

## **Attendees:**

School Officials: Beverly O'Brien (Principal), Carl Gambacort (VP), Kelli Helpert (VP)

SAC Executive: Tanya Barrett, Bev Grondin, Daniela Fermo, Dan Torrence, Colin Foster, Margie Akins, Dawn Chapman, Lisa Casino, Susan Munn

Jill Hollingsworth, Chanta Baier, Mike Rivington, Andrew MacDonald, Meghan Cox

### **1.) Welcome and request for all other business : Bev Grondin or Tanya Barrett**

- This Saturday's Holiday breakfast needs 5-10 more volunteers. The number of student volunteers is particularly low. Any grade 6+ kids who can help out with the Winter Wonderland would be great. We could use more parents to lend a hand as well.

### **2.) Approval of Minutes : Colin Foster**

- Approved

### **3.) Treasurer's Report : Daniela Fermo**

- Daniela Fermo, Rachel Schmidt and Bev Grondin attended a conference on managing SAC budgets.
- Our budget has been sent to TDSB. Initiatives for year posted.
- The last movie night raised around \$1200.
- Pizza lunches have raised about \$8,000 so far.
- The Holiday Breakfast has sold over 300 tickets but there will be some available at the door, particularly for the 10am slot.
- Teachers have started spending their allocated amounts and submitting receipts.

### **4.) Ward Rep : Dan Torrence**

- Equity task force reports (TDSB Connect). The final report in early December.
- A point was raised that SAC's should make sure their focus is on community building, not fundraising.
  - Bev Grondin: Agreed wholeheartedly. We don't charge a lot for the Holiday Breakfast (and other events), and have many free events for this reason.
- Ward boundaries are changing, so trustees may be reassigned.

### **5.) Principal's Report : Beverly O'Brien**

#### **Achievement:**

- This is the first year that all Kindergarteners got a progress report.
- New kindie curriculum. Understanding the 4 frames is important. Look online.
- Early reading: We want to make sure everyone is reading before the end of grade 1.
  - There are reading coaches in Kindie and Gr 1 classrooms to make sure kids who need the most help are getting it.
  - We've seen a lot of improvement. Great to see a teacher whose focus is just on 1 thing. This brings very new ideas for improvement that can be shared with other teachers.
  - More remediation for kids who need extended help on Math.
    - Every K-8 teacher is having a session/workshop on improving math skills on Monday.
    - Data shows this is the best way to do it.

#### **Wellbeing & Equity:**

- Anti-bullying week.
- One child started "Peace Club" with the help of Mr. Darkhor. The club's focus is on being peaceful and mindful.
- Indigenous History month. Teachers and students asking questions about what the month is about. The board has said all teachers will be educated in Aboriginal history to teach this topic better throughout elementary grades.
  - Explore issues of equity and anti-bias and the call to action for reconciliation.

**5.) Principal's Report : Beverly O'Brien (cont'd)**

**Facilities:**

- Pool: Railing is in.
- A swipe card system is being installed in January at a cost of \$20,000.
  - At the moment admin staff must show up early to let each teacher in.
- A simple alarm system is being put in to monitor the door between Duke and SH Armstrong.
  - Waiting on City of Toronto to okay the alarm installation.
  - "Screecher" system under \$500. Alarm can be timed alarm and can be turned off with a key.
  - The "Safety monitor" staff is still on site but they are also very expensive so it will be good when they are no longer needed. The school is eager to get all systems in place.
- The camera at the front door has switched sides to move out of way of sun. Lens is being replaced.

**Ongoing Staffing Challenges:**

- 2 medical leaves in French Immersion
  - An "Occasional Teacher" cannot be the same as a "Long Term Occasional" (LTO) teacher. School "totally understands" the frustration parents are feeling over the staffing changes.
  - There are also not enough French teachers available.
  - Principal O'Brien has spent her spare time over the last 2 weeks cold calling people to find teachers
    - Simone Pizak (sp?) will be starting December 4.
    - There are a lot of open jobs in the TDSB, even in the English stream.
    - In any week: 3-4 open jobs. This year is atypical.
    - This is an issue that should be brought up at ward meetings.
  - French immersion info nights are not being done at Duke.
    - It will be held at Danforth Collegiate 7-8pm, on Thur. Nov 28th.
    - Webcast was Nov 22. "Go to TDSB website; It's archived." (Can't find it)
- General Info
- Principal O'Brien is very open to talk to anyone about whether FI is right for your child, or anything else you would like to discuss about the school and your child's education.

