

Dr. Davey School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2017

Time: 3:30pm – 4:40pm

Attendees: Nicola Carter, Lisa Watt, Tanya Ritchie, Gerry Smith, Thomas Ro, Shannon Clutton,

Regrets: Suzanne Giovannetti, Liz Lucas

Business Arising

- Budget – opening budget - \$4,001.12

Old Business/ Updates

- **Constitution and By-law**
 - Waiting for a template from PAC, e-mail has been sent to Margaret, give it another week, if we don't hear anything, Tanya will call Margaret to inquire.
- **ASST Walk about**
 - Kelly Scott (from the city) will provide us with the action plan in a spread sheet, still waiting to hear back as it needs to go through the different levels of governance before sharing information with school.
 - Received information about Fresh air for kids event
 - Received information about other school programs at Green Venture and shared with Dr. Davey staff.
- **Hydro station**
 - High pitch sound from Hydro station last week was not from the Hydro station. It came from the vent of the structure that belongs to the Environmental agency that collects data on air quality.
 - Principal will contact the environmental agency and discuss the changes due to refurbishment of the hydro station.
 - Waiting to find out when the wall will go up for the hydro station, Principal has requested hydro one to at least give two weeks' notice. Principal suggested having all the construction work done during March break if possible.
 - Hydro one has offered to come on the first day of construction, when changes made after building the wall. The principal will request that they also come to the parent council meetings, and contact the Beasley Neighbourhood Association to follow up on the impact of the wall going up on an ongoing basis. It is not adequate to come just one time.
 - Tanya will check with Beasley for an April meeting.
 - Parking from the city came to the school to discuss how the parking and re-zoning of the parking will look like. Parking and parking lot will be re-zoned and it has to be done before March break.
 - Tanya asked about whether the school board or the city is being compensated for the use of the city land and the disruption done to the neighbourhood and

school community. Principal directed that it is a question for superintendent Sue Dunlop.

New Business

Fundraising:

- **Popcorn Date**
 - Feb 17 –
 - March 2 -
 - March 30 –

- **Hot dog and pizza:** last Friday of the month, start in February –
 - Feb 24: hot dog
 - March 31: Pizza
 - April: hot dog
 - May: Pizza
 - June: hot dog

- **Spring Fling:**
 - April 22 booking is confirmed.

Support requested by teachers:

- Teachers asked Parent Council to support a website called “Brain Pop”, proposing to support three elementary school classes for 90 children in grade 3 and 4 as a pilot to see its effectiveness. It will cost US\$405 for one year’s registration. Council motion to support, all in agreement with supporting the pilot. Parent Council requesting an update from the teachers on the effectiveness of teaching and learning using this program after three to six months of use.

Principal’s report

- **Demographics**
 - No change in demographics. 495 kids, most of the new kids are moving in from out of the downtown core.
 - Rebecca building is renovating their units, hopefully that might bring some more families into the neighbourhood.

- **PAR meeting**
 - Council representatives felt that the process is slow, and not very encouraging. It seems to that that the input from parents and teachers are not taken up. It is quite disappointing.

- All three proposals involved the closing down of Hess school. One of the parents will bring a different proposal that does not include the closing of Hess School at the next PAR meeting.
 - Hess school community is upset about the potential closing of Hess school.
 - Parents are disappointed that there is no transparency to how the data is used to arrive at the conclusion of closing Hess school.
 - There is a public meeting coming up, encourage different communities to attend.
 - French immersion school is over-populated at Ryerson and Earl Kitchener.
- Tim Horton's leadership camp. There will be two trips this year. The current one is between Feb 13-16, 2017
 - 43 kids went with staff.
 - See how their training can be linked to community work.
 - Hoping to make this learning opportunity sustainable and a routine school programming.
- Outdoor Learning Space
 - Highlighted in Kindergarten curriculum. The board is trying to develop one common way to approach this type of learning.
 - First step: develop project vision, working through the design, and working with Facilities management
 - School will be responsible for raising the funds for this project.
 - Big fence needed given the location for this school.
 - Possible funding source: Harry Stilton, Brewery, Steel company
 - The tree will need to be cut down in the school playground this summer, and the wood perhaps can be used for the outdoor learning centre.
 - Creating a plan for the Outdoor Learning Centre: Get input from school council, neighbourhood and the students.
 - Another project is to build an outdoor garden in the kindergarten area, this may be more feasible to do with small donations.
 - After Feb 17 (report card is distributed) can start the process of getting the ideas from the students.
 - Mr Smith will share information and manual with the parent council.
- Robotics
 - Robot kits donated, intermediate science classroom is used. The board has the first robotic competition targeting grade 6 -8 students. Hoping to have a team set to compete in this event.
- Extra-curricular
 - Table tennis teams started; a boys and girls team.
 - Checkers club;
 - Student tech assistance team with good turnout;

- Apple came out with a new app that allows teachers to have an overview of all the i-pads and its use. Good tool.
- Monthly Assemblies
 - Brought back “Caught Ya” to promote a positive culture in the school, encourage positive values and behavior.
 - Any students who get a “caught ya” will be recognized, and have a monthly draw.
 - “Caught Ya” blog, will share it at the assembly. Students are enthused to participate and have their pictures taken and posted on the blog.
- What is seen in the front foyer will be on the school website now.

Other issues arising:

- BLINK program will re-start on Feb 23, 2017. McMaster Solar Car Team will come to the school to do a presentation and to teach grade 4 and 5 students arduinos. The city of Hamilton Our Future Hamilton team will also stop by the school to conduct filming for a promotional video about the weather station and BLINK program. Consent forms will be sent to the parents.
- Innovation centre: students who participate in this program will drop by the program a couple of times a month. Parent Council visited the Centre at the end of the meeting.

Next Meeting

- March 20, 2017, 3:30pm.