

Davisville Parent Council Meeting

November 24, 2015

7-8:30pm

In attendance: Tanya Murdoch (Council Co-Chair), Tamara Kolber (Council Co-Chair), Michelle Kassel, Pamela Byrne (Fun Fair Co-Chair), Farah Namazi (Secretary), Jyothi Satyan (Treasurer), Val Upfold (Outgoing Treasurer), Jennifer Brunner, Corey Rotman, Ulrica Jobe, Renata Vaccaro, Aleksandra Stanimirovic (Volunteer Coordinator), Izabela Manich, Sanja Jankovic, Nadja Baljovic (eco chair), Luciana de Almeida Neves Aguiare, Chris Thompson, Vera Kan, Suzanne Beno, Chris Trussell, Renata Kozakova, Anne Mullins (past chair), Lynne LeBlanc, Anya Laskin (communications co-chair), Amber Lepage-Monette, Anita Huang Teshima (communications co-chair), Wynsome Walker, Maureen Burnett, Anne Sasu, John Hiddema (BLU past chair), Shona Farrelly (Principal)

Review and approval of minutes

- Motion to approve June 2015 minutes-Anne Mullins, seconded Anya Laskin, motion passed
- Motion to approve September 2015 minutes-John Hiddema, seconded Maureen Burnett, motion passed

Vote: New Executive Members

- Craig Lesley (kindergarten rep, eco club), Lindsay (Kindergarten rep) have moved
- Motion to vote in Jyothi Satyan as new treasurer-Passed

Staff Report: Keverne Cenac-Lopes/Cherly Kam

- parks and recreation adding science program (junior grades), hip hop (junior)
- parks and recreation continuing kindergarten yoga, jump & play, gr 1-3-yoga, ball hockey
- CAD (computer assisted design), gr 5-8, successful thus far
- glee, positively pets after school
- eco club

- 40-50 kids, meet every 2nd monday (Staff: Mme Savelli, Ms. Breslaw, Mme Samuel, Mme Cenac-Lopes, Mme Janetos, pls see staff if able to assist)
- November 11 Remembrance Day service
- Ms. Moaven author at school, translated Farsi story in a collection of translated multicultural stories, presented to younger grades
- Choir performance at Raptors game in December
- Sports: finished boys volleyball and girls basketball, boys basketball & girls volleyball coming

Administration Report: Shona Farrelly

1. **Report Cards/Interviews** – Progress Reports will be coming home on December 10th. However, it is a report only up until October 29, 2015 as that was the “mark cut off” date. The February 10, 2016 report card will include all information from September to January 21, 2016. There are NO kindergarten report cards this session. Interviews are teacher directed; however, if you have concerns about your child’s progress, you should connect with them.
2. **Minister of Education Liz Sandals visit** – she came on Monday November 9th. She made the formal announcement regarding our 14.7 million dollar new school. We are preparing to meet to begin discussions regarding some of the educational parameters we would like to see included in the school design. I will let the Midtown Hub group speak about where things are with the possible community hub piece. Depending on which media outlet you subscribe to, we will be moving in sometime between September 2018 and September 2020.
3. **PART Wrap Up** – thanks to Stephanie for being our DPS rep for the meetings. There were 3 public meetings as well; the last one being on November 17th. The result of the PART is that Oriole Park PS, Eglinton PS, Maurice Cody PS and Davisville PS will all become JK-5 schools in the 2016/17 school year. Next school year will be our last year with English grade 6. FI grade 6 will remain here as they do not have a grade 6 program to flow to. This may or may not result in our school having a portable onsite next year.
4. **Staffing Changes** – this has been a year of many changes. Upcoming we have Ms. Kuriyan leaving on maternity leave this Thursday. She will be replaced by Farbia Moaven who will be with us until January 21st when Ms. Harnick returns from her maternity leave. Ms. Harte left on her maternity leave last Friday. Ms. Singh is replacing her until the end of the year. Mme Davidson will be leaving us as of Friday. We do NOT have a replacement for her yet. French Immersion and Special Education are challenging qualifications to find in one teacher. Ms. Kang has started back at school on a modified schedule. She is working with Ms. Yu until she is able to have a fulltime schedule again. We have managed to hire a few more LRS. We still have one full year vacancy and are in desperate need of supply LRS as well.
5. **Concerts/Curriculum Night/Multicultural Night** – Concerts will be going ahead. Our first one (grade 5 and 6, along with strings, band and the junior choir) will be performing

