

## Dufferin Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6:30pm on Teams

**Present:** Gord McCreary, Andrea Smith, Alanna Haughton, Daniel Pickersgill, Lauren McDonald, Michelle Yull, Mike Long, Monika Van't Spyker, Natalie Walker, Farzana Kausar, Erica Lapage, Rachael Kruger, Catherine Hébert, Carling Mitchell, Kathryn Romphf, Chad & Alyssa Cromwell, Hira S

**Regrets:** Stephanie Morris, Brittany Cole

**Land Acknowledgement:** *Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.*

### Outline of the First Meeting of 2022/2023

Gord presented the procedures and expectations around voting members, executive council, meeting commitments, subcommittees, and representatives.

### Selection Process

**Voting Members:** determined virtually through Teams "hand raise" – noted through highlight on the meeting attendance. Total: 12

### Executive Members for 2022/2023

- **Secretary:** Erica Lapage & Alanna Haughton to tag team
- **Chair:** Gord McCreary
- **Vice-Chair:** Monika Van't Spyker

### Fundraising Committee

- **Chairs:** Carling Mitchell and Rachael Kruger
- **Members:** Natalie Walker and Erica Lapage

### Pizza Committee

- **Chair:** [Temporary] Monika Van't Spyker
- **Members:** Carling Mitchell, Stephanie Morris and Monika Van't Spyker

### Teacher Recognition Committee

- **Chair:** Lauren McDonald
- **Member:** Erica Lapage

**Notes:** October 5<sup>th</sup> is World Teacher Day, traditionally there was been some recognition or gesture the week before Christmas break, and recognition throughout Education Week in May (first week) with a lunch on Friday

## Policy and Procedure Committee

Noted that we might not have a need to continue this committee. Information regarding Grand Erie's policies and procedures, including the upcoming review dates of each can be found here:

<https://granderie.ca/board/about/bylaws-policies-procedures-protocols/procedures>

## Social Committee

- **Chair:** Carling Mitchell
- **Members:** Monika Van't Spyker and Rachael Kruger

## Communication Committee

- **Chair:** Catherine Hébert

## Moving Forward: Meetings

It was discussed whether we host in-person, virtual, or hybrid meetings as we move forward. It was unanimous that we continue virtually as it lends itself to family scheduling, eases the minds of members regarding larger indoor crowds, and might be more successful as we continue to grow in membership. Accessibility for families is a priority.

## Principal Report

- Back in school, full throttle! Hooray! The plans remain to stay in person which provides normalcy, extra-curriculars, activities and events;
  - Baseball, cross-country, and soccer are already moving forward;
- Kindergarten team is excited to continue fundraising for the Kinder Shed.
  - They'll be starting a school wide popcorn fundraiser next week
- Mme Guy's class will be taking on the Recycling job for the school;
- Terry Fox Run – September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon (communication went out via SchoolMessenger);
- Photo Day – September 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Class composites will be used as they're more inclusive and they're more time efficient
- YMCA before and after program has struggled with staffing;
  - Hopefully will be ready for September 26<sup>th</sup> with a creative GEDSB HR staffing initiative that will be offered to EAs and DECEs
- Orange Shirt Day – September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Grand Erie has a partnership with Woodland Cultural Centre to provide virtual presentations during Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 26-30);
- Trips are back – several requests have already been submitted (e.g. Brantwood Farms, Norfolk County Fair, Intermediate Trip);
- Snack Program – Mme. Farrow and Mme. Hébert have the snack program underway;
  - The school community is applauding that initiative and the work that goes into it;
  - Lots of healthy snack options, many opportunities for students to engage;
  - Dufferin has obtained a grant for an upright freezer which will be ordered soon.
- COVID Restriction Update - we're not operating under COVID restrictions at all anymore;

- The expectation is that if you're not feeling well then stay home however there isn't a mandatory isolation anymore
- Recommendations include the Ontario Screening Tool and the understanding that if you test positive it is recommended that you wear a mask for 10 days following
- It is acknowledged that shift in easing restrictions will be unsettling to some families but we'll all do our best in continue to encourage staff and students to stay home when they're feeling ill and/or symptomatic to avoid the spread;
- We're currently sitting at around 290 students – traditionally DPC allocates \$10 per student for education and engagement purposes (school trips, resources for class, etc.) and will continue to do so (note in Financial Report on this);
- Moving forward and looking towards great things for the 2022/2023 school year!

