

Dufferin Parent Council - Wednesday September 18, 2019 at 6:30pm

Present: Gord McCreary (Chair), Sandra Bonbled, Jen O'Brien, Trisha Simon, Erica Lapage, Jon Lapage, Michelle Yull, Daniel Pickersgill, Kathryn Romphf, Becky Holmes, Mike Long, Temple Swift, Cathy Costa-Morris, Ashely Swain, Natalie Walker, Lauren McDonald, Farzana Kausar, Catherine Hebert (Recorder)

Voting Members Present: Gord McCreary, Trisha Simon, Erica Lapage, Daniel Pickersgill, Kathryn Romphf, Becky Holmes, Mike Long, Temple Swift, Cathy Costa-Morris, Catherine Hebert

Voting Member and Rep Regrets: None noted

15 Voting Member Selection Process:

- 11 members identified in meeting, with 4 vacancies to be filled
 - Gord McCreary
 - Trisha Simon
 - Erica Lapage
 - Michelle Yull
 - Daniel Pickersgill
 - Kathryn Romphf
 - Mike Long
 - Cathy Costa-Morris
 - Ashely Swain
 - Lauren McDonald
 - Catherine Hebert
- 12th voting member identified via email with G. McCreary – ShyloLynn Lyle – 3 vacancies remaining

Chair / Vice Chair / Secretary Selection Process:

- Chair – G. McCreary selected with 8 votes in favour
- Vice Chair – T. Simon selected with 7 votes in favour
- Secretary – no volunteer came forward in tonight's meeting; position vacant at present

Committee Identification and Sign-Up Process:

- Fundraising – C. Costa-Morris and E. Lapage will co-chair
- Policies – T. Simon to chair
- Pizza – A. Swain to chair
- Teacher's Lunch – K. Rompf to chair
- Social – vacant
- Communications – vacant

Principal's Report:

- Discussion around the first day of school having gone very smoothly with last year's new class visits being seemingly helpful
- Much hiring was done over the summer and will be continuing as a 0.5 prep teacher (Mme. Kaur) will be leaving for a full-time kindergarten position; M. Singh will be filling in and is familiar to many students; the position has been posted and closes this Friday
- Discussion around end-of-day dismissal protocol:
 - All students go to back recess area whether bused, picked up or walking; if pick up does not occur on time, the student will be brought inside and attempts made to reach their caregiver contacts
 - Some requests have been made for later pick up arrangements within the context of the YMCA after school program being full and the Boys & Girls Club bus no longer picking up at Dufferin; however, these requests will not be accommodated on a regular basis
- Discussion of EQAO results:
 - Last year was the first year where math was tested in the same language it was taught in (English); a gradual increase is being noted in grade 3 math scores while a gradual decline has been noted in grade 6 math but scores remain above the Board
 - Grade 3s scored:
 - 90% reading
 - 86% writing
 - 74% math
 - Grade 6s scored:
 - 96% reading
 - 93% writing
 - 67% math (last 4 years of scores have been 79, 72, 69, 67)
 - Query around these scores reflecting a lack of manipulatives in junior grades, impacting transition from concrete to conceptual math
- Increased cleanliness of the school noted within the context of outdoor paving and removal of wood chips
 - Painting/design is pending (one example: an image depiction of Kelso choices for students to select better choices from) with the cost being split by the school and the Board
 - The Board will be purchasing new, safe soccer nets as well
 - The \$10000 previously put forward by DPC to match a schoolyard enhancement grant has been returned in full, with none of it being used for the paving
- The new health curriculum is rolling out and teachers will be sending home content outlines and exemption letters
- CUPE who represents EAs, secretaries, custodians, support staff and others has voted in favour of striking with Work to Rule action expected by the end of the month

- Multiple staff union contracts are up for negotiation this year with the teachers' strike vote expected in mid-October
- Mindful Movement to be facilitated by Bhava Tree again
 - DPC has provided financial support in the past and this will be considered again once the cost is known
 - On September 24, a motion was initiated by G. McCreary via email proposing that DPC pay the full cost of \$3875.00
 - The motion was APPROVED via email

Financial Report:

Current balance: \$7524.89

- This does not include the returned \$10000

Teacher's Report:

- Ukulele club – the club will be attending a fundraising event in St. George on October 26 in support of a ukulele-related trip to Ecuador being planned by Mmes. Gorecki and Rochette
- Confirmation that the \$10/student fund remains in perpetuity
- Library revamping is pending with J. O'Brien overseeing technology (in need of a new partner now that Mme. Kaur is leaving)
 - The library will be transitioning into a learning commons and a computer lab will be set up downstairs; once things are up and running, the plan is to train teaching staff to utilize these two spaces with their classes

Social Committee Update – Meet the Teacher:

- \$794 was made by the event with the total profit being \$335.51 plus a \$25 IOU from S. Bonbled
- There were 61 pizzas ordered (38 pepperoni, 18 cheese, 5 gluten free) and approximately 15 were leftover (including 4 gluten free)
 - Suggestion made by T. Swift to reduce the pizza order next year, ie: 30 pepperoni and 15 cheese

Open Floor:

- Brief suggestion that once a communications committee is established, perhaps they might take the lead on determining a communication method for voting members
 - On the request of G. McCreary, B. Holmes indicated she would be willing to provide further instruction on One Note

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 6:30pm (October meeting CANCELLED)