at Hodgson on December 17th in the evening. The kindergarten concert will be in April. The remaining classes are working on their dates. More information will follow. A school wide curriculum night will not be happening; however, there are some staff who are looking into running their own classroom curriculum night. They may or may not be permitted (from outside sources) to do so. Gillian Harnick has taken on Multicultural Night. She returns to work near the end of January which is when the planning would begin. She mentioned hoping for a late spring event so that it can be bigger and we might be able to use some of our outdoor space.

6. **FI SK Open House and Due dates** – We had our Open House which was lightly attended, but we've been informed that the online registrations for our school is over the top. Online registration due date is December 3rd. Any student registered before the due date is guaranteed a placement in an FI program.
7. **Our famous author** – Farzi Moaven had an opportunity to read her first published story, "Who Do You Love The Most" to classes today. If you look in the hall before you leave, you can see the messages the students wrote to her.
8. **Diwali celebration** – we want to thank our parents who were so generous with their time and who shared with so many students the wonder of Diwali. This is the first time we have had such a large celebration and we can't wait to do it again. Some parents have started asking if they can come and help with other celebrations as well. It was so wonderful to see everyone having such a good time. We did learn NOT to put the goodies out before recess and class visits though!
9. **Kindergarten Dismissal** - a few parents have spoken to me about using 2 gates for kinder dismissal. There is a feeling that it's too busy? I spoke to the K staff – they don't have the same feeling, but they are concerned about using the far gate by the bus area as it is a very high traffic area after school.
10. **Split lunch** – we will be moving a new split lunch schedule – hopefully later this week. Our challenge has been hiring staff. We are still one short (we now have 10/11) but have no back fill. We were short 5 on Friday and 3 again today. It makes it very challenging. (Schedule attached). Kinders will remain with the same lunch times.
11. **Kiss N' Ride/Parking lot safety issues** – Parents are asking again about setting up a Kiss "N Ride program. We can certainly try again. This will be our third attempt. The challenge is that it is a volunteer run program and we haven't managed to secure enough volunteers. Many staff are very concerned about the number of students walking into the yard through the parking lot. Some are coming in on scooters or running ahead of parents. It is a very busy and crowded parking lot. There is a gate to enter directly into the yard right beside the cross walk. This is a much safer option.

The EQAO, Ontario's testing body, reports that kids who read for pleasure do better in reading and writing tests. (Taken from today's Toronto Star).

1. Even just *one hour a week* of reading for pleasure boosts test results
2. About 80 per cent of students who met EQAO reading levels in Grade 3 and Grade 6 and who went on to pass the Grade 10 literacy test, were *reading for fun for more than an hour*. Of those, 46 per cent who made the grade were *reading three hours or more*.
3. Students who met the standard in reading in Grades 3 and 6 and were successful in Grade 10 were *two and a half times more likely to be engaged in reading for enjoyment*.

4. What kids read for enjoyment *does not matter* — anything from novels to graphic novels to poetry — it's something for enjoyment that makes a difference at school.
5. There needs to be a more of a *focus on the love of reading and the joy of reading*

Treasurers report-Val Upfold/Jyothi Satyan

- we have approx 20K
- had budget meeting, most of the money has been allocated for technology, music, new class start up, \$10 per student
- see attached

Fresh Schools: Chris Trussel for Lesley Stoyan

- afternoon smoothies coming
- Healthy Hands in the class workshop starting January 21
- looking for foaming hand soap donations, class connectors pls ask
- Rockin' Cleanup party Wednesday January 27 3pm: 5/10 min clean up of classrooms, need donations of spray bottles, rags, etc
- February 17 Cleaning and Healthy Living
- Lice check, parent volunteers needed to perform regularly
- CPR training for lunch supervisors waiting on Davisville Parent Council for approval
- ECE's with kindergarten are trained, lunchroom staff are not all trained, front office is trained

