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Your School Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 24, 2013

Attendance:

Kelly Serjeantson (Co-Chair) ; Lianne Ouellet (Co-Chair); Nicholas Olmstead (Treasurer) ; Mala Khanna (Secretary) Meg King (Playground Committee) ; Nichole McGill (DSAP); Michèle Tartatcheff (Principal); Robin Valentin Golding (Teacher Representative)

1. Introductions and approval of agenda and last minutes

Introductions: Lianne Ouellette - Co-chair, Nicholas Olmstead - treasurer, Michelle Tartacheff - Principal, Madame Robin Valentine - teacher rep.

The agenda was approved

2. Reports

Principals report: Michèle introduced herself and explained her situation here at Devonshire. She's here for the 'long haul'. She also updated us on various topics involving the school: busing, staffing, bbq (what happens if it rains?) etc.

Teachers report: Madame Robin introduced herself and mentioned that there is a great staff on board this year. No specific concerns.

Treasurer: Nicholas went over the 2013 numbers and introduced the 2014 projected budget. Asked for an opinion on the paper statement option to try to reduce banking fees: general consensus was to go paperless.

Co-Chair: Lianne thanked Kelly Serjeantson on behalf on Council for serving as Co-Chair for two years.

3. Elections

Co-chair: Meg King - Kelly/Vicky nominated/seconded. Elected.

Playground: empty for now

Michèle got a hold of the person who was in charge of the playground stuff last year. (Company that installed trees was bought by someone and we could be out of luck in getting dead trees replaced. Clarification coming.)

Fundraising co-ordinator: Karla - nominated by Meg - accepted in position

Web co-ordinator: maybe Nicholas

Devonshire Directory: a couple of parents have volunteered to get it back up and running.

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4. Fundraising

Walk to school day discussed and getting volunteers in for it.
Day of pink also discussed and potentially increasing the push.
BBQ day: minigolf with proceeds to Parkdale Food Centre
Summer: flyers to kids and 30 slots will be used to have kids create art for local restaurant (HPH.)
Opening party with silent auction on artwork. Resounding approval. Possible creation of a few 'classroom' pieces as well. November 4th hanging time.

5. Makina Baptist update

Makina is a sister school in Kenya which Devonshire would do a 'loonie/toonie Friday' for. Pictures/letters would be exchanged with student populations between the schools. The last time a parent went on an exchange with the school, a 'give us the money' vibe was noticed and there has been little response to date. How to we respond to that? Do we partner with a disadvantaged local school, a school up north, or try to salvage the relationship? Mala updated: there is a current commitment of 5 to 6 desks with the \$400 or so dollars raised last year. Future activities can be discussed later but currently. Vicky/Kelly - motion to spend remaining (\$1957.30) funds on concrete things that can better the school itself Motion passed.

6. Active Transportation

Nicholas introduced the project and asked for parental involvement. Update to be provided later.

7. DSAP update

Nichole updated - there is an increase in kids this year with 6 groups rotating between 4 classrooms. Long term planning is returning now that the arc and immediate concerns are clarified. AGM is upcoming.
Nichole also updated on current development (1040, 1050 etc.) October 15, 7-9pm is first meeting on Carling Bayview CDP.
Lil commented during development discussions that the OCDSB is not 'on top' of development and where future students will be going.

8. Accommodation Review

2 months holidays and are now back in the swing of things. A professional facilitator has been engaged by the Board to help move things along. There are still 7 'scenarios' on the board which are being worked on. Facilitators are bringing in an objective approach. There is a huge split on 'walkability' and recommended 'grade groupings' with grade groupings now being a little more flexible. School board cooperation would bump the boards in question up on the capital funding priority list. It might being about dual track catholic/english board school (St. Georges?)

What advocacy is required from the parents to lobby trustees for whichever outcome? What's required from parents now? Lil: the next steps are Monday night meetings discussing 'options' of what might work. General feeling now is there is no 'magic wand' solution.

October 24th is next public consultation at Fisher Park.
HCA AGM meeting to discuss the ARC and encourage a public meeting from the HCA perspective.

OCDSB meeting near beginning of December is when Board will vote on it. Committee recommendations will be done before then where they present 'two ideas.'

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No current discussion of another interim solution at the moment. No discussion of a full blown arc, nor a 'far west' arc.

9. Upcoming Events

October 3 - bbq.