

Dundas Central School Council Minutes December 9, 2020 via MS Teams

Meeting start: 7:00pm

Present: Bethany Foster (Chair), Elizabeth Hutchison (Secretary), Joanne Di Maio (Treasurer), Courtney Southworth, Brian Gauthier, Megan Combes, Aaron Vanderwal, Tammy Di Donato (Teacher Representative) and Laura Bartkiw (Principal).

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment recited by Bethany Foster

Business arising from the previous minutes

1. Approval of Minutes (November 2020)

November Minutes circulated and posted on the website. Approved.

2. Financial Update

\$166.43 raised from Spiritwear (from 2020)

\$79.31 Expense to Aaron Vanderwal for printing banner

\$1900 Home and School Funds transferred into the account for the teachers (\$100 per classroom/program from the student assistance funds)

\$3445.57 Current Balance

3. Fundraisers

Courtney gave the following updates:

- \$43.82 raised for Mabel's Labels to date. It is monthly so we will get cheques each month.

- Spiritwear cheque is on its way for \$81.13

- We will set up the Spiritwear website again in the Spring

4. H&S Funds.

- teachers are sending thanks for their funds and are showing us pictures of things they have been purchasing for their classrooms.

New Business

5. Playground Update

- until last year we had a local landscaping company providing services in kind as a donation but they have withdrawn their services likely due to Covid so we will need to find a new landscaping company to use.

- Bethany talked to Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds who have offered to donate smaller replacement logs that we can use.

- delivery will likely be on a weekend

- ideally we could get Bienenstock to take away some of the old damaged logs.

- they have also offered a discount on outdoor blackboards, Bethany is waiting to hear from Jill Bienenstock on the cost.

6 Teacher Appreciation

-To show teacher appreciation – funds have to be used to benefit all students...perhaps we could show our appreciation with something like yoga mats (a classroom set) that can be presented in a creative way.

-Megan Combes – Liz Hunter and Megan had indicated that they would take it away as an action item. This is in the form of ‘teacher appreciation’. Looking for clarity on whether this would be for all the classrooms or only the younger classrooms. Tammy DiDonato can poll the staff on it. Every classroom K-Grade 4 is wanting mats, Tammy will find out about the older classes.

-Ms. Bartkiw suggested another option is portable speakers...that is a good idea. Just today, Tammy DiDonato saw 2 different teachers came and borrowed Mr. Veschoor’s speaker today. It was agreed that the speaker would be a good option. The idea is that this would be 1 or 2 speakers at most (unless they are more affordable). The speaker he has is Sylvania (about \$50 from Canadian Tire but the one he has is no longer at CT). **Action:** We will do some quick research on this and Bethany will email the council to make a final decision.

7. How to support Outdoor/Alternative Learning

See 6 above.

8. Food Drive – this is part of principal’s report. Ms. Bartkiw just found out that absolutely no food drives allowed.

-Could we do a donation through school cash online?

-Shelly McGuire could possibly set something up.

-Courtney suggested school council could do our own little food drive on our own and then do a donation on behalf of the Dundas community

-We need to be very careful to make sure we don’t use the word Dundas Central....

-Brian Gauthier has heard that the buying power of Food Banks is really strong so if we can do a cash donation on behalf of Dundas Central, it will have a significant impact.

-We will need to specify which Food Bank we are donating to as we will need to put that in the school cash offering.

-Does School Council have funds we can spend as a donation? Not sure we are permitted to use our funds that way. So the decision was not to do this.

-Ms. Bartkiw suggested one option: “Food For Kids” - it services kids in the school boards in Hamilton, including our own kids.

Action: Ms. Bartkiw will work with Ms. McGuire to set something up.

Teacher Report (Tammy DiDonato)

-Great Community Partnership going on:

Grade 5, 6,7s are partnering with Hamilton Conservation Authority – the HCA has come to the school and led a discussion on plants, ecology and importance of soils. They will be working with students to create “red wiggler” worm colonies and students will be responsible for looking after them. Students will also build a greenhouse and will be responsible for growing and maintain plants from seeds to maturity that will then be planted in our outdoor playground. They will also be working with the playground committee to beautify the playgrounds.

-Also speaking with our Indigenous education consultant who will speak about the importance of plants in Indigenous cultures.

-Order for equipment for the school has been finalized and is with Ms. Bartkiw, Joanne and Bethany for review before going in. It is for equipment that can be used both indoors and outdoors by every grade in the school. Thank you for that.

Principal's Report (Laura Bartkiw)

-Mr. Verschoor is offering extra gym sessions for each class during nutrition breaks which has been very well received.

-No food drives this year

-A few holiday celebrations will take place the last week of school (Spirit wear, PJ day etc.)

-No food at all at classroom parties this year.

-Board is asking that if you have a teacher gift, please ensure it can be carried by the child. **Action:** Ms. Bartkiw will communicate it on the website.

-School Photos and Grad Photos are still on for the year and have booked the dates for that.

Questions/Comments Following Principal's Report

-Elizabeth commented that Mr. Verschoor's indoor gym sessions during nutrition break are very well received by her children.

-Arron commented that Ms. Bartkiw's addresses to the school on the school playground can be a little inaudible (the microphone is very directional)

-Bethany asked if Ms. Bartkiw will be posting something about the teacher gift from Parent Council on the website. She confirmed that it would.

Next Meeting-

January 20th 2021 at 7:00pm. Laura will send out the invite.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48pm