Freecycle & Skate Exchange: Renata Kozakova

- Freecycle on Thursdays started November 12, 9-10am, 3-4pm, can donate on daily basis in large blue bin by front office

Staff Appreciation Lunch: Pam Byrne/Farah Namazi

- to be held in the gym, Wednesday December 9, clean up around 1:20/1:30 (so lunch supervisors can eat after lunch period), donations requested
- storage at school for donations for dry goods and raffle items

Diwali Report: Jyothi Satyan

- thanks on behalf of Indian community for experience to demonstrate Diwali
- kids loved it, warm and inquisitive reaction, everyone was open and accepting of the holiday

- diyas (lighting the lamps) kids decorated, rangoli (colourful design powders), made nut free food

Sponsoring a Syrian Family: Val Upfold

- Michelle Kassel and Val Upfold are the leaders of the refugee sponsorship group and working directly with the sponsorship agency so please pass anyone on to us if they have questions. There's a lot of misinformation out there!
- private sponsorship, min 5 people, financial & social support for 1 yr, approx 40K required
- need to pair w/ Sponsorship Agreement Holder

Department Chairs Update

- Anya Laskin : Library
 - looking for bookshelf wide and low
 - indigo fundraiser, %age given back to school
- Anne Sasu: Music
 - chocolate fundraiser in February
 - Raptors game December 9th
- Jen Brunner: Athletics
 - liaison w/ athletics department (Francesca)
 - needs have been submitted to councils
 - parks and rec programming in gym-some teams need space to practice, house games, asking for programming Mondays (gym is available at lunch, 4 mornings and 3 days after school-Ms. Farrelly)
 - reiterate opportunity for parents to be involved in teams-coaching etc. Please connect w/ Jen Brunner/Ms. Francesca

New Canadians Program:Wendy Chong Edgell

- Settlement worker, Mehrnaz comes on Tuesdays to orient new families to our school, environment, Toronto,
- Parent Partnership Program (PPP): to match established parent at our school with a newcomer parent. One on one relationship. ½ hr , 45 min every few weeks to answer questions/concerns, be a resource and friendly face. Try to match parents in the same class. 4th year of program. Commitment for balance of school year

- Tuesday afternoons, English second language class discussing various topics-playdates, city of Toronto programming, to promote integration and connection in the school

Movie Night:

- December 11, movie is Home
- run by Lindsay Witherspoon and Cindy Wasser
- \$5 per child, JK/SK must be accompanied by a caregiver

Fundraising Update

- November 20 was first pub night, raised approx 200\$
- Idea for afternoon tea to include those unavailable in evenings
- bake sale December 17 at Gr. 5/6 & choir concert, need volunteers
- Friday feb 5, skate night (another bake sale there)

BLU/Midtown Hub:

- if you have interest in area of education that belongs as a part of new school building, pls get involved
- will have 2 parent reps on consult re: new school building
- expertise in maker spaces anyone?
- Midtown Hub: Vera Kan
 - no community centre in ward 22
 - Josh Matlow has not directed enough funds to community centre
 - lobbying provincial gov't for buildings to be built in conjunction
 - fill out midtown hub survey
 - experience in social media to spread word about project
 - Intend to incorporate as a non profit so they can apply for grants, need assistance (lawyer? Accountant?)

Fun Fair

- Saturday June 18, meeting in new year, see Pam/Tamara

Question:

-Are supply teachers for FI required to speak french?

-Answer from Ms. Farrelly: system not set up to require that, pls fwd any complaints to Ms. Farrelly, as she can use these to lend support to her requests.

Motions to Adjourn Meeting: John Hiddema, Seconded by Michelle Kassel

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50pm

Next Council Meeting: 7pm, February 10, 2016

Attachment: Treasurers Report

Davisville/MTSD Parents Association

Sources and Uses of Operating Funds from Aug 2015 to Nov 2015

Operating cash on hand at beginning of the period (July 31, 2014) \$21,208.41

Add revenues: Net Funds Raised \$17,337.23

Subtract Expenditures \$ 8, 024.63

Operating cash on hand at end of period \$30,521.01

*note some expenditures not yet removed

THE END