



Devonshire School Council

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Attendance: Meg, Lianne, Sean, Summer, Angela, Sasha, Martha, Jay, Shannon, Wendy, Christa, Kristi, Christine, Robin, Megan, Nicholas, Tamara, Kristen, Meagan, Martha, Christopher, Michele, Lois, Wikke, Cindy

1. **Introductions and approval of agenda and minutes from last regular meeting.**
2. **Reports:**

Principal: Michele was pleased to report a smooth start to the school year. The enrolment stood at 312 students, with much small junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten classes than elsewhere in the school district. She mentioned a number of new and ongoing initiatives at the school:

- Math manipulatives are now available to be signed out for each classroom (part of previous SIPSA initiatives)
- Breakfast Club has started for students before classes begin. The club still requires an adult volunteer for one morning a week. The club provides a healthy breakfast every morning, with a menu that changes from day to day.
- SIPSA (now referred to as the school learning plan) will focus on writing skills. A group of teachers will be using EQAO assessments to set smart goals and all staff will participate in planning on the October 10 PD Day. Information stemming from the PD Day will be shared with parent council at the end of October.
- Our wonderful and hard-working office administrator, Jose vanZijl, will be retiring in December. An event for the school will be planned to thank her for all that she has done over the last 19 years and to wish her the best in retirement.
- Wiona Wallace, our office assistant, was in a car accident recently. Thankfully, she was not seriously injured.

Renovations: Michele began the discussion about the planned school renovations and their ramifications with a brief outline of what needed to be done. She then explained the possible solutions to the disruption to students and staff.

- Work to be done: The asbestos in the walls will be removed. There will be an elevator and sprinkler system installed, as well as a wheelchair-accessible washroom on the main level
- Possible solutions:

-Relocation: Three locations were mentioned as possible sites for a one-year relocation: Parkwood Hills, Fisher Park, and the Adult Technical High School. Parent issues related to a relocation to any of these sites included walkability and daycare, as well as bussing. Staff issues included access to teaching materials, space, and walkability.

-Summer only renovations: At the time of the council meeting and this discussion, summer only renovations were off the table as far as the school board was concerned.

- Consultation process: Several methods of community, parent, and staff consultation were discussed. Within the existing school community, Michele mentioned automated messages, backpack express, meetings in the gym, and communication with the daycare. For incoming families of JK 2015 students, notices in the local newspaper and through other neighbourhood agencies were discussed.

This is a record of the discussion that took place on September 30. Updates to the situation and possible solutions are ongoing.

Teachers: Megan McCavera and Robin Valentine-Golding were present to represent the teachers and to give updates on ongoing programs and projects.

- Megan reported on the first weeks of the all-day kindergarten programs. There are 80 children in the JK/SK classes and the adjustment to a full-day schedule is going very well. The classes are small and the ECE staff are much-appreciated by students and teachers. So far, so good!
- Robin spoke about a number of projects at the different grade levels.
 - Grade 1: there is a website available for parents to access with important dates, necessary forms, and information on homework. The URL is available from the grade 1 teachers.
 - Grade 3: grade 3 classes are participating in Growing Up Organic. They are learning about soils and plants. The grade 4's will be serving the grade 3 classes a special harvest lunch.

-Junior grades: All junior classes will be participating in a municipal election debate at Fisher Park on October 16. On Election Day, all junior students will vote for their preferred candidates.

-School-wide news: Devonshire's garden has been chosen as part of a school garden tour for environmental education week (November 8 to 11). The garbage reduction program is aiming at eliminating garbage pick-up by December. Right now, there is twice-weekly pick-up.

Treasurer: Nicholas Olmstead, the outgoing treasurer, presented a detailed report of the school council's current financial status. He noted that the council has reserve funds for teacher wish lists and other special expenses that could be supported by council this year. The council provides the funds for one bus per class for outings and can continue to do so.

Co chair: Meg King presented the current list of activities organized by the council. She also explained the urgent need for volunteers in order to have these events continue.

3. **Elections of New Council Members:** Both executive and subcommittee positions needed to be filled.

Executive Positions:

Co-Chair – Jessica Sellars-Scallen

Treasurer - Meagan Cuddihy

Secretary – Kristi Taylor

Subcommittee Positions:

Playground – Sasha

Volunteer – Lois, Wikke

Fundraising - Lois, Wikke

Renovations – Christopher Whitehead

Social Media - Kristi Taylor

Newsletter – Wendy

School Directory - Christa McMillin, Cindy Maraj

4. **Open forum:** Parents had many ideas for fundraising and school events, as well as concerns about healthy and sustainable choices during the events.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 28 at 6 pm