

Dundana School Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

Attendees: Principal Sue Pasian, Sara Brown, Emily Di Sante, Meredith O'Flynn, Gillian Petersen, Tori Wilson, Shannon Schwetz, Carla Dubinski, Jill Tonini, Heather Overmeyer, Erin Weatherill, Brian Liberty, Christina Loomis, Kelly Pearce, Mme Cathy Eastwood

Attendees via Zoom:

1. Welcome:

Principal Pasian called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Principal Pasian proceeded with the land acknowledgement, and Shannon carried on to chair the meeting. Introductions of all attendees.

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Carla

3. Principal's Items:

- Introduction and warm welcome for Mme Eastwood joining our meeting tonight
- Lots of professional development for staff this year (mainly K-2)
- New Acadiance (?) Tool - developing reading skills, creating small groups for targeted instruction, a (French-speaking) reading specialist is with us at Dundana part-time as well
- Grade 3 staff, French and English, are getting training once a month
- Mme Price will be our new trained staff member for outdoor education. She will receive the training at the end of November.
- Professional development for our ECEs on staff as well
- C-CAT test for grade 4 students (for giftedness) will be offered to all grade 4 students next week, over 3-4 days
- Mme Eastwood will be running the Beaver Computing Challenge (grades 4-5) next Tuesday, Nov 12
- Rocks and Rings will take place for a full week in December, headed by Ms. Jurski
- Thank you to the school council for supporting the teachers and students, especially for the donation of the pumpkins, and for supporting the school through the book fair. "Scholastic dollars" will be divided by division and used to purchase various items for the school library.
- Sound system: we have a robust system we can use for movie night, as well as a not-so-good one.
- Duffel Bag Theatre: Risk Management for HWDSB says there is some sort of inherent risk in their contract. Unfortunately we won't be able to use them.
- Jungle Sport should be a go for a week in May
- Outdoor classroom logs require regular sealing. There is money in our Council budget to pay for the product. Gillian will look into whether or not we already purchased the product last year. Kelly has volunteered her carpenter husband to do the job. Possibly done in Spring?

4. Treasurer's Report & Open House Feedback:

- Lots of families have paid until January for pizza days, which is great. We have approx. \$3000 so far.
- We made \$89.10 in profit from the donut sales at the Open House.
- Book fair: it was a great turn out. Teachers were happy they were allotted \$100 each for their classrooms. The library received \$800 as well. Gillian suggested having a French book fair in future. Possibly during a movie night.

5. **Teacher involvement & input:** Mme Eastwood

- Mme Eastwood was very appreciative of the book fair money raised and thanked the council on behalf of the teaching staff.
- A reminder for pizza days would be helpful for teachers.
- How can School Council support staff? In the past, individual teachers put forward ideas for their classrooms, e.g. French magazine subscription for one classroom, or whole-school ideas.
- A whole-school activity like Scientists in the School would be great to tie into the curriculum. It has been many years since we have brought them in.
- No specific staff requests have been made yet.
- In the past, Council would sponsor one free bus per class, per year, since buses are so expensive, e.g. a trip to the ROM.
- Grade 5 grad: we used to go to the Collins for a proper lunch, and in recent years, it has been a simplified sub/pita picnic due to the pandemic. We want to make it special for the grade 5s.

6. **PRO Grant:**

- Parent Engagement Grant – up to \$1000
- Due Friday, November 22nd
- Jill asked if we could use it for a speaker to come in and educate parents on gardening
- Kelly asked if we could bring someone in to educate parents about delay devices for children, or internet/app safety
- Jill to look into a native plants speaker
- Shannon to look into a technology/cyber education speaker
- Emily as volunteered to help with the grant application – Paul Davis

7. **Fundraising Update:**

- Brian mentioned that we need to discuss big-picture ideas ahead of meetings
- We need a sub-committee to brainstorm for large ideas or multi-year items (Brian, Shannon, Heather, etc.)
- Playground? William Cornell Park is a great example. Principal Pasian to look into logistics through the board.
- Shade structure?

8. **Movie Night:** Friday, November 15th

- Despicable Me 4
- We will need volunteers for pizza and concession sales
- We ask that parents/kids bring water, no juice/chocolate
- Reminders to parents by email/School Messenger

9. **Pizza Days:**

- First one went well today. Thank you to the volunteers

10. **Cookbook:**

- Parent & kid recipes?
- Emily happy to work with a sub-committee
- Maybe to sell in advance of the holidays or at next year's Open House?

11. **Any Other Business:**

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Upcoming Meetings: 6:30-8:00pm

-Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (fundraising focus)

-Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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Meeting adjourned 7:55pm