

September 23, 2014 SAC Meeting

6:30-8:00 pm

Attendees:

Beverly O'Brien (P), Georgia Koziol(VP), John Kyriazis(VP), Joy Lachica (teacher), Melissa James (Model Schools CSW), David Darling, Sara Tropea, Claudia Filici-McMullan, Nicola Rudzik, Jennifer Rozon, Laurie Barnett, Lisa Lebeer, Aron McGrath, Louise Rossi-Chan, Victor Giourgas, Trent Smith, Katrina Lotho, Rosalie Fine, Melissa McKay, Cameron Lille, Sarah Phipps, Liz Lundy, JoAnne Gould, Kelly Askew, Margaret John, Julie Roebbotham, Shawn Pinto, Iolani Lee, Judee-Faith Mallari, Erik Lepik, Kimberly McArvey, Eilleen Buchholtz, Jann Segal, Teresita Link, Angie Holstein, Jim Valentine, Angie Law, Lisa Curran-Lehman, Tracey Arsenault, Belinda Forrest, Ellie Arscott, David Watt, Julia Purdy, Sara Gray, Nicola Mansworth, Suzanne Krupchya, Tammy Sisco

6:37 call to order by Chair Victor Giourgas

Introduction of New SAC executive (by election organizer Julia Purdy)

This year there are no nominees accepted on the floor due to the fact that nominations must be available for 10 days prior to the election. There was only one person nominated for each position, therefore the following people have been acclaimed to their positions:

Chair - Victor Giourgas

Vice Chair (fundraising) - Aron McGrath

Secretary - Sara Tropea

Treasurer - Louise Rossi-Chan

Ward Representative - David Darling

Model Schools Representative - Jennifer Gibson

Parent Representatives - Eilleen Buchholtz, Kimberly McQuay, Joanne Gould

Treasurer's Report (by Louise Rossi-Chan)

- final financial statement submitted to the board (copy available to anyone who wants to see)
- at end of 2012-2013 school year \$ 6,300 remained to be spent
- \$22,400 raised by SAC over course of 2013-2014 school year
- \$24,250 disbursed over 2013-2014 school year
- a call is out for proposals for how to spend money raised in the 2014-2015 school year

Principal's Report (by Principal Beverly O'Brien, with comments from Georgia Koziol and John Kyriazis)

1. Staffing

- a successful start to the school year
- 781 students currently enrolled
- 43 teachers / a total of 78 people on staff

- full day kindergarten has brought in a lot more staff and many new logistical issues, but everything is working well so far
- projected student enrollment is 757, but we are currently at 781. We didn't get any new staff but as part of our realignment but some classes have been realigned. The grade one classes were over the ministry cap, so there was some changes to those classes
- a new full time secretary is being hired by the end of October
- introduction to Melissa James (new model schools CSW), she is interested hearing from parents for ideas for community programs/activities we would like to see, she will be updating the community board at the front of the school (near kindergarten classroom) on a regular basis with programs that are available. She can be contacted at melissa.james@tdsb.on.cs

2. **Extracurriculars**

- introduction of Joy Lachica (teacher of grade 7/8), a great thank you to the SAC for the ways they support the learning taking place at our school. Ms. Lachica is the lead teacher for our school's Positive Space Room (room 209). It is a well used space by students and by teachers when they are doing equity activities. Students from grade 5-8 are able to be in the room during the lunch hour. A big thank you for all items donated by our school community. The equity meetings are monthly, well attended by students, student driven, and parents are welcome to attend. Last year the equity committee raised 3 000 to provide relief aid for the Philippines.
- Caring and Safe Committee is spearheaded by Mr. Kyriazis (involves parents, students, teachers, administration). Meetings will be starting next week, parental involvement is welcome
- picture day will be September 29
- Chess Club will be starting soon, demand is still be assessed for Mad Science, Robotics team is up and running for grade 5-7 students, Lego club details still to be announced

