

Devonshire School Council

Date: 26 September 2016

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

Principal/teachers:

- Renovation is 95% complete. The elevator is being difficult, because it is a custom renovation. On Monday the gym will be open 100% complete and classes will start rotating in regularly.
- There have been no changes regarding recess or dismissal times.
- Regarding staff. There was almost a need for complete reorganization. There was nearly a split classes at the grades 1, 2, and 3 level. However, Julie worked her magic and there are no splits except for the kindergarten classes. There are 60 children in junior kindergarten this year which means three grade 1 classes in the future.
- There have been no staff assignment changes. We have a couple new teachers as well as several new ECE's. Mr. Stephen it is full time and Mme Louisa the grade 4 teacher is new.
- Junior yard. We are not paying for new pavement. We are not pushing repaving because we are not sure when it can be done and what the process for deciding is. Currently we are working on deficiencies and once they are completed then we will talk about paving. For the Kinder yard, the children decided what to do through a voting system and through idea generation.

EQAO (for grades 3 and grade 6)

- In writing and reading we are at or above the provincial average period.
- In math we are below the provincial average so there's going to be lots of math talk this year which coincides nicely to our PRO grant.
- Math is also now in English rather than French and so we hope this will be of great assistance in raising our score.

Crossing guard at Bayswater and Gladstone.

- There will not be a crossing guard in place this year. We are working with City councilor and Safety Committee in order to see if one is available for next school year.

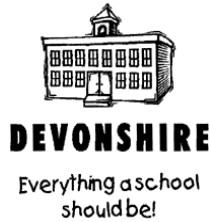
Pick up and drop off in front of school.

- We are having difficulty with parents not obeying the parking signage in front of the schools. We will have bylaw, and the police if necessary, be present at pick-up and drop-off times to issue tickets and speak with parents. It's a matter of the children safety.

We are going to get right on the ball and ask for support from school council for a bus for each classroom field trip and scientists in the school.

Motion: approve 1 Bus per class for field trips this year. 17 classes is approximately \$4,000. **Motion approved.**

Motion: will the council pay for Scientists in the Schools? **Motion approved.** (It's always a hit with the kids).



Treasurer:

- This year will be different from last year.
- We spent lots, approximately \$14,000, a lot of it in IT for the school to catch it up with others in our district.
- We purchased reusable items like media carts, robotics kits, whiteboards, screens and a speaker system for the gym, light tables, Chrome books, and laptop.
- Our fundraisers average \$12,000, which paid for school buses, Scientists in the Schools, snowshoes, Love to Groove etc.
- Hopefully this year is awesome fundraising as well.
- We generated \$25,000 in revenue, and spent \$45,000, (keeping in mind that a lot of it was left over from previous Council). Currently there is \$4,700 leftover in our account.
- Pizza fundraising is our biggest fund generator. This year it will start earlier since there is no work action.
- Last year Approximately \$1,500 from the gingerbread houses, \$1,300 from bags and t-shirts, \$2,500 from the hip Hood auction was raised.
- Hopefully we have a secret weapon this year in our 3D printed Dragon cookie cutter.

3. Fundraising

This year, we are hoping to link fundraisers with specific expenditures. Regarding a dance-a-thon, we could tie it to generating support for Love to Groove which was a huge hit with all grades. The dance-a-thon would be held Halloween day Monday.

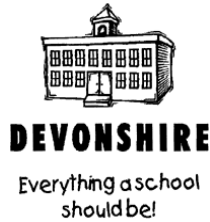
Pizza day.

- Starting October 12th 2016. cost will be \$2.75 per slice, which includes a better tip for the driver.
- Is it possible to have other types of food available? We could do a trial run such as a month or six weeks. Other schools offer a variety of hot lunch options. 4 Preston Shawarma, who is a Devonshire Dad, if we can bring him into the school he can talk with Julie. He would have to supply his own distribution people. Logistics of accommodating allergies also must need to be considered. As well as personal preferences for the students. Bottom line is, parents are asking for other options.

4 Upcoming events

Grand reopening

- October 15th. From 2 to 5:30 p.m. .
- Signs announcing the reopening and flyers will be put up in the community. We also have press releases in the works.
- Yasir naqvi is coming at 4:45 p.m. for the closing ceremony to speak. T
- he Director of Education, Jeff Leeper, and other dignitaries will also be in attendance.
- We need help to get the grade sixes back to the school to be honored at the ceremony.
- Tours will be offered of the school.
- Lois is organizing the food trucks, which are rolling in and supporting us greatly. Food trucks we'll kick back 10% of their sales to the school. The shawarma seller needs tables.
- The event will be held rain or shine.
- We should also set up a Facebook event so parents can let us know they are coming there as well.
- From 2 to 3 p.m. we will hold Tours. 3 to 4:00 p.m. will be the opening ceremony, speeches, grade 6 is at cetera. 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. will be food
- Various options for honouring the last class of grade six students were discussed. The focus was on cost, visibility, and desirability for the students. Some options were hats, bracelets, photograph, t-shirts. A photo was agreed upon.



6. Open forum

Parking for staff new line currently there are 10 spots available for the entire School staff. One is dedicated to the DSAP program. Three are reserved for administrative personnel, which leaves six spots for teachers. They are currently taking turns.

Julie's comments: If we want to retain strong staff, we need parking. This issue should be handled with extreme caution, and it should be emphasized we are NOT going to have an impact on students. There are no parking passes this year from City, although we have called everyone available and have fought for them very strongly. The issue is going to come up no matter what we do. I need to emphasize that this is for Quality teachers retention and is not a 'pampered staff' kind of issue.

Bethany's comments: Teachers are humans, they have their own lives and their own needs. It will benefit the children in the long run if we can retain the best teachers. It's also good for the longevity of the school and developing Devonshire as a community hub.

Other parents' concerns: This issue has come up in the past and has proved very divisive. There is strong opposition to having parking impede the play yards.

Transparency and consultation will need to be addressed. The contradiction between Green policies within the school and car-centred staffing accommodations needs to be addressed.

Elections

Volunteer coordinator: Job is to organize a fundraiser volunteers, information, vendors Etc and to maintain list thereof. Lois is voted in.

Secretary: Take notes of meetings comment generate minutes, and distributes to rest of school For approval and distribution to parents. Nobody voted in.

If you are hearing from your children about watching movies in the classroom please let Julie know. There are other options for teachers and students.

7. Next meeting

Wednesday 26 October 2016.

Pizza served at 5:30, meeting starts at 6 p.m. and we'll run to 8 p.m.