



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL SAC MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Attendees

- Elaine Hua
- Geoff Moreira
- Ben Peto
- Sarah Liss
- Nuno Silva
- Melissa Kozak
- Deborah Walsh
- Stephanie Nause
- Alex Kollo
- Melanie Kramer
- Hilary Hall
- **Regrets**
 - Kitty Choi
 - Roxanne Wright

Approval of agenda and January minutes

- Quorum achieved
- Minutes approved

Principal/Vice-Principal Report

- **Get real workshop update:** with personable storytelling style landing well with students, there was positive feedback to the workshop, with students excited for the next
- **Visit to the local café to learn about 3d printing:** almost all of the
- **New fence:** Moving forward with kindergarten fence
- **Absences:** Still very high. About 50-60 absences per day, with 4 active cases, and with several staff absences across the board (teaching, admin, caretaking). Not unique to Dovercourt as VP Moreira is covering in other schools. Challenges remain.
- **Graduation:** Thinking of an outdoor graduation, June 23rd, Principal Ellis taking the lead and seeking parent support (more to come)
- **Staffing**
 - Working on a new model for a staffing model that includes losing a teacher and vice principal position and have not heard back re: support staff (lunchroom staff, caretaking, etc) allocation
 - Reason for losing positions includes TDSB enrollment decreasing across the board (down 4000), pattern has been decreasing enrollment for last 5 or so years, as well as board having to contend with



- Currently, enrollment is at just over 400, but forecasting for 320 next year
- Consensus that this is a big loss for the school, that a vice principal is needed for school, that we might consider advocacy (e.g. reaching out to trustee)
- **Morale:** Question about morale at the school and any changes since weather has improved. There are lots of positive activities that are improving the vibe
 - Field trips and excursions
 - Open gym and other sports activities (e.g. slow pitch)
 - DJ Adam's jam club
 - Book challenge
 - Field trips
 - Virtual Book Fair in April

Treasurer's Report

- Overall, not much of an update given the lack of spending thought we've been able to cover masks, website
- We had approved \$250 for the workshop but that with HST it'll be closer to \$400
- Need to consider options for fundraising as this is the third time spring fling is not happening and with only ~13K moving forward, need to consider alternative ways to raise money
- Previous Spring Flings generated net revenues of upwards of 15K, but given work organizing and current covid conditions, not feasible this year. Need to consider starting planning now. Ask to the SAC was to start thinking of creative ideas for the fall.

Teacher/staff appreciation

- Reached out to multiple coffee shops and a local bakery, with interest to help with baked goods
- May 6th is tentative date, but we will likely be able to do multiple appreciation days
- Website will be updated with vendor names when details are sorted out with Principal Ellis

Green update

- **Garden update**
 - 8 stainless steel containers arriving late May early June
 - Small group of teachers and local residents are helping as the group moves into the design stage
 - Interest from the community to participate and help plan the different streets
 - Team will be reaching out to the teachers as well about participating
- **Echo earth day cleanup**
 - Neighborhood cleanup planned for April 22nd, with classes able to choose any 20 minutes to help clean up
 - There is interest from 3 teachers thus far and they will be
 - Next week the team will deliver equipment
- **Reminder from Melissa:** SAC can post communications on the website or Friday files

Workshops



- **Alexis Dawson Workshops**

- Applied for and got the grant (submitting similar grant to previous). One workshop for wider Dovercourt Community with focus on anti-racism (email and pre-workshop survey out, workshop on May 4th). There was conversation about promotion (within divisions, by Principal Ellis) and promotion by SAC

- **School improvement workshops**

- Principal Ellis along with teachers and 2 parent reps will be conducting a workshop to inform improvements for the school
- Call out to the council for the workshop, which is likely during the daytime of the 31st
- If not a lot of interest, we can post a call on the website and Friday files

Movie night

- Details discussed regarding logistics (likely outdoors) and previous setup (pizza, school has a popcorn machine and lots of paper bags and loads of paper plates)
- Call to come for volunteers in the future
- There was a discussion around how to make movie night simultaneously a fundraising night. Ideas included:
 - Silent auction
 - Have a donation station
 - Selling pizza slices
 - Elaine will connect with Kitty and Roxanne
- **Motion:** approve up to \$200 to fund movie night as event committee deems appropriate. **Carried without objections.**

Health and safety committee

- No significant update but previous discussion was around an education update to community re: benefits of masking, including data, the enhanced protection
- Robust discussion around how to provide this educational opportunity
 - Logistically, discussed the need to put something on the website, linked to in the Friday file
 - Use language around encouragement based on public health guidance without tone of mandates (you have to do this)
 - Discussed tension, which is playing out in broader community, between personal choice and broader public health, challenges with ambiguous messaging
- **Motion:** Move forward with working on an educational piece to be posted on the website (content to be sorted out via email review). Motion carried without objection

Enrichment

- Conversations about Principal Ellis about how to identify new enrichment opportunities using a survey
- Previously, after several years of ad hoc planning, the council moved to strategically select opportunities that were aligned with the school improvement plan



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL

S.A.C.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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- Challenge to the SAC re: enrichment ideas – try and come up with some ideas. There is a comprehensive list of board approved enrichment programs
- Historically, SAC has engaged students for enrichment ideas – SAC can reach out through the student council

Ward update

- Meeting on May 12th, from 7-830 [details included in Friday File]
- SAC rep will report back

Other business

No other business