### Financial Report

**Current Balance:** \$7085.96 (includes \$461.25 for pizza orders)

**Note:** We will earmark \$2900.00 for the \$10 per student initiative offered annually by DPC.

**Yuk Yuk's/Lottery Fund:** \$13.22

**Note:** Discussion about closing this account and/or obtaining a lottery license again. The issue seems to be around how the funds are spent as a lottery fund.

### Teacher Report: Alanna Haughton

- Back to school has been a positive experience;
- Tech Space - Mme. Haughton, Mme. Simmonds, and Mme. Smith have been working to create a 'tech' space for students in an empty classroom near the library;
  - Library Learning Commons has combined the primary hands-on, exploratory Makerspace, as well as the traditional books, and the new space will have more opportunities for junior and intermediate for coding, technology, inquiry, etc.

### Meet the Staff Scavenger Hunt Event: Thursday, September 22, 2022

- Event will run from 5:30-7:00pm at the school;
- Pizza (organized by DPC) and popsicles (from the kindergarten team) will be available for purchase;
- DPC volunteer shirts will be ready to wear
  - Brantford Apparel can provide t-shirts for \$10+HST which will be purchased through Parent Council. Carling and Monika will put in a generic order (3 small, 6 medium, 6 large, 5 extra large) and then re-purchase as needed. They will be distributed to volunteers with the expectation that they wear them for volunteering purposes. Once received, it is yours to keep (as a thank you for your service!)
- Pizza for purchase will be cash only
  - **Action Required:** Monika will talk to Melanie Banner about the float and storage of money that evening.
- Volunteers to help include Daniel Pickersgill and Gord McCreary.

## Open Floor Discussion

**Monika:** School Cash Online – is there a 4% increase?

- The company that runs School Cash Online (KEV Group) charges the board a transaction fee which has now been downloaded to the schools;
- There is a formula that remains unclear however there will be a fee attached to the consumer -- e.g. a slice of pizza, set by DPC, is currently \$2.50 - we'll be losing 4% on that sale. The question is; do we need to increase the cost of pizza to \$2.60 or do we take a loss?
- Messaging from the board is that cash is discouraged;
- **Action Required:** Communication moving forward as the school community, specifically fundraising, will be impacted
  - *Andrea will inquire and gather more information to pass to Catherine to communicate to the school community.*
- Moving forward, for fundraising items such as poinsettias, we will need to discuss whether we raise the costs or take the loss.

**Monika:** Mindful Movement with Cheryl – is it possible to reintroduce that?

- **Action Required:** Determine a response and/or course of action to possibly move forward with Mindful Movement.

**Monika:** Christmas/Holiday Open House – is this something we can move forward with for December?

- **Andrea:** Idea -- consider connecting with Glenhyrst for a “Dufferin Night” where we could possibly utilize the Coach House for hot chocolate, collect donations, have the Ukulele Club perform, etc. This would provide an opportunity to safely host with it being an outdoor event.
- **Action Required:** Andrea will talk to the staff about the options as we move forward – School Open House, Glenhyrst Lights, or both;
- **Alanna:** Clarified with Monika that the previous Christmas Open House involved various crafts or activity in classrooms, Santa, reading of a story, a holiday snack, jingle mingle.

## Meeting Dates for the 2022/2023 School Year: Second Wednesday Each Month

- September 14, 2022
- October 12, 2022
- November 9, 2022
- December 14, 2022
- January 11, 2023
- February 8, 2023
- March 8, 2023
- April 12, 2023
- May 10, 2023
- June 14, 2023

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30pm**