



DEVONSHIRE

Everything a school
should be!

Devonshire School Council

Date: October 28, 2014

Attendance: Meg King, Jessica Scallen, Meagan Wheeler Cuddihy, Kristi Taylor, Michele Tatartcheff, Nicholas Olmstead, Wesley Morgan, Christa McMillin, Cindy Maraj, Sasha McLean, Kristin Sheel, Caddy Ledbetter, Wikke Jarosz, Christopher Whitehead, James Bruce

1. Introductions and approval of agenda and minutes from last regular meeting.

- Meg King introduced the new co-chair, Jessica Scallen. Jessica brings experience from her work in schools as an ECE and a fresh perspective as a new parent at Devonshire. Welcome and thank you, Jessica.

2. Report from the Principal

- Michele relayed Robin's regrets: she was unable to attend due to a medical appointment. Michele gave the teachers' report in Robin's stead.
 - Soccer was successfully concluded this season with both the girls' and boys' teams finishing well;
 - Cross-country running on October 9 had one student finishing first in the category and strong finishes for many students;
 - Jose is donating 100 tulip bulbs to plant in the primary garden; a request (to be posted on Facebook and on the blog) was made for parent volunteers to help with the bed preparation; Marthita would work with Jose on a plan for the planting, which would be done with the students; the following week was chosen for the planting; as part of the school learning plan (writing), Jose would be sharing the story of the Dutch and Canadian friendship and the sending of tulips with the junior students
- Michele gave the principal's report, focusing on the staff's continuing work on the school learning plan, as well as discussing the upcoming November report cards

and interviews. She also mentioned upcoming field trips for the grades 5 and 6 classes and the successful introduction of a math manipulatives activity book.

- There were several questions from the parents who attended:
 - Newly-elected trustee: should she be approached regarding the issues of renovation, and if so, when and by whom? As the renovations representative, Christopher Whitehead would contact Erica Braunovan regarding the council's questions and concerns.
 - The situation on October 22: there was a feeling that the school was not proactive in its communication with parents regarding the protocol of a lockdown/secure mode/shelter in place situation; it was decided that the school website would be updated to provide that information to parents when necessary.

3. Report from the Co-Chairs

- Meg King reported that there were many new volunteers signing up to help with the events this year. She mentioned Wendy Dunford's great job on the newsletter which is available on the council website and through email. She reminded parents that they could send any community updates or event information to the council email to be included in future newsletters. Meg also reported that pizza lunch was being run by Anita Comeau and many helpers.
- Meg asked Michele to let the teachers know that the council would like their wish list for council purchases. In the previous year, the council had provided funds for technology and computer support. There were parent comments on the age of the readers used in the classes and whether they could be replaced. The support of the snowsuit fund was another suggestion. The teachers would be asked to provide a list for November's meeting.

4. Report from the Treasurer

- Nicholas Olmstead presented his final update before handing over all duties to Meagan Cuddihy.
- So far the income from pizza is \$6000.
- The bank account is up \$6000 with \$38,000 in the bank, but with \$4000 to Connaught still to go (waiting for checks).
- One of the parents asked about the difference between last year and this year regarding pizza fundraising. Nicholas notes that last year's total was \$22,800, so we were on target to collect the same this year.

5. Report from the DSAP Representative

- Meagan Cuddihy was elected by the Devonshire School Aftercare Program (DSAP) to be their representative at parent council meetings.
- She was asked to bring forward some potentially mutually agreed-upon principles regarding the upcoming renovations to take to the new trustee. There were three principles put forward by DSAP: prevent exposure to hazardous materials; make decisions in a timely manner; and communicate to all stakeholders, current and

potential. As renovations rep, Christopher agreed to liaise with DSAP and Meagan. The question of other affected community daycares was raised, and Meagan agreed to speak with the DSAP director about her connections with these organizations.

- The AGM for DSAP would be held on November 19, with all DSAP parents encouraged to attend.

6. Special Update/Discussion on Renovations

- Michele explained the current situation regarding the renovations. First, there was little new information from the school board. The engineers and architects had been through the building and had finished taking their measurements. Michele had reminded Susan of the community meeting promised for November.
- Christopher reported that he had received no communication from Jennifer McKenzie regarding the renovation. He had asked for her to set up a meeting with the new trustee, Erica Braunovan.

7. Active Transportation

- There was general concern that parents and caregivers were still not respecting the bylaws regarding stopping cars along Breezehill. Michele voiced concern over the safety of students who were crossing mid-block unaccompanied by parents; the city bylaw officer was still coming around to hand out tickets; some suggestions from parents included increased visibility of no-parking zones (painted curbs), demerit stickers given to parents, parent patrols to assist those with accessibility issues.
- Walk to school event is going to be planned for February's National Day of Walking (Green Community Canada).
- The possibility of more neighbourhood walking groups was mentioned but not discussed in detail.

8. Upcoming Events

- December 6: Gingerbread House Party: update provided by Wikke Jarosz; the previous coordinator (Karla Zuniga) was helping the new coordinator (Patricia Bood) to find good quality sources for the house kits; the planning was well underway, including an idea to sell kits to parents who were not able to come on the 6th. Suggestions on how to use some of the proceeds for community support were made, including Christmas hampers, the annual grade 6 toy drive or donations to various community food banks. Michele indicated that she would contact some community organizations to ask about receiving donations.

9. Proposed Events and Fundraising Ideas

- Spirit Day(s): high approval for reinstating spirit days where students wear school shirts, or the colour blue, to promote school feeling; in order to increase

participation, the school council could provide Devonshire Dragon stickers to all students (cost and design to be discussed at the next meeting).

- Swag order: ideas for different types of school logo items were discussed, including fleeces, t-shirts, stickers, etc (cost and design to be discussed at the next meeting).
- Mabel's Labels: strong support for signing up again to participate in the school support program.
- Pho and Fun Potluck: Wikke will be looking for a date in January/February to plan an evening.
- Rejected proposals: Parents rejected the booking of a motivational author, Tim Green, who would charge \$2000 to speak to students; parents also rejected a proposed direct sales fundraiser that would raise money by selling tables to companies that engage in direct sales.

10. Other Council Business

- Request for Volunteers: the position of OCASC representative was discussed, and Wikke Jarosz volunteered to attend the board-wide parent council meetings to gather information and report it to our council meetings. The position of Ski Club coordinator remains unfilled.
- Schoolyard Representative: Sasha McLean asked for ideas and information regarding the school community's wishes and needs for the schoolyard. In light of upcoming renovations, any ideas to improve the yards will need to conform to renovations. Grants available to support any changes or additions will be presented at future council meetings to be discussed and decided upon.

Meeting ended at 7:30.