

## **MINUTES FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DJPS NOVEMBER 6 2019**

**ATTENDEES:** Julie Kelk, Morgan Hedges, Nachely Figliano, Charles and Lisa Zhu, Amber Monett, Anya Laskin, Tanya Murdoch, Dave Wells, Fay Chang, Farah Namazi, Trustee Shelley Laskin, Sarah Corman, Tim Campbell, Dan Antonios, Patricia Disperati, Wanda Bozzo, Josette Lamoureux, Melissa Gould-Wise, Shona Farrelly, Lynne LeBlanc

Welcome, land acknowledgement, and introductions of special guests: Tanya Murdoch and Trustee Shelley Laskin.

### **TANYA MURDOCH:**

She has been speaking with Davisville Settlement worker, Mehrraz and Shona about doing a clothing drive/swap this month with part of the aim being to gather some much needed winter wear for one of our sister schools with a high needs population, and set up a freecycle winter clothing exchange for their school for the winter.

The school, VRA, will be a drop off place. Thinking that we would launch on Thursday, November 14 and November 15 - for parent teacher interviews. Parents could drop off at the school starting November 14 for the next few weeks. Davisville will be hosting an event (games night / movie night) in the coming weeks, and we could have a clothing drop off/swap, including skates and helmets. A heads up to parents regarding lost and found - anything not collected by the end of the month will also be donated.

### **TEACHERS REPORT: FAY CHANG**

Ms. Rawlinson continues to work on the Lost and Found table - please label your kids clothes. If they are labeled, the clothes will have a greater chance of being returned to your kids.

Library needs volunteers to help shelve books. Any and all assistance is appreciated. Please consider volunteering - it is in a relatively quiet space, allowing for much to be accomplished in a small amount of time.

The choir will be participating in an upcoming concert at Sunnybrook.

Milk bag weaving is now a weekly program. These are sent to third world countries where they provide mats to be used for sitting or sleeping.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT:**

Snack Program: Transportation funding has been secured for volunteers

### **PRINCIPAL UPDATE: Mrs. SHONA FARRELLY**

1. Snack Program – Volunteer Taxi chits – Last year we were told that we had won a grant to help our volunteers get to and from 529 Vaughan Road on a daily basis. It turns out that it was actually one family who was paying for it. This was unsustainable. We were at risk of not having a way to help our volunteers get to and from school. We are thrilled to announce that we have now secured funding

for daily taxi chits for our snack volunteers. Thank you so much to our Superintendent and Trustee for their support.

2. End of day routines – We have had a request to do a deeper explanation of what happens at the end of our day for bussing. School finishes at 3:25 which is when teacher supervision can begin. Supervision is outside of the Instructional Day. We go on the PA at 3:15 asking classes to start making their way to the cafeteria for bus attendance. This does mean students are not in their classrooms for the last 10 minutes of the instructional day. This is the same process we followed last year and the same process we followed for students bussed when we were at 43 Millwood. This is the same process that occurs at all schools where students are bussed. Five staff stays on after 3:25 as part of their supervision requirement and all 3 administrators are also involved in the process. We would not be able to safely manage bussing at the end of the day without the support of all staff and having students start to prepare 10 minutes early.
3. Staffing Update – Ana, one of our swim instructors has won a position in a school 5 minutes from her home. Friday will be her last day. We were incredibly lucky to find a replacement to start on Monday. Britney and Ana work together for the City of Toronto programs and they are now switching schools. Stan, our other instructor, has assured me there are no plans to change anything in terms of the swim program or the swim team. Britney will remain with us until we secure a permanent replacement.
4. Updated website - please make sure you check out our updated website. The format is easier to read and you can now find all the Percon Construction Inc Site Meeting Minutes. I also have a binder with hard copies in the main office for anyone who would like to take a look.
5. Paid Lunch programs – There was a tentative schedule put together by last year’s parent coordinator for this fall. So far, only one group has requested a permit, which was approved. The school is happy to support this under the leadership of a new coordinator.
6. Shortened lunch – there was a request to explain the rationale behind the lunch hour which is 60 minutes this year instead of 75 minutes as it was last year. We did make a commitment as a school to lengthen our lunch hour when we first moved here as a way to help offset the lack of ability to host practices before and after school. When we met last spring as a school staffing committee, this is one of the areas we looked at due to the very high number of students experiencing challenges during the last portion of the lunch hour. We also heard from many parents that students were getting home too late to get to their “outside of school paid programs”; there were JK/SK students sleeping in the hall at the end of the day; the later we are doing bussing, the more congested the area is and there were a significant number of complaints from the community. The 60 minute

lunch has significantly reduced behaviours at lunch, we haven't seen any students sleeping in the hall and there have been no complaints from parents about arriving home too late for programs and community complaints are also down significantly.

