

Dundana School Council MINUTES

Monday January 16th, 2022 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In attendance: Elizabeth Mcqueen, Sara Onufer, Gillian Petersen, Jessie Blake, Naomi Foster, Lisa Djackolovic, Maria Golarz, Leora van der Linden, Shannon Schwetz

Regrets: Lisa Neidrauer, Heather McCully

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of January 16th, 2023 Agenda; additions. Naomi motioned; Lisa D seconded

3. Approval of September 22nd, 2022 Minutes. Sara motioned; Naomi seconded

4. Approval of November 7th, 2022 Minutes. Sara motioned; Jessie seconded

5. Principal's Welcome & Report:

- Thank you to parent council for your time and dedication. Dundana children are lovely and exuberant. Dundana staff is very hard-working. Building is older but well-maintained. Playground is “unbelievable”. We are very fortunate.
- Principal Mcqueen has been retired for 7 years from many years as a teacher and a principal, but has done supply work since in the interim other than during COVID. Will be with us until sometime in February, and then there will be a new permanent Principal .
- COVID message – Principal Mcqueen’s message to staff - cannot jump right back in to how things were pre-COVID especially since not completely out – 2.5 years of limited learning and teachers working very hard during pandemic but hard for children to do online schooling. Must keep this in mind.
- Land acknowledgement – Principal Keery Bishop and some students put it together – now 2 children read it every day
- Indigenous storyteller coming on Thursday - Todd Jamison – grandparent of several children in the school – Mme. Laroy organized – lots of discussion on whether to have in-person or virtual, and staff believed it would be more meaningful in-person but will be divided by floor – lower and upper (excluding kindergarten). Doors open so fresh air coming in. And there will be follow up in classroom.
- Labour updates – quiet at this point
- PA Day January 27

- Report cards going home February 17 – this is a long process before they get home. Not clear how interviews will be offered, Principal McQueen will find out.
- Staff Professional development – slowly coming back and staff excited. Last week Grade 1 and 2 spent time with language teaching consultant (breaking down language to the sounds, blending words, etc). Next all kindergarten teachers.
- Masks – from the Board-level masks are encouraged, being discussed again tonight. Principal McQueen gives daily message about how masks protect. But after winter break, fewer people wearing them this week - 25% at best. Reasonable to ask teachers to remind child to wear mask. Helpful if on a lanyard because this signals to the teacher that parents want them worn.
- Basketball net update – no update on this. Principal McQueen will look into it.
- Walk and talk recesses on rainy days – some kids got knocked over on a previous day when kids were on the greens but many kids are frustrated by walk and talk recess. Staff meeting this week – 2-3 teachers to come up with pavement recess plan for rainy days. May be able to use area on other side of junior door.
- Skittles league coming back – Ms. Jurski organizing on days 1 and 5

6. Treasurer's Report

- Gillian reported two changes since last meeting:
 - i. Now that we have all expenses and profit from Open House - \$1152 profit
 - ii. Pizza day - \$305 profit

7. Debrief: Pizza Day – December 7:

- Three parent volunteers was an ideal number, 2 is not quite enough.
- Some debate about whether whole wheat crust is mandatory or just needs to be an option – can move to options: DF GF WW and regular – Sara motioned, Naomi seconded.
- Next pizza day dates - Friday Feb 3, Thursday March 2 (Friday March 3 is a PA day)
- Will need volunteers – 1-1.5 hours, during second NB – can overlap 1-hour shifts
- Stick with Pizza Pizza

8. Other Initiatives:

- Movie Night
 - i. Easing back into COVID, movie night in February is not a great idea. May be able to hold outdoors but this would be better in the fall when it gets darker earlier. Will revisit at next meeting. Some discussion of logistics as well – cannot really project against school walls. Can discuss having two events - younger targeted movie, older targeted movie – but anyone is welcome at either event
 - ii. Movie licence – good for 2 years. Need current movie to generate interest amongst attendees.

- iii. Snacks – revisit issue of cleaning popcorn machine or alternatives
- Outdoor Classroom
 - i. Installation scheduled for January 30 weather-dependent
 - ii. City came to mark out lines for digging – must be 10 m away
 - iii. Mulch has been kindly donated by a family in the school
 - iv. Jessie spoke about Green Venture’s Dundas Mini Forest initiative – application has been put in for Dundana school – potentially somewhere in the back field

9. Fundraising Update

- Reviewed chart of projects costs, projected revenue and projected funds raised for Open house /meet the teacher and upcoming movie night
- Parent council to revisit movie night
- Gillian to organize Read-a-thon – end of February
- Principal McQueen to revisit spirit wear in March so that it arrives for graduation
- Suggestion for “FundScrip” gift card fundraising for next year – parents buy gift cards for self/gifts and certain percentage goes back to the school – but have to start promoting in September
- No update from Board on PRO Grant Update

10. French Parent Association Update

- No update

11. Any Other Business

- Out of catchment - Dundana school does not accept out of catchment for Kindergarten where older child is in French – would be too many children – currently have 69 in-catchment children registered for JK/SK
- Decision about number of kindergarten classes for fall 2023 will be April
- Discussion about accessibility and whether any school closures or renovations planned – no update
- Next meeting is Monday, April 17, 2023, 6:30-8:00 PM

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm