

SAC Meeting February 24, 2015

Attendees: Jo-Anne Gould, David Darling, Ellie Arscott, Eileen Bucholtz, Sara Tropea, Victor Giourgas, Rosalie Taylor, Niki Rudzik, Suzanne Krupchya, Shawn Pinto, Tracey Arsenault, Liz Lundy,

TDSB Staff: Beverly O'Brien, John Kyriazis, Georgia Kozoil, Mr. Liu

Regrets: Louise Rossi-Chan

Pre Meeting:

- Ms. O'Brien would like to add padding on the walls of the Woodfield Gym - she hopes it could be a cost share between the school and the SAC (splitting the total of 6700\$)
- the ECO team has asked for seeds to start the planting in "the pit" the cost to SAC would be 300\$
- there is a french camp that will run at Duke this summer
- there is a new format for the Spring Concert (kindie/primary/intermediate/junior) all in one night with an intermission between each part, more details to follow

Meeting:

Treasurer's Report (presented by Victor Giourgas)

- \$21,565 has been raised to date and \$8,726 has been spent
- there is \$12, 800 to spend and this will increase after Duke Disco this weekend. Our Fundraising Plan shows we are hoping to disburse another \$19,440 to cover the wish list items for this year.
- the SAC Fundraising Plan is available on the SAC website, and is also posted in hard copy on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Community Events (presented by Melissa James, TDSB Community Support Worker)

- March 28, 8am-2pm Special Education conference at Earl Haig Secondary School (details to follow in attachment)
- Parks and Rec registration March 11. There are subsidies for low income families
- Parent Academy Conference theme "Education, Empowerment, Employment" will be parent run workshops. April 18, registration has begun
- Embrace Autism parent support Group at George Webster Elementary School, Tuesday March 3, 9:30-11:30
- Choices Program for parents of TDSB students takes place at George Brown College (designed to support parents coming up with plans for own future)
- Shamrocks and Sneakers 4 km run/walk in Cabbagetown, registration day of the event

Principal's Report (Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Kozoil, Mr. Kyriazis)

Academics

- we have a new interim superintendent named Elizabeth Addo. The previous superintendent Ms. Branco has been seconded to a new position in the board
- Danish delegation will be coming back to the school 2 more times
- teachers have been doing some professional discussion to ensure the teachers are planning together and evaluating together for grade units
 - teachers have always worked with a common curriculum, but there is emphasis on moderated marking and consistency among grade levels

- Niki R. raised concerns about the frequent teacher absences and supply teachers as a result of the PLC
- grade 3 and 6 teachers are meeting to plan for upcoming EQAO test
 - students have historically written parts of past tests to prepare and relieve anxiety, this will be done again for half a day, and teachers will be selecting appropriate sections from past tests to prepare.
 - students who receive accommodations will have appropriate supports to prepare for the test
 - more details will be forthcoming as the date is selected and plans for students in split classes are made
- Sylvan Gagnon (French Instructional lead at the board) is coming to speak to the FI teachers regarding evaluation procedures
- "Math for Young Children" workshop - one grade 2 immersion and one grade 1 english teacher have been a part of this learning and are sharing their learning with the rest of the staff on best practices in math learning
- Chester PS is the home school for summer school for Duke students (gr 1 - 8)
 - this summer school opportunity is only in english and is focused on literacy and numeracy, but French immersion families can still send their children
 - they are picked up by bus at Duke
 - it is 3 weeks long (9am-12pm)
 - contact georgia.kozoil@tdsb.ca if you are interested in an application
- Duke won an award titled "Learning for a Sustainable Future", based on the work of Ms. Lachica's class - prize is 2000\$
- Ms. Lachica's class (along with 2 others) is also involved in a MArS project on social innovation using technology
- February 25 is Black History Month Assembly
- teachers have shared the results of their report cards and compared against "at risk" students on data wall to ensure no students are falling through the cracks
- **Facilities**
 - in August there will be repair work on the railing of the pool
 - in August there will be repair work on the retaining wall near the Woodfield building
 - the Danny Kitchen has been treated for bugs and has been cleaned by staff
 - snow removal is a challenge in the parking lot, but snow piles on the handicapped parking spots has been removed
 - the Kinde storage bin has been dropped off and has chalkboards on both sides for the kids to use
 - the school has received 3 new photocopiers

Staffing

- staffing numbers won't be available until March
- our school's numbers are up, and it is projected that we will have 3 new classes next year
- there are a total of 12 lunchroom supervisors, they will be purchasing more equipment for use during inclement weather

Extracurricular

- "Make It" fair will be June 18
- MLSE is providing 10 skates/helmets/jerseys, and a set of indoor floor hockey equipment
There are taking 30 kids to participate in a learn to skate initiative (likely for grades 7/8)

- a positive climate survey was completed last year (in school by junior students), this year it will be done by 7/8 students - it will be completed by May. Parents of grade 7/8 students will also be asked to complete the survey
- March 5 is the HPV clinic for grade 8 girls (the second dose)
- grad picture retakes will take place in April
- Camp Wahanowhin will be an end of year trip for grade 7/8 students, likely 70 students will participate. They will go for 3 days and 2 nights, some costs have been deferred by SAC contributions. The cost is approximately 300\$ per student
- lates and absence letters have been sent home for all students with concerning numbers of absences or lates, please remember to call in for excused absences. The threshold was 5 absences and 10 lates in the last reporting period
 - if you have 15 days consecutive absence for an optional attendance program (ie. language), you might be asked to write a re-entry exam rejoin the program
- there is a plan to purchase equipment for use by students during inclement weather, the lost and found will be cleaned and used for kids on cold weather days
- May 7 will be the spring concert (the entire school will perform 3 separate concerts with an intermission between each) More details will be forthcoming
- Ms. Oliveria is looking for a parent volunteer to coach the junior badminton team
- staff is looking for pots/pans/cutlery/plates for use in the Danny kitchen to use with their classes. If you have any donations please bring them to the office
 - Liz Lundy has experience in this area at her school (Ossington Old Orchard PS) and has offered to provide some support to setting up the program

Other Business

Ellie Arscott "Make It Fair"

- a similar fair was held at Bowmore School last spring, it will happen at Duke this year on June 18
- designed to showcase the things being made by members of our community
- for tech enthusiasts, crafters, artists, musicians etc. goal is to inspire others to make things
- if you would like to volunteer or would like more information contact:
dukemakeitfair@gmail.com
- it will use the Woodfield Gym and the back track for a bike fair, there might also be a skateboard demonstration