Q from parent, Dan Antonios: The shortened day due to bussing results in our students losing 36 days of instructional time (+the three lost last year due to lack of bussing on inclement weather days), for a total of 39 lost days and counting.

R: the same happens at other schools that have a bussing component. The end of the day must be shortened in order to ensure that we have 5 staff members along with three administrators to load the busses to ensure children's safety. Every attempt is made to ensure that core instructional classes are not the last class in the school day.

Concern: TDSB, Admin and Staff are fine with having such a significant impact on students' instructional time disruption.

Q: Shortened lunch hour's impact on extracurricular activities?

R: It was never a problem at Davisville when we were at Millwood. The hour-long lunch hour is better for the overall behaviour of students.

Follow-up Q: Extracurricular – in particular sports and choir are being impacted. Students either have no time to eat, are eating in classrooms (which some teacher's dislike), and it is seriously impacting our students ability to compete, if the program is available at all, due to challenges of practising at lunchtime in light of the fact that there are 400 kids out in the yard.

Possible solutions:

- Returning to an additional 15 min at lunchtime as per last year (no support from admin or staff – they feel the impact to learning is too great, along with safety concerns)
- Having an early or late bus once or twice a week for students who participate in athletics, choir  
(council to investigate)

7. Budget - all schools have a reduced budget this year. Initially when we met with Council, our reduction looked like much larger than it now is. A large part of this was because at the time we met, we did not have confirmation that our last year's surplus would be returned to us. We now know that it will. There are no clawbacks of the 2018-19 surplus in the carryover to 2019-20. It remains at \$38,775 (\$25,304 + \$13,471). The \$13,471.00 sits in our donation line and is to be kept for items as we return to 43 Millwood. Our reduction this year will be \$21,772.00.

8. Bussing – Brandon asked us to share he is still looking for 9 students to volunteer to come off of bus 8 and move to bus 9 due to overcrowding. Brandon is hoping to visit the #8 bus stop on Monday morning to speak to parents about making a switch. Thank you for considering. He also wanted us to share that behaviour on the bus is improving and we appreciate your support in reinforcing positive bus behaviour.
9. Choir – New this year, Mr. Shragge and Ms. Heath will be taking students to sing and play for the Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:30. We are honoured to have been selected (thanks to our awesome students singing and participating in the annual poppy launch).
10. Finally, we are exploring the possibility of “fire side chats” with the administration as another way to try and help parents feel more connected to the school. Is this of interest? We would come to the “hood” and be open to meeting with parents to chat about any schoolwide topic. We are hoping to arrange 3 chats this year.

There was a general interest in the “fire side chats”

### **VP update: MS. WANDA BOZZO**

#### Student Leadership

Further to an initial meeting, interested students from grades 4-6 applied for leadership positions(submitted applications requiring parent and teacher referral signatures): Office, Morning Announcer, Media/Technology, Ramp/Equipment, Kindergarten. These Ss are sharing in leadership partnership opportunities, such as regular sharing/feedback meetings, presentation/choreography of student videos to be shared during monthly character education assemblies. In January the process will open up for any new Ss and interested returning Ss.

#### Student Council

Further to an initial meeting, interested students from grades 4-6 were invited to apply for Co-Chair Student Council Class Representative positions for their respective classes. A student vote will take place. Elected representatives will attend monthly Student Council Executive meetings. The grades 1-3 students will be invited to attend public council meetings.

