

SAC Meeting

January 27, 2015

Attendees: Beverly O'Brien, Georgia Kozoil, Louise Rossi-Chan, Victor Giourgas, Eileen Bucholtz, Sara Tropea, Aron McGrath, Shawn Pinto, David Darling, Rosalie fine, Jo Anne Could, Keith Gould, Desiree Williams, Elena Sanjuan, Nikki Rudzik, Ellie Arscott, Laurie Barnett,

PreMeeting with SAC Executive and School Administration

Ms. O'Brien:

- there will not be opportunities for a school partnership to form, trustee Sheila Cary Meagher has sent a note and requested a meeting to discuss
- the daycare has agreed to share the small playground in the front of the school with the FDK classes
- the City of Toronto and TDSB share the SH Gym and the pool - Beverly is working on a deal to formalize the agreement with them

General Meeting

Treasurer's Report (Louise)

- updated fundraising plan available on website and on the SAC bulletin board
- 20,570\$ has been raised so far this year
- 22,000\$ is left to disburse
- the Dance-a-thon and the Adult Social are two major remaining fundraisers

Principal's Report

Academic Review

- report cards will be distributed February 10, interviews the evening of Feb 12 and morning of Feb 13
- IEP's are being updated and will come home with the report cards
- PD day on Feb 13
- there has been a great deal of "in house" professional development for teachers, and work with model schools coach
- other schools have been coming to Duke to see the best practices (such as literature circles)
- Grade 1 students are using LLI (literacy intervention kits for english students) to ensure all kids are at a DRA level 16 by the end of Grade 1
- french immersion students are now receiving speaking and listening grades on their report cards (this was formally reported as a single "oral" grade)
- we now have "tutors in the classroom" program - full time a college/university student is coming into the school to spend 3 hours supporting english kindergarden students
- the TDSB has a mental health strategy. In our school we have the Positive Space Room (received a 2,000\$ grant to support mental health and the room)
- our school will hold a Mental Health carousel - where people could come in to the school and help support students in healthy practices (likely in May)
- our school received a MLSE grant - 30 kids will learn to skate, 10 free pairs of skates/helmets and jerseys
- applications for optional secondary school attendance deadline January 30 (notification of acceptance February 27)
- open houses for High schools are posted online

- we will be participating in the Early Development Indicies, data on kindergarten students is collected this information is shared with the Ministry of Education
- a letter was sent home today to all Duke families regarding the death of a student in the Woodfield Daycare
- the Woodfield Daycare sent a letter home under direction of the Public Health, Ms. O'Brien's letter was sent home in response to parent questions/media attention
- Public Health has provided assurances that there is no significant danger to students at our school
- the school staff and the SAC have reached out the family and are providing a gift card for meals

Staffing

- Mme Souaid is on maternity leave and there is an LTO
- Sarah Curtis is moving and a LTO is being hired
- Mr. Dharkour is on an extended health leave (a teacher has been hired)
- the staffing committee will begin again right after March Break - the SAC can have a member who sits on the committee

Extracurricular

- Duke participated in the cardboard boat race at Swansea Pool today
- student leaders are planning activities for the Chinese New Year and Black History Month
- February 27 is the next recognition assembly
- April Reimer came in to do a cyberbullying workshop for grade 6-8 students
- Toronto Police came in to the school to do workshops with students
- students in grade 7/8 created skits to demonstrate healthy relationships and presented to all students in the school in the healthy space room
- TPS coming in to do a presentation with grade 8 students on domestic violence, this will take place during their health unit
- the music program will be participating in "Pan Fest" playing the steel pans
- gamers club has started up again and has expanded to grade 3 students

Facilities

- Duke's roof is being measured for solar panels, they will let us know if we are a candidate for this project
- there was a meeting to discuss the shared space for the Kindergarten / daycare area, there is also a plan to make "the pit" space beside the Woodfield building a viable learning area
 - next steps include getting the plan for these spaces approved
- industrial dishwasher with sterilizer being installed in the cafeteria
- Ms. O'Brien will keep working on finding appropriate quotes for the sound system for the gym
- the parking lot is still a safety hazard, school administration is working with the daycare to make sure they are using their daycare parking spot on Woodfield Rd rather than using the parking lot

Community Liaison (Melissa James)

- the most recent community even was STEM focussed on how parents can support what their students are learning at school
- February is family fun and fitness month (3:45-5:30) on Tuesdays at Monarch Park for the month of February

Adult Social (Aron McGrath)

- will take place on February 28
- 15\$ to pre-purchase tickets, order forms will come home shortly

Ward Update (David Darling)

- at the last ward meeting there was discussion related to how to get more parents involved in the SAC (some ideas included webcasting the meetings, and perhaps making some meetings more event-like or specific speakers)
- people should read the Wilson report as it has some significant impacts for our board
- there is still the opportunity to include written feedback on the Wilson report, if you would like your voice heard, send a note to the SAC email and David will include it in his deputization

Next meeting: February 24