DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL SAC MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER

**November 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

## **Attendees**

* Elaine Hua
* Ben Peto
* Melissa Kozak
* Stephanie Nause
* Melissa
* Roxanne
* Nuno Silva
* Alex Kollo
* Deborah Walsh
* Vivian Fleet
* Melanie Kramer
* Mandi Kohli
* Geoffrey Moreira
* Sarah Liss
* **Regrets** - Caitland Ellis

Approval of agenda and October minutes

· October minutes were approved

SAC Exec Motions + Filling open SAC Positions

* After an email exchange, the executive approved the spend for SAC to provide events with $50 towards the purchase of gift cards as prizes as part of the Dance-a-thon event (50$ for gift cards with 1 gift card per class). Reminder that the executive can approve up to $500

Student Council Report

* In addition to Roxanne and Kitty, Caitlin Gaudette has agreed to be on the Events committee
* Other positions remaining opening – co-chair, parent engagement coordinator, as well as community rep.
* Currently, Elaine is doing the role of junior rep and is will reach out to teachers to identify parents who might be able to advocate for interests of that division. Otherwise, she will continue to serve in that role
* There was discussion around whether a community rep is required. Elaine will connect with Caitland. In the past, it has been OASIS.
* Parent engagement coordinator role will not be filled as role is already spread out in other roles

Principal/Vice-Principal Report

* VP Geoffrey provided the update as Caitland was not available.
* **Danceathon update:** Huge thanks to the committee as it was wonderful energy, staff got involved, and it was a great community event for all
* Staff will be engaging around professional learning opportunities – focus is on math and equity
* **Enrichment committee:** Look into a mural painted at Dovercourt with an indigenous theme – focus on truth and reconciliation
* **Co- and extracurricular activity**
  + **Soccer tournament:** great weather, everyone thrilled to be back. Kudos to Mr. Kohl (sp) and team for organizing!
  + **Cross country:** Two students ran for cross-country at Riverdale
* **Reminder**s needed – screening for Covid at home or online and provide additional masks. The school still consistently sees 6-10 students/day come to school in the morning without pre-screening. We are getting to the stage where students will need indoor shoes. This will go into the Friday file.

Teacher’s Report

* Mandi Kohli provided a presentation on a proposal for SAC to fund up to 30 Chromebooks as part of a technology learning program using the SMAR framework, intended to grow a culture of innovation
* Benefits of the program would be felt from kindergarten to grade 8
* The Chromebooks and design of the accounts ensure that there are no ads, no data share, we own all the date, staff and student accounts access, auto saving, unlimited storage (important when dealing with digital media), easy-safe-secure, and its easy to use
* **Demonstration by division:** Presentation included examples of activities for all divisions
  + In kindergarten, could use the use spreadsheets to learn to type colors, pattern recognition
  + Primary grades could use google forms with expectation in data management is to create surveys and to collect. In grade two, they are learning about creating forms, linking data
  + Junior grades (4,5,6), looking at slide presentations, using green screens in class to embed stop-motion animations
  + For older students, a slide show demonstrating web-based thinking and connective ideas rather than linear presentation
  + Proposal would be fair/equitable in that focus would include STEM and BIPOC and girls who code
* **Cost:** about 250/device X30 = 7500 +tax…
* **Question:** Given focus on being equity-driven, *how* are the Chromebooks being shared? Right now, acknowledged that primary divisions are lacking. We would start by putting them in hands of these students, but ensure they are shared
* **Issue: School already had devices, but they were misplaced:**
  + School is short on devices due to confusion with TDSB. Last year, SAC bought laptops that the TDSB then took back. Frustration was expressed that TDSB would do this.
  + There should be advocacy to ensure this doesn’t happen again. Its 2021, our kids should have access to computers.
  + Are we less likely to receive funding IF we fund these? The way that TDSB funds, the school allocates money and school decides how it is spent. When allocating funds, school focused on funding students with special needs (equity issue). Secondly, it created a contract and revised BYOD policies to broaden use of devices in school.
  + For future, now that school has experience, IT committee, and processes, it knows how to prevent this and it is still fighting to get access to our devices. It was agreed that reaching out and creating pressure (e.g. connecting with supervisor) would be valuable as the trend is always growing to ensure innovation is #1.
  + School is doing advocacy, flagging that for grade 3 CAT test that since the expectation is that test is done online, the school needs those devices back. School has purchased 15 chromebooks to carry us along, but waiting for more
  + How many Chromebooks went missing – there are currently 20 in school that are locked by admins, but there are 10-20 additional that are missing
  + Going forward, avoid this happening again by doing things like clearly marking the devices.
* **Scope:** why 30 devices? Is if for an entire class? Primaries sit at 22-24, so thinking was firmly placed units in each station with remainder floating
* **Proposal for a subcommittee to work with Mandi**
* **Timeline** – nothing specific, but the sooner the better. By the time Jan/Feb hits, we focus on the deeper areas of the curriculum

