

Dufferin Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday January 11, 2023

This meeting was conducted virtually via Teams

Present: Gord McCreary, Lauren McDonald, Farzana Kausar, Natalie Walker, Daniel Pickersgill, Carling Mitchell, Rachel Kruger, Mike Long, Andrea Smith, Alanna Haughton

Regrets: Erica LePage, Brittany Cole, Saina Tukadon,

Reading of the land acknowledgement.

Acknowledgement of December minutes

December meeting minutes were acknowledged via email and a motion to pass was put forward. Farzana seconded with 9 voting members in favour via email.

Principal's Report/Financial Report

- \$13.22 Lottery account, Mme. A. Smith will reach out to accounting department and see if that money can be moved into the regular account
- \$8547.68 There are a number of payments that have entered that account for Johnny Greeko's and pizza days so funds will have to go out shortly for those restaurants
- Colour blind presentation coming up next week via Zoom, in alignment with students' presentations that were done at school
 - Other schools (Cobblestone, Woodman, Confederation) are joining us for the presentation on January 17
 - Topic looks at why it's not enough to just be antiracist anymore and how can we better support equity in our schools
- Question: Fee for school cash online - is it 4%? Seemed higher for the poinsettia fundraiser so looking for clarification. It is 4% but is a complicated issue because even if cash is collected, all money inevitably must go through school cash online to be deposited. We may need to review this in the future, and we may have to look at collecting cash for some things. Mme Smith has offered to have a rep from the board present the inner workings of School Cash Online at a future DPC meeting.

Teacher's Report

- Updates on various clubs and sports that have resumed in full force after the Winter break:
- Chess club: update from M. Zylstra
 - Started with 1 meeting a week in Sept, then 2 a week in Oct, and 3 a week in Nov and Dec
 - Very high interest club, many attend and are committed
 - M. Zylstra reached out to the Brantford chess club to see if they would do a presentation and demonstration
 - The presenters were so impressed by the number of students and interest level, that the president and vice-president have volunteered to be coaches

- One of the coaches is also a coach for the Pauline Johnson high school chess club so M. Zylstra is excited about the great lessons and instruction the club will receive
- Before COVID, DPC purchased boards, pieces and chess clocks for the club which have been really appreciated and put to great use
- The chess tournament is expected to take place in April or May, so the club has plenty of time to practice!
- Knitting club: Continues to meet twice a week. They meet once for the beginners, run by Mme. Bailey, and once for the experienced knitters, run by Mme. Macoretta.
- Sports: The next 2 sports coming up are basketball and badminton. Basketball tournaments will be held mid to late February and badminton likely in April. The junior basketball team held tryouts before the break and the team has been selected. They are now practicing 2-3 times a week. The intermediate teams started tryouts this week. Junior badminton tryouts have started but no cuts have been made. The intermediate team will most likely start once basketball has finished.
- Ukulele club: started back up today and is back in the swing of things. Had a busy calendar during the break and was enjoyed by all.
- Question: Has M. Zylstra got quotes for new sports jerseys? Mme. Haughton will follow up with M. Zylstra.

Fundraising Committee

- Johnny Greeko's hot lunches coming up
- Starting up in February, Spirit wear will be available again
- Big box greeting card fundraiser being organized in March
 - Sample box goes home with students to help with selling, there are a variety of packages available to sell
 - Will have approx. 3 weeks to sell, the vendor gives an extra week to sell if it's over March Break
- Pizza committee
 - Last couple of times increasing numbers of children coming down and saying their parents ordered for them and received no pizza, but they are not on the master list. Is it possible to put items on school cash online in chronological order so parents don't miss hot lunch days? It is confusing online with random dates and parents might be missing hot lunch dates.
 - Mme. A. Smith will ask Mme. Banner if there is a way to order them in a more user-friendly way or have items ordered chronologically.

Social Committee

- Teacher appreciation is in May during education week
- Last year Kathryn organized a hot lunch for teachers and as the time gets closer, Lauren and Carling will chat about putting something together

Open floor

- Student crossing guards: Are we closer to getting them at the corners? Mme. A. Smith will follow up with Mme. Macoretta to get an update.
- Opportunities for improving the playground, is that a possibility? Quite a bit of mud under the playground equipment and broken glass on the girls door?
 - The glass has been repaired now, during the break. Unfortunately, there is a glass shortage and that's why it took quite a bit of time to be repaired.
 - Health and Safety inspection just happened yesterday and wanted to investigate if the current ground is maybe enough. Mme. A. Smith will talk to the Facilities manager about possibly getting more wood chips. There are some concerns with flooding and drainage that may need to be investigated.
- Indoor recess on icy days, can anything be done about getting kids outside more often?
 - The board does not salt the playground. Custodians salt and shovel approx. 10 ft from entrances but that is all they can do. We don't have any other way to clear the playground so unfortunately, keeping kids inside on those icy days is the only safe option currently.
- There were parking attendants outside the school yesterday, which was frustrated for parents trying to find parking.
 - There have been neighbour complaints about cars on the road during drop-off and pick-up blocking areas or parking in no-parking areas
 - In February there will be a public meeting to address parking concerns around the school area, Carling will update when the date is known for the meeting for anyone who would like to attend

Next meeting discussion

Next meeting: Wednesday March 8, 2023