drives

Fundraising Committee:

- Cinnabon campaign – Cathy planning to circulate information in the next week
 - Payment options to include cash online, cheque and cash; each class will have an envelope for submitted forms and payments
 - Prices have increased to \$15.99/9 buns but our price is \$12; 6 week lead time to order
 - Pickups being planned for December 12-14 with the evening open house as an option to facilitate some pick ups
- Pizza days and order deadlines are being posted in the weekly updates
- Poinsettia (red and white) and pine/Cyprus tree sales are being planned with the same florist as 2014, more details yet to come, pickups to occur at open house

Communication Committee:

- Weekly updates in process – being posted in Facebook group and emailed out via messenger; request from J. Kennedy to send her info/dates for any events you wish to have included
- Communication to be prepared by J. Kennedy to explain the option and process of making donations via Cash Online (ie: donations to support the snack program, “help a friend” go on a class trip, etc); under Donations tab, select “donate to Board” (Board redirects donations to schools each month) and use the comment section to state what you are donating to

Policy Committee:

Discussion and review of DPC.001 Dufferin Parent Council (DPC) Social Media Policy, which was circulated via email prior to the meeting. Discussion of some potential changes that could be made to the wording of Regulation 6; however, otherwise, the policy will be posted in the DPC Facebook group and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Going forward, terms of reference/expectations may be created for each DPC subcommittee.

Open Floor:

Question raised about the possibility of already purchased and/or expired items to be removed from School Cash Online.

Reminder of the upcoming Council elections on October 22; advance polls open until October 13 but online voter lists based on 2014 MPAC data

Parental consultation has opened regarding health curriculum and can be found online; Phase 1 at present to provide open ended feedback; future phase(s) to be survey-based

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 6:30pm