School Community Council (SCC) Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2024

Attendees: Ryan Pittman, Samantha Joseph, Hanri Nel, Jenn Thompson, Aliya Philip

Online Attendees: Ranjit Singh, Soumia Theshkar, Nivetha Navaneethan, Trishna Radhakrishnan, Intisar Adnan

Regrets:

Meeting Chair: Hanri Nel

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Land Acknowledgement & Human Rights Statements	Read by Ryan Pittman
2. Meeting Norms & Attendance	Hanri reviewed the format and expectations of those in attendance. Attendance was taken using QR code and manual attendance for those attending virtually.
3. Review/Passing of Minutes	Hanri reviewed the October 2024 SCC meeting minutes. The minutes were adopted. First motioned by Jennifer T and second motioned by Rajbeer K.
4. Treasurer's Report	Current status of funds $ 2252.21 ● Funds were paid out to 2 PLP classes and grade 7/8 that was owing from last year for class related items to purchase ● 2024-2025: will need to generate funds to support school initiatives
5. Regional SCC meeting update	SCC Chair and Mr. Pittman attended the regional meeting, which gave them an opportunity to exchange ideas with SCC members from other schools in the DDSB
6. Parent reaching out grant (PRO Grant)	SCC will be applying for the ProGrant through the DDSB (funding comes form the Ministry of Education). This funding supports initiatives that gets parents involved in student learning. DDSB has an email address for questions around ProGrant. ● List of departments will be provided in hardcopy to members, along with a copy of ProGrant information ● Applications accepted until December 15th and needs to be delivered no later than 7 June. Previous ProGrant from other schools: ● Scientists in schools ● Zumba night ● Bring family to school day ● Family science night ● Understanding and dismantling racism ● Family arts night ● Community/ Dr Robin Baweja ● Family STEM night

	• The Joy within • Wellness and curriculum night • Healthy eating MasterChef night • Math-a-thon • Ontario tech $500 for engineering equipment was very successful. • Book fair • Paul Davis - Parent engagement night ProGrant tips from other schools: • Early and late sessions that can focus on specific age groups • Intermediate leadership to assist. Get older kids involved • Reach out to engagement departments
7. Engagement & fundraising Ideas	Ideas were shared regarding fundraising and community engagement ideas – SCC would like to do more with the school community to support school initiatives. • Movie night & Winter raffle basket – December 2024 • Valentines grams – February 2025 • Soda can tab - Collect pop can tabs to raise funds – year round • EQAO theme nights • Student led sessions – Topics to teach families/parents • Bingo night • New gift items to raffle/auction • Holiday Market – students can purchase donated items for their family and friends • Viola Desmond Mugs or water bottles • Dance Days • Public Health Night – a night to educate families on topics pertaining to students at the school Note: Thursday nights are good nights for school community events as the school has permits for the gym and school that night
8. Community Questions & Concerns	There is no 'lice free policy'. School and communities are to follow Durham Public Health advice. If a student in a class discloses that information a letter will be sent home and no further action would be required. Members wanted to know where is school funding coming from? • Block budget – Money from the Ministry of Education which can be used to towards specific school needs • School generated funds – funds that are generated by the school during pizza day, popcorn day, subway day, cookie day, field trips, which is used towards specific school needs or requests • SCC funds raised goes to school requests, community engagements and activities. SCC funds fall under the purview of the school administration.
9. Administrators' Report	1. Upcoming virtual community engagement Nov 27, 2024 7pm – an evening to engage/update the community on the Compendium of Action for Black Student Success. 2. Book fair to occur Dec 4, 2024 to Dec 13, 2024 3. Child Care Parking – Issues continue to arise around parking in the child care lot. The school board is working on fixing the issue 4. Vaccinations – need 1-2 SCC volunteers to assist on Nov 14th

	5. Lifetouch – vs Edge: are families interested in Spring photo day? Response was yes. 6. Information for parent teacher interviews will be going out. If student is in grade 8 it will be drop in 7. Halloween and Diwali was a success 8. New books were purchased for library 9. Nov 21st will be picture retake date 10. Acadience screening is happening for students in SK – grade 2 11. from the Town of Ajax: Bike shared lanes signs and pavement markings are going up around the community 12. Character assemblies are back on! 13. Clothing and food drive info to be sent to the school community 14. Pie in the face event occurred to say a big Thank You to VDPS for raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation
10. Educator Updates Ms. Stinson & Mrs. Dosanjh	Staff funding requests: 1. Music program - wants junior and intermediate equipment wants $2500 – repairs and new instruments – method books 2. Primary literacy funding (UFLI) – kindie grade 1 and grade 2 – right to read report speaks to the idea – reading is a right for students – Ministry updated Curriculum to ensure a structured approach to literacy development (ie. reading instruction) . Screening will occur twice a year. Educators will share this reading level information. Money request made to support reading system: $2500 requested 3. Phys ed – wants equipment $3000; will be providing a list ● We welcomed Nadeesh – a student council rep to our meeting. Moving forward a student council rep will come to each meeting to share the voice of the student council ● Intermediate: things are going well - trip planned for grade 8 in November ● Junior: things are moving along: going on trip in November as well ● Mrs Sinton – grade 8 can help with making signs for us for future events
11. Motions	1. Vaccination snacks – voting to occur online – results will be sent to Mr Pittman. Decision was made to not support this initiative.
Meeting adjourned & Next Meeting	Next meeting January 7, 2025 at 6:30pm
New Action Items	● Look into getting money donated to school and receive a donation receipt/recognition – Mara to email Mr Pittman (COMPLETE: Information was located and emailed to both Mara and SCC Chair) ● Mugs/water bottle on the VDPS page ● Lice info in different languages