3. **Facilities**

- a review of the construction to prepare for full day kindergarten, toilets in the French immersion kindergarten classes will be working soon
- 2 new toilets in the cafeteria will be working soon
- foundation work will be done in the Woodfield Building (hopefully done next summer)
- railing is being replaced in the pool, should not impact swimming lessons
- buzzer system is required to be compliant with ministry, it is logistically difficult due to multiple uses of the building. It should be in place in October. This means the doors will be locked from approximately 9-3:10, you will need to buzz to enter the building. Duke families will be notified before this program is active

- to deal with dog feces in playground the students will make signs and post them to remind people of the rules regarding no dogs on school grounds. They are exploring the idea of locking the kindergarten play area outside of school hours to stop them from using it as an off leash area
- an expansion is planned for the current kindergarten area located at north of school, Duke is on the waitlist for the building of this area
- two new bike racks will be installed in the near future

4. **Budget**

- \$135 000 is the school budget, but it might go up when final numbers are calculated
- we will also get an approximately \$20 000 from our role as a Model School
- spending will be aligned with School Plan for Continuous Improvement, and Board-School Improvement Plan
- the fun fair is being held when SH Armstrong is closed which means the payment of caretakers will have to come out of the school budget and might impact future activities outside regular school hours (ie. Santa's Breakfast). This is something the SAC should consider when planning future events.

5. **Academics**

- application for early entry FI will be happening earlier this year than in the past it is important that parents are aware of the dates and have applications submitted on time
- early admission FI information evening will be November 26 (6-7) - applications for the program are due November 5, extended French information evening January 21
- Duke has been rated a Platinum Eco School
- a mental health initiative is rolling out at our school (spearheaded by the TDSB Director Donna Quan), our school will be sharing strategies to help students who are struggling with anxiety

- **EQAO**

- a review of the meaning of EQAO (note: school/province/board results are available on the EQAO website)
- it is just one part of the overall understanding of student achievement

Plan for Improvement:

- embedded professional development for teachers will be part of the school budget. PD will be provided by administration and will be focused on the gaps that are evident in EQAO results.
- English read up program will continue (weekly on Thursdays), French read up will begin soon (every other week on Tuesday)
- teachers are being accountable to ensure kids are doing guided reading
- an all school data wall to track student progress related to reading

- number sense and measurement were the biggest gaps for the grade 3 students (these types of questions are layered and require stronger reading skills)
- teachers are participating in professional discussions/book club related to reading and math
- teachers engaging in moderated marking (team marking) to ensure they have common expectations/standards
- math lessons are being delivered in a 3 part lesson (involves thinking and talking about the math)

Discussion related to EQAO

- parent asked if there are efforts being made to embed skills within the classroom rather than simply asking students to join in extracurricular activities like read up
 - Ms. O'Brien will review ways learning is happening in class at a future SAC meeting
- Dave W. asked how they will know if we are on a positive track for better results in the future (how can students misfire every time the testing takes place)
 - Ms. O'Brien responded that she thinks students are responding well to the changes, but these changes are not reflected in EQAO results
 - Sara T. said she feels positive about the professional development that is happening
 - Joy L. outlined the positive attitudes among teachers and hardworking staff at the school
- a parent expressed concern about what this means for our students when they go to high school, that these results should not be a shock when the results come in
 - Ms. O'Brien responded that this is something our school is planning to do, but it is something that they will work towards in the future. They will track our students when they go on to Riverdale
- Liz L. said the attitude among the staff is very positive, parents need to take more responsibility for supporting their child's reading
- Nikki R. and Julia P. worried about how evaluation is happening on the daily basis in the classroom (kids with A+ should not get a level of 2 on EQAO)
 - CAT 4 data should be going home in January
- a meeting will take place in the near future so Ms. O'Brien can review what is happening related to reading/writing/mathematics learning at the Duke

Sub-Committee Update (introduced by Aron)

- please sign up for any committee you are interested in: Santa's Breakfast, Fun Fair, Academics, Athletics, Safe and Caring School, Equity, Adult Social, Family Night, and People interested in volunteering at events but not joining a sub-committee

Other Business

- Joy Lachica introduced Jane Farrow, a candidate for city council in Ward 30
- Janna S. raised concerns that the back field was not available for students during the lunch hour. Mr. Kyriazis responded that it is a supervision issue and their simply isn't enough supervision to watch both sides of the school at this time.

8:25 Meeting is concluded