



AGENDA:

DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL SAC MEETING

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm
(Subject to change)

Regrets: Sarah Weaver, Katie Quach, Peggy Gibbons, Lisa Kostopolous, Chris Antonik, Nahum Mann
Attendance: Deb A, Deb W, Matt Z, Paul, Hilary H, Kim K

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Welcome and Land Acknowledgment • Approvals for: ○ Agenda ○ Prior Minutes (November 2024) ○ Executive motions between meetings	Motion: To pay for childcare costs for SAC meetings in cash. All approved Agenda approval: Paul, Deb second, all approve Minutes: Deb A, Deb W second, all approve	
Student Report	Door decorating contest, with themes of winter Candygram fundraiser for grad trip Reading challenge, only one winner, council asked if there could be a runner up, or a third place - Motion for two \$20 Dufferin Mall gift cards. Deb A, Deb W, all approved. Motion passes. Intermediates do reading buddies with other classes	Paul to collect and drop off at office

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	Working with TPH to run the PALS program. Starts with playing games outside, leadership opportunity. Recess equipment is out and being used Asked facilities to build a sand pit in the corner of the West Yard, would be in the Spring	
Teacher Report	See above	TBD
Principal's Report School Improvement Plan update	Several emails to principal regarding a problematic dog, continual problems with dogs in the yard Caitland on Health and Safety Committee, working with McCauley She is in discussion with 311 There is massive construction planned for Dovercourt. Boilers will be removed. May 15th the construction will start. It will be evening and weekend work. The entire HVAC system will be replaced Monthly construction updates will be shared as it unfolds Construction will be front of the school, under Heather Wilson's room on West side. There is asbestos in the building because it is so old, protocols will be followed, specialists will do the removal, binder with information will be available to anyone interested. McCauley will be temporarily relocated during construction.	Paul to ask contact to send report to school re: broken ankle Subcommittee for Dovercourt Dog Relations Committee

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	Grade 8 Grad Trip - Close to 100% attendance, some subsidies will be provided - Muskoka Woods Camp Blank Canvases - Jan – June will have a school wide mural project. - Theme based on the School Improvement Plan; each division will have their own themes - Waiting to get the quote; some money will be used from pizza lunch fundraising if there is excess from Scientists in Schools Thinking Classroom Ask - Book club style with staff. Teachers have observed classes that have used it. Would run all the way from primary to intermediate, would implementing in teams - Moving math off the paper and books and onto the wall; mapping out thinking, and additional modality to re-engage math concepts - Integrative thinking, problem solving based - Would become a permanent resource for the school; two teachers are being trained - Responds to EQAO results - Motion: SAC to support purchase of Building Thinking Classrooms with up to \$1000	
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	- o Deb A proposed, Deb W seconded, All approved DanceAThon - Ask Sandy to share file for School Cash online to enable reconciliation (paper was provided tonight) - Deb A to make a list of cash donation students and send to Sandy School Improvement plan review– deferred to next meeting Musical - Will be performing Oz, adapted version with modern music - Reaching out to Central Tech for performance - Hoping for an April performance - Auditions in January - Whole school production - Costumes and props may become an ask	
Treasurer's Report • Dance-a-Thon tally	We have raised \$4022 from DanceAthon \$1177 utilized for reimbursement of all asks since beginning of the year. Book club purchase, sports equipment, First Friday coffee treats, domain renewal, administration	

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	This process has been very difficult to change it over to new bank account. No updated statement available due to bank change over and still awaiting access Subscription for website due; was B Peto who needs to be reimbursed, Deb A information now used	
Requests for funding	None submitted In the past SAC provided \$10/student specifically for arts enrichment activities (not materials) that included trips or invited performances Division based funding amount for January-June at a set amount that teachers can use for their wish list: Divisional Enrichment Wish Lists - All asks lined up with SIP	Caitland to bring a request amount for each division to the next meeting for funding for voting
Enrichment Updates • Proposal for all-school enrichment activities	Katie to bring a list of 3-4 - Every person coming in must be vetted now, even if on approved list; very time consuming process - As quickly as we can get the names in the better	Katie Quach & Caitland meeting next week
Fundraising Updates • Messaging and strategy	Interested in finding parents who are willing to write grant applications. There are funding opportunities out there that	Deb A to write up call out.

