

## Dufferin Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday March 8, 2023

*This meeting was conducted virtually via Teams*

**Present:** Gord McCreary, Daniel Pickersgill, Erica Lapage, Lauren McDonald, Mike Long, Natalie Walker, Rachel Kruger, Andrea Smith, Alanna Haughton

**Regrets:** Carling Mitchell, Farzana Kausar, Saina Tokedon

Reading of the land acknowledgement.

### Acknowledgement of November minutes

January meeting minutes were acknowledged via email and a motion to pass was put forward. Lauren McDonald seconded with 8 voting members in favour via email.

### Carol Churchward, GEDSB accounting dept

- Managing cash is time consuming and not as safe as using cash online (high risk to accept cash)
- School cash online is a leader in its industry
- Benefits to parents
  - Make payments anytime of day that's convenient to parents
  - Parents do not have to have exact change
  - Refunds are automatically refunded back to a credit card, cash refunds require a cheque to be written by hand and sent
- School banking and school cash online is the #1 preferred method of payment by parents
- During the rollout of School cash online, many parents called to say they did not want to give their personal banking information (using e-wallet) and that they wanted to use credit cards (e-cheque)
- KEV (maker of School Cash Online) said they were "sunsetting" the e-wallet option anyway and moving forward with payments through e-cheque (with additional fees for credit card payments)
- Credit card fees are higher than to accommodate for higher fees on certain credit cards (Value Pricing model)
- Credit cards with more options/premiums have higher fees through KEV, so the school board has a Value Pricing Model from KEV that is a blended fee as a sort of middle ground for the lower fees and really high fees
- 4% is the credit card transaction fee
- \$0.10 for every dollar goes to KEV in credit card fees, \$0.07 is HST and there is a rounding fee that goes to the school so for ex: a \$10 t-shirt costs \$10.57 and will be rounded up to \$11.00
- If using the Donation module, the money goes to the school less the transaction fees to KEV (credit card companies do not waive fees for donations)

## M. Zylstra

### Sports/chess update

- Just finished basketball Int girls 2-1 loss
- Int boys 2-1 loss
- Junior co-ed 5-1 went to elite 8 tournament but lost by 1 point

### Badminton

- Tryouts were this week
- Only 8 boys and 8 girls can make the team so it will be hard to make those cuts with so many coming to tryout
- M. Zylstra has made junior team cuts in stages and has kept a few extras as backups and practice buddies
- Tournament coming up at the end of April (no dates yet)

### Chess team and tournaments

- Looking at mid May for tournaments but dates are still in the works (we hosted last year)

### Track & Field

- End of May (specific dates TBD)

### Ball hockey

- May/June (specific dates TBD)

### Golf

- June (specific dates TBD)

### Jerseys

- Our jerseys are approximately 10 years old now and some of the lettering is falling off
- With previous orders, 40 jerseys were ordered but the bottom few are XXS and never used as well as the top few being 2XL and never used so really we're down to 30 usable jerseys
- 3 different designs presented (Large number on front, Dragon head on front, Full dragon on front) in white, gold and blue
- Many sports are running ½ day tournaments regularly and we do not have enough jerseys to be able to wash and dry jerseys in between tournaments (For ex: if the int. boys play in the pm and the int. girls play the next morning)
- Proposed ordering fewer numbers of multiple colours maybe having one colour for int. (larger sizes) and another colour for junior (smaller sizes) and a white for indoor sports like badminton, basketball, volleyball
- Our students are strong athletes, and our teams are consistently moving on beyond initial tournaments so new jerseys would get a lot of use!
- 3131F9 Web Reference Number for website where M. Zylstra has created the jerseys
- Possible student vote of top 3 designs being discussed

- Pricing for 40 jerseys is approximately \$2,200.00
- Pricing for 60 jerseys is approx. \$3,300.00
- Voting will take place next meeting (when Gord can be present), previous meetings had allotted \$1000.00 for jerseys

#### Badminton equipment request

- The badminton rackets at the school are being well used but are starting to fall apart. They are constantly needing new grips along with other repairs. M. Zylstra has shared a list of brands that make very good quality rackets. His request is for parents/families to look at home if they happen to have some

#### Principal's Report/Financial Report

- Lottery acct moved into general acct, it is now cleared out and must be left open until June when it will be closed out
- \$10,268.65 (a number of deposits for hot lunch and pizza days that have not been taken out yet)
- Preparation for EQAO have begun with teacher work May 3-June 23 we will pick 2 weeks, 1 for gr. 3 and 1 for gr. 6
- EQAO will be online again on tablets provided last year from the board
- GR. 7-8 on their St. Donat trip, no glitches and students had a great time and a lot of fun!
- Great timing for this trip allowing students to create special relationships with each other and mature as well on the trip. They also get great exposure to the French language in Quebec.
- For next year the kindergarten lottery has taken place and families have been contacted for successful students. We do not yet have a date for kindergarten orientation, but it will be sometime in the Spring.
- Head office will provide bags to hand out (empty) and maybe books (still unsure though). Last year DPC provided t-shirts, maybe later we can discuss that again.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> grad photos and milestone pics for senior kindergarten
- Vision screening at the end of March for senior kindergarten – new screening from Brant County Health Unit (opting out option available through the health unit link)
- Corner crossing patrol has begun, but only enough student volunteers to run it at one corner. Mme. Macoretta is asking for anyone with older students who can volunteer to help out after school. We seem ok for mornings but could use more volunteers after school.
- Patroller program provides training and a trip to the movies at the end of the year as a reward as well as hot chocolate packets.

#### Teacher's Report

- New application for tech was submitted by Mme. Simmonds
- Should hear back mid-late April
- Application was for a tech related grant and included requests for additional tablets to round out a class set for the upper floors

### **Fundraising Committee**

- Spirit Wear initiative 10-12 orders of numerous garments, we don't have final numbers yet
  - Seemed like a lot of families were unaware of the fundraiser, based on FB comments, so lesson learned that advertising needs to be more widespread
- Sample Big box cards went home with all volunteer students and runs until March 31
- All occasions box (various special occasions) with 35 cards for \$35, already on School Cash Online
- Jonny Greekos went pretty well, smaller orders than anticipated but still raised \$180.00
- La Botega hot lunches coming up March 28

### **Communications Committee**

- All is well with Catherine!

### **Social Committee**

- No new updates.

### **Open floor**

- N/A

### **Next meeting discussion**

Next meeting: Wednesday April 12, 2023