

Dundas Central School Council Minutes February 17, 2021 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, Sara Miller, 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 (January 2021)

2. Financial Update

- 2 more teachers have submitted expenses for the classroom money
- Speaker \$ has been withdrawn
- Current balance is \$2881.34

-No cheque received for the spirit wear yet. Courtney is going to follow up with Shelly and Marchant as well

-Mabel's Labels fundraiser is still at \$43.82. Balance has not changed in a few months. Megan is curious to know what fundraising percentage is. It is 20%.

https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/ We should do some more promoting.

-Kindergarten registration is also a good time to pass it along which is happening now.

3. Parent Engagement Fund \$500

-we discussed this last meeting. Madeline was going to look into it.

-Madeline did some research afterwards. Has some hesitation about another speaker...not sure another Zoom call will be well attended right now.

-Is there something else we can do? What is permitted?

-There never is a list of exactly what is permitted in Laura's experience. Really it is anything that can allow parents to participate in the school day process. Yoga class or games calls to engage parents. Focused on bringing parents in for something (exercise/mindfulness etc.) It really should be an experience but some schools support parents at home where there is a need (not Dundas Central).

-Would have to be outside. Very limited. Should we put this off another month? Hopeful we could do something together outside in the Spring. Perhaps family yoga? Will have to see what we are allowed to do.

-Defer to next month.

New Business

4. Playground

-anyone willing to help maintain the playground over the summer? Haven't heard from anyone. It will be a summer job.

5. Grade 8 Graduation updates

-Laura will address in Principle report.

-How many Grade 8 graduates are there expected to be? (Tammy DiDonato: about 50 Grade 8s...including remote learners)

6. Classroom technology needs

-Laura will address in Principle report.

Teacher Report

-Tammy DiDonato

-Good transition back into the classroom.

-Everyone is very happy to be back just in transition phase getting back into the classroom

Principal Report

-love being back at school

-Graduation: no direction yet from HWDSB as to what it will look like this year. Today HWDSB launched a thought exchange for grade 12 parents to get their input on what it should look like.

-preference is to go live. Grad Wear is up and running. Typically the school hosts a traditional ceremony in the gym and certificates of graduation, then a number of special awards. Last year they taped it without the kids.

-Grad Photos are scheduled in March.

-Classroom tech needs. Currently checking in and wiping returned borrowed technology

-Schools that borrowed tech are in the process of returning. Once returned they will be cleaned/wiped

Feb Transition

-1 Grade 8 student and 1 Grade 3 student and 4 new kinder students in Mrs. Addis' class which will gain a DECE. They won't be moving anyone – there will be room in the smaller kindergarten class if anyone wants to come back.

-Most classrooms are full.

-1 student has moved back to remote

March Transition

-no word on it, still awaiting word on that.

-Friday Feb 19th report card will be delivered through the Portal

-Currently March 4th will be date paper copies are delivered.

-Parents please reach out to staff if you would like to discuss your child's report card.

Other Business

-Madeline Van Impe: question whether we can invite our school trustee to one of these meetings? Perhaps annually. This may be good on the parent engagement side of things. Q&A or maybe he can share something about their initiatives. We have had trustees in the past.

-We just need to send them dates and typically the trustee will pick one of the dates to attend. It is a very good idea that we do so. Bethany will reach out and indicate that we are fairly flexible as to timing.

Next Meeting – March 10th 2021 at 7pm on teams.

Adjournment