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• Grant strategy • PCP12 grant update • Amazon gift store for STEM and Art kits • FundScrip update • Entripy (Spirit Wear update)	can take the ask off parents alone to support school activities. Do a call out for grant writing support from parent/guardian community in January. PCP12 grant; no update Wish list (fulfilment options include donations, amazon, other stores); SAC not paying for this but asking parents instead if they wish to support the classroom. Has been done in other schools - STEM Kits and Art kits are the wish list - So far only primary division has submitted - Cost of materials come out of classroom budget which is \$350/year. So art supplies as well as all classroom supplies (pencils, paper, Kleenex, must come out of this budget line - Delivery will go to parent house to ensure no losses FundScrip – incredibly complicated, not worth effort Entripy cheque is forthcoming, \$200 for first increments; delayed by Postal Strike - Will examine switching to alternatives - \$400 in total since store opened, not including mark up on in person sales	Sarah Weaver to work with Caitland re: messaging
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Events • Welcome Back treats for staff - January • Tech talk for parents • Movie Night: February 13 • Spring Fling: May 30	First Friday January 10th – potluck coffee and treats first this in morning - Three teachers are GF - Deb A to make sign up form Tech Talk - January 23rd - Caitland to provide talk in person - Will be in the library; will have a Zoom link also - Grade 5 and over kids can sit in and join with parents - Screen time, dangers, - Email Caitland burning questions ahead of the presentation so she can answer them - Send out a survey ahead of time to collect questions for Caitland ahead of time - Caitland to speak about 1-1 devices; at home they have access to everything, the firewall is only at TDSB - Motion for up to \$300 for pizza and childcare at the event. Moved by Hilary Hall, Seconded by Deb W, all approve Movie Night – deferred to Jan meeting; date is February 13th Use a theme to tie it into the musical Spring Fling	Paul to ask Better Days about donating coffee or getting wholesale price HH to create survey questionnaire
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	- Prepare a presentation, slide show that could be emailed or given to specific parents that are likely to help with direct asks; share with Caitland - Scope will be revisited if not enough volunteers come forth	
Community/Ward Rep Updates • Recap of Ward meeting • Key priorities for the school (alignment with School Improvement Plan) • Truth and Reconciliation update	Time did not permit full read in. Some people have read what was shared. See Appendix A	
Eco Club update	Bulbs got planted before the weather turned! Garlic was last in	Deb Walsh
Communications Updates • School Messenger access • Instagram and BlueSky • New website	Access to school messenger now so SAC can send out direct pushes when needed Instagram/BlueSky – discussion ongoing Keypass is a free program; could be possible to use for more secure storage of details Website paid for the next year; defer build of new website to next year when it has to be renewed. Work on imaging for website with a design language	Paul Tichonczuk, to look into password manager

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Status of Stop School Cuts and Pride subcommittees	Currently inaction Deferred future plans to next meeting	Bump to top of agenda at the next meeting
Other business and adjournment		

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APPENDIX A: Community Outreach Report

Please see below for my report from the Nov 20 Ward Council meeting, which I attended on Dovercourt SAC's behalf.

In light of some of the discussion at Ward Council (relayed to Deb last week), perhaps co-Chairs could consider briefly highlighting the two key takeaways from the Ward meeting, as they'd likely inform the School Improvement Plan and Fundraising agenda items. I could then speak to the other elements of my report later in the meeting as planned?

For the rest of the group, the two key takeaways from Ward Council are:

- Trustee Alexis Dawson and Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro repeatedly emphasised the need for SACs to prioritize plans/activities with their school principal's School Improvement Plan.
 - During a group Q&A portion of the meeting, I indicated DPS SAC is having a discussion with Caitland on this on Dec 4th (they really appreciated learning this).
- Executive Superintendent Nigro (not the Trustee) voiced some mild criticisms over how SACs approach fundraising, in that, writ-large, SAC's tend to focus too heavily on fundraising for "fundraising's sake," as fundraising objectives need to align with advancing student achievement and learning.
 - Pretty sure our fundraising aims for these objectives anyhow (we ROCK in this area) - but good to discuss.

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- o A couple Ward reps present did not receive these comments well. I stayed silent as I wanted to take away and discuss with everyone first.
- o The Education Act (Regulation on School Councils
- <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000612>) states:

[FUNDRAISING]

22. (1) *Subject to subsection (2), a school council may engage in fundraising activities. .*

(2) *A school council shall not engage in fundraising activities unless,*

(a) *the activities are conducted in accordance with any applicable policies established by the board; and*

(b) *the activities are to raise funds for a purpose approved by the board or authorized by any applicable policies established by the board.*

(3) *A school council shall ensure that the funds raised by it are used in accordance with any applicable policies established by the board.*

I haven't had time to dig further but here's a link to Board policies on fundraising <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Detail/docId/186>

Rest of the Report

- Held at Alex Muir Public School. Not a huge turnout, maybe 25 - 30 people, including TDSB staff

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- Alexis is wonderful, welcoming and highly collaborative!!
- Meeting was an overview of TDSB structure, roles, responsibilities, etc. (Trustee, SIs, ESI)
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) reps were present - indicated they are not as active with schools as they' like to be; have hard time collecting parent email addresses
- **TDSB Mobile Device Policy** - still open for public comment until Dec 10
- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Mobile-Device-Policy>
- There are TDSB efforts to ensure staff from junior schools and feeder high schools are coordinating curriculum (to help ensure smoother transition to high school)
- We are encouraged to invite a Superintendent to speak at a SAC meeting (our SI is John Currie)
- New approaches to "Mental Math" being implemented in TDSB schools - number sense, new ways of solving problems
- Anyone can attend Trustee Committee meetings / anyone can register a delegation to speak at a Trustee Committee Meeting (if we have anything we'd like to raise).
- SACs can really make a difference in parent engagement through supporting kids' learning "at home"

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