Treasurer’s Report

* As of date of SAC meeting, dance-a-thon donations were at $4100 (woohoo)
* SAC currently sits on about 26K
* Domain cost was $27
* About $500 for the prizes
* **The SAC received two proposals via the new form**
  + **Book club (for grades 4-8)**
    - Anticipating more students than in past
    - Some of the Indigo gift cards are being used for the danceathon prizes (each division receives either the pizza party or the indigo gift cards). They have about $1000 in gift cards now.
    - Indigo gift cards – previously, accessible via website, they could be purchased and there would be a percentage matching contribution, big success in past
    - What happens to the books after? They end up being turned into novel studies that the entire class can use.
    - **MOTION: BOOK CLUB**– approve up to $1000 for book club, to be funded first by remaining gift cards, then dip into a budget with an ask. **Motion is carried.**
  + **Garde 2-3 cohort proposal for sports equipment**
    - Discussion around scalability - if this is done for select teachers, the other classes would want the same thing. How can this be done so that every class can have recess equipment by SAC.
    - Context from VP Moreira - At the start of year, students got frisbees, soccer balls, skipping ropes, etc… Much of that equipment has gone missing (e.g. soccer balls over the fence, frisbees lost). Something to think about – how it can these be tracked?
    - $50 is reasonable, but how often will it be replenished and scaled?
    - Alternative presented – donations. Last year there was a callout for donations. Fomite transmission is not an issue, so sanitation isn’t an issue. In terms of being green, suggestion that perhaps a donation drive would work. Equipment budget is only 2k and that needs to be factored in
    - Equipment budget is $2K. More appropriate for us to go through the phys-ed departments to ensure scalability. What about garbage bins for each class for recess equipment?
    - No motion at this time but instead we should do a callout for volunteers
* **MOTION: CHROMEBOOK REQUEST** – circling back to proposal for Chromebooks, Ben to work with Mandi ([Mandeep.kohli@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Mandeep.kohli@tdsb.on.ca)) to dialogue via email, with aim to make a decision sooner than later – **Motion is carried.**

Website revamp update

* Working on updating the website from WordPress to weebly
* Quick tour was provided a quick tour
* Link to be shared and feedback requested
* For consideration – how to update news on home page, consideration for restarting the SAC twitter

Events Report + Update

* Working to do a draw
* Cash is very difficult, gotta make it easier for parents as current setup is finicky and cash creates all sorts of logistic problems
* Schoolcash is finicky, but it gets things there quicker
* Take it offline – Ben, Kitty, Elaine to discuss offline

Enrichment Report

* At this point in SAC meeting, acknowledgement that there is not quorum due to meeting running long
* Last year SAC funded scientists in the school and muai thai (sp?)
* Arts allocation – precedent was to set aside $4000 for the school as a whole, divided by division. Enrichment line is $6,100, including the danceathon money
* If SAC does all planned enrichment activities, leaving aside the Chromebook funding, budget will be breached
* The ask
  + Need an email to SAC with all of the considerations given and asks
  + Need to provide feedback back to the school as well
  + A conversation with Caitland would be informative, pushing teachers to come to the table with more concrete ideas\
* Revisited the Chrobook ask, deferring to ment would be that Chrome Book ask, deferring it ot future meeting. More research is needed to determine the status of the previously purchased chrome books that had been loaned out during lockdown and currently with TDSB.

Greening/Eco Team Report

Deferred to next SAC

Ward Report + Update

Deferred to next SAC

Health & Safety Report

From Sarah

* No major health/safety updates, more to discuss at next SAC
* **For introduction and future discussion**: A member of the parent community has offered up a small number of rapid antigen tests that she has on hand from work. There’s not enough for the whole school community, but for future, SAC can discuss how we could offer them up as needed. Email to follow for further discussion.
* In the next couple of days Quebec will open registration for bookings for vaccinations for kids
* **For future discussion:** How to get information to community members that are apprehensive or distrusting of mainstream media sources. No need to do a town hall but need to do more than just a regular TPH email. For instance, there is a parent member who is a public health nurse. SAC should discuss next meeting to ensure families are supported

Fundraising: Spirit Wear update

* Reached out, but no concrete update yet, though there are concerns about changing design given that people had purchased It in previous years. We will run the campaign in the new year

Other Business & Adjournment

* Consensus that an advocacy/support letter in support of