

DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL SAC Meeting minutes for September

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:30pm

Introductions

- David, parent to Olive, 7th grade (coming in from Pauline)
- Amanda, parent to Nicolas, 7th grade
- Melanie, parent to Loewen, 2nd grade
- Hilary, parent to Arthur, 6th grade (previous grade rep experience, bringer of delicious brownies)
- Nuno, parent to Nico, junior kindergarten (secretary last year)
- Deb, grandmother to 2 kids, one in 5th grade, one in JK (5 years, mostly on eco-club)
- Principal Ellis, 5th year as principal, parent to 3 kids
- Ben, parent to Jojo, 1st grade (last year's treasurer, previously co-treasurer)
- Vivian, parent to Nico, JK (last year on eco committee)
- Deborah
- Carson, parent to Lincoln

Principals report

Class size and resource allocation discussion

Numbers to be finalized and communicated to school on September 22

Kindergarten

- Previously at 37 and 36; after advocacy and pushing for changes since June, new teacher added
- Principal Ellis wants to start profiling teachers to get to know who's teaching kids

Senior division

- Currently at 36, 34, and 33 for grade 7/8
- From grades 4-8 you should have system average of 24.8
- Doubtful about more resources given how averages shake out over the grade range

1st grade

- 25 and 21
- 20 is the cap, but we have a special ed assistant in 1, so unlikely to have additional student

Admin

- School lost a VP allocation, but now there is a full time clerical
- 2 special needs assistant, 1 learning assistant

- New program (power schools) that replaces previous software (trillium)

Programs/clubs

- **Music teacher:** Half-time music teacher for grade 1 onwards, all year; next year goal is to have a full-time music program, but itinerant music teachers are hard to find, being allocated into full time classes
- **Boys and Girls Club:** Sharing space with Boys and Girls club while renos happen at the club (2 classrooms, gym)
- **Food drive:** Working with Oasis on a thanksgiving food drive
- **The Stop, holiday food drive:** organization will be coming in with junior and intermediate classes
- **Terry Fox run:** Wednesday Sept 28, taken out to the neighborhood for visibility; Email in the Friday file for the walk – little ones stay in yard (grade 3 onwards)
- **Cross country:** Primary onwards (grade 3 onwards); it is announced daily. School bus shortage impacting club (see discussion below about ask to SAC)
- **New clubs:** tech club, Dungeons and Dragons (!)
- **Band?** Band is through an itinerant program, grades 5 and up. Might not be happening this year
- **Jump math:** program is back, Caitland to put a call out for a committee; Jum
- **Volunteer readers:** Heather Wilson, who is now a part time resource, is leading this
- **Choir:** starting, from junior on up

Learning more about clubs?

- Info will be generally communicated via Friday file
- Will include teacher information, the club, details

Maintenance

- New kindergarten fence
- AC fixed in the gym

School #s update

- Currently have 413 kids
- In total, for our school, we have 33 students (that would add onto the 413)
- 6/7 virtual class is attached to our school
- Director of Education visited, led by Grade 8 students; great feedback on sense of community and well being

Treasurer's report

- \$1071 surplus from last year (reconciliation is underway, made difficult by the accounting approaches)
- Standard reserve is \$13-14K, currently sitting on ~\$17K
- Need a new budget model, discussion at next SAC (previously, we had a per student model, last year used a percentage allocation to certain activities)
- Ideally, a co-treasurer to share knowledge



Snack program

- This year, cannot pay through grant program, only donations
- Additionally, program is hampered by rules that we cannot turn a paid position to a volunteer position
- As a council, SAC needs to look at creative ways to assist funding the volunteer run snack program
- Snack program can fall under a broader food security program

Asks to SAC

- Principal Ellis analyzed areas where SAC could contribute
- One area of opportunity is the cost of bus – \$530 dollars for 1 bus, for 72 kids
- Potential ask is for SAC to sponsor 1 trip per class or division, in lieu of the \$10/student for arts [for discussion at next SAC]
- This year, there will be planning by division (kindergarten, primary, junior, intermediate), so asks should come

By-laws

- Revised by-laws for parent councils need to be updated this year and submitted by November
- First draft by October 22nd: Deborah will participate in review
- Council will need to then vote and endorse it
- New bylaws - SAC should be at a minimum: Principal, 1 teacher, 1 non-teacher, 1 community rep, no less than 5 parents, 1 student rep

Shape of council

There was a discussion about the shape of council and how it should be set up

- **Co-chairs**; ideally, there should be an alternate, particularly for continuity
- **Treasurer and secretary**: ideally, there should be an alternate
- **Community outreach and ward representative** – this is critical to have information fed back to the SAC
- **Events and fundraising**
- **Eco-club**: we were rated previously as gold/platinum school
- **Enrichment**: consider pivoting the focus this year; enrichment is about looking at programs that can supplement what teachers are already doing
- **Health and safety**: technically, with the previous bylaws we were supposed to have it, but not specified in new bylaws
- **Communications**: keep separate
- **Class reps**: Discussion about need for class reps and utility of function given strong communication with Principal Ellis, reach of Friday file, reach of email, etc;
- **Parent engagement**



Truth and Reconciliation Day

- Moment of reflection and stories, with age appropriate stories
- There will be a drum circle as well

Spirit Wear

- Stick with the same design
- Previous campaign was 4K gross, plus
- There is a setup cost, which can be waived
- Same things on offer, plus water bottles
- Lisa Clapperton will do it again?
- Sorting, bagging, naming
- Lessons from last time
 - Big sweatpant request
 - Not the parent name on the clothing/baggage
 - Rent a debit machine?!

Welcome back BBQ

- October 20th
- BBQ ends, visit the classrooms
- Teachers have all agreed to participate in BBQ
- Previous years including renting the BBQs, ordered it through Gordon foods – might be tough this year given timelines
- Keep it simple
 - Hot dogs (veggie, halal) and hamburgers
 - Samosas
 - Drinks
 - Get the ice cream man to come...
 - Talk to Ben for the budget (on October 12th)
 - Pizza, samosas, popcorn, chips and pop on sale
 - Have a donation/raffle station....
- Previous attendance was about 50% of enrollment
- Need a meeting before October 12th to discuss. Next steps: connect with treasurer

Potential agenda items for next SAC

- Review draft bylaws
- Election of roles
- Budget review
- Bring forward bus trip funding ask



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL

S.A.C.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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- Update on spirit wear campaign
- Update on BBQ event