**6) All Other Business :**

**Caring & Safe Schools Committee Update**

- Next month's C&SS meeting will on December 20th and will be done through Google hangouts.
- November's C&SS minutes will be published very shortly.
- One major items that was raised by students was the condition of Bathrooms. Students will participate in a washroom audit with administration to note all deficiencies.
- Dawn Hurley Chapman: Artification of bathrooms is happening.

**Playground Redesign Committee**

- The primary focus is the front area of the school. The master plan is underway to re-imagine the outdoor space which must conform to TDSB policy, legal requirements, community priorities.
- It will take several years to implement, but we'll be getting started next summer.
- The front foyer will have display with more information about the Master Plan.
- Construction will be disruptive. VERY VERY disruptive.
- SAC: funding will be needed for some parts of the plan.
- Feedback from students:
  - Not enough shade
  - More green space
- The plan calls for more active and creative play. In general the schools are moving away from playscapes. As these break down, they will be removed and updated with something new.

**Playground Redesign Committee (cont'd)**

- Q. Is "the pit" in scope for the Master Plan?  
A. It's very hard to use but it is on the table for re-imagination. It has huge potential but is complicated to access.
- A lot more information will be shared in January.
- Q. Who is approving the Master Plan?  
A. A design consultant will use school input to create master design. She'll use her knowledge of the regulatory realities to build the recommended plan, but the Board approves.

**Hold and Secure Procedure - Presentation - Officer Tony Santeramo**

- There are 3 different emergency states: Lockdown, Hold & Secure, Shelter & Place.
- Toronto has never had an "active attacker" (out to hurt anyone). When schools have an incident so far it's about one person going after someone else (retaliation, etc.). By the time the police arrive, the attacker is long gone, which is much better scenario than the alternative.
- **Lockdown**
  - When there is a need to call for a "Lockdown" it is because of an imminent threat. Someone deemed dangerous is at the school. (Most common reason: custody issue.)
  - It has always been the administration that decides when this should happen. Something new is coming online very soon.
  - When a lockdown needs to be called, it can't be subtle. Codes don't work — people forget what code means what. It will be announced on the PA System: "Lockdown! Lockdown! Lockdown!" because seconds may count. There is an imminent threat to students on school grounds.
  - This is not limited to schools. Malls, universities and corporations are adopting these same drills. Lockdowns are now a skill all people should know how to handle.
  - In a lockdown, you get to the nearest securable room you can get to safely.
  - The kids already know these drills.
  - The first action is to close and lock doors. When it's not a lockdown, doors should be left open/ajar, but locked. This way the door only needs to be closed to be secure; No one needs to find their keys or put themselves into the hall to lock the door.
  - Everyone should stay out of site of the windows on the doors. If it's safe to do so, windows on the doors should be covered, possibly with a poster kept on the wall beside the door just for such a purpose.
  - Time, distance and space are the important factors to keep everyone as safe as possible. The longer it takes the person to move through the school, the further they have to travel, the more space there is between that person and the staff and students, the better the chances are he'll be confronting police not staff & students.
  - Parents: When you hear there is a lockdown at your child's school: Don't text or phone your child. The sound of the phone echos down the halls. An attacker will stop what they are doing and go to any sound they hear. In a lockdown cell phones must be off.
    - What's your child going to do if they are in a bathroom when Lockdown is called? Have conversation with them to make sure they are prepared. They go to nearest room that can be secured.
  - Once a classroom is secured, the door should not be opened to anyone. Lockdown only ends one way: Police and principal go room to room with a master key announcing themselves and unlocking the doors. They will not ask for the door to be opened.
  - Whether you should evacuate from the site (e.g., if you were in the cafeteria, not a classroom so can get directly outside) is a judgment call in the situation. Fire alarm during locked? Same.
  - At the College & University and Corporate level police are now teaching fighting, as a last resort.
- **Hold & Secure: Threat in a neighbourhood**
  - School day continues as usual internally, but kids don't go outside.
  - Schools decide when to begin and end this themselves. Generally announced over the PA.
- **Shelter and Place**
  - e.g., a chemical spill. Close all windows, turn exterior fans off.