Clubs/Sports

**DAVISVILLE CLUBS 2019-2020**

<b><u>MONDAY</u></b>	Grade 1-3, Primary Choir
<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>	Grade 1-3, Primary Coding/First Term Grade 4-6, Junior Coding/Second Term Grade 2-Recorder(TBC)
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	Grade 3-6, Paper Engineering Grade 4-6, Student Leadership(1x a month or as required) Grade 1-6, Student Council, general meeting(December, February, April) Grade 4-6, Student Council Executive, 1x a month
<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>	Grade 4-6, Junior Choir
<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>	Just Dance, French Primary/First Term Drama, French Primary/Second Term Grade 4-6, Jam Session(TBC) Grade 4-6, Milk Bag Weaving

**SPORTS**

**\*\*Girls Basketball tournament-Nov 28, schools participating:**

**Cottingham, Deer Park, Davisville**

<b><u>TEAM-FIRST TERM</u></b>
Cross Country
Girls Basketball
Boys Volleyball(TBC)
Swim(TBC)
<b><u>TEAM-SECOND TERM</u></b>
Boys Basketball

## Inspire/Be Inspired Project(on-going)

The year started with the staff documenting and sharing positive quotes. tudentss are asked to share positive messages of inspiration/motivation in English and French as Ms. Bozzo visits classrooms. They are displayed on our Inspiration board in the front foyer of VRA. Next Step: partner with parent volunteers and student leaders to continue displaying inspirational/motivational quotes around VRA (may include post-it notes, messages engraved on plexiglass, etc.) Parents were invited to contribute during our Curriculum night and may also contribute during our Parent-Teacher Interviews. Simply stop by the Inspiration board in the front foyer and add your message.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

October report and 2019-2020 budget distributed to attendees.

What we are fundraising for this year:

- Classroom libraries
- Classroom supplies – classroom enhancements/in class seminars/ field trips
  - 6 Classes of JK/SK (\$300/\$400/\$300)
  - 12 Primary classes (200/300/200)
  - 7 Junior classes (300/400/300)
- Field trips, city hall, the science centre
- Transportation for school trips, choir festivals, athletic events, school wide events
- Arts enrichment / Athletics supplies (ex. pinnies)
- Scientist in the School
- Special events, like *Games Night* and *Carnival* and other community events

Thank you for your continued support. All that the School Council provides for our children would not be possible without your support and commitment to our community events.

Budget for 2019-2020:

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**Key areas:**

<b>Key areas</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b><i>Spent Last Year</i></b>
Budget for class enhancements and Set-up	6,250			<i>5,257</i>
Budget for Specialty Classes and Departments	6,850	600	6,250	<i>20,107</i>
Budget for External Activities	20,500			<i>12,014</i>
Special Events and Clubs	49,170	5,287.92	43,882.08	<i>55,642</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,770</b>	<b>5,887.92</b>	<b>76,882.08</b>	<b><i>93,920</i></b>

**Budget for class enhancements and Set-up:**

- Class enhancements, in-class seminars and field trips

**Specialty Classes:**

- Team Uniforms, School wide performances, ESL, Core French, Library enhancements, Music Program

**External Activities:**

- Athletics, Choir, Field Trips, In-Class seminars, transportation

**Special Events and Clubs:**

- Graduation, Multicultural celebrations, Annual events (Skate night, Games night), Carnival, Pizza lunch, Fun Fair

Q from parent: What does the spent section reflect?

R: The budget reflects what we are anticipating to be spending for the year, while the spent column is reflective of what has been spent to date.

## **CHAIR REPORT:**

Snack program – good news regarding funding from TDSB.

Spirit wear – we will have basics/most popular items available at school cashonline for purchase. Orders can be placed and the items delivered to your students classroom. We will also have spirit wear available for sale at events such as Skate night and fun fair.

Community events:

- Parent Social – November 8
- Games Night – before winter break

PIAC – Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

- November 16
- Day conference covering topics such as council, fundraising, treasury, networking, vendors
- Breakfast and lunch are provided. Bussing, childminding available.

## **TRUSTEE SHELLEY LASKIN:**

- Minutes about new building construction meetings have been provided in a binder that is kept at the school, available to anyone from our community. These are also posted on our school website for parents who cannot make the journey to VRA.
- Timeline developed.
- Update regarding the decision to include the 5 additional classes to Davisville will be made available in January.
- Schematics regarding the new school build and examples pictures for the JK/SK play area were provided.
- Discussion about budget cuts, changes with French and gifted pathways that may cause changes in 2 years. Also discussed that possibly busing will be altered in future as part of TDSB plans, as there is a consultation occurring. She will keep community updated with changes and implications.

Q from parent: is it possible to provide a streamlined report highlighting whether we are on time, ahead or behind schedule?

R: Trustee Laskin will work on a simplified report.

Q: are there penalties for the contractor if they miss their deadline?

R: Hard to incorporate penalties when there are aspects that are unpredictable – such as weather, strikes by tradespeople, etc.

Refer to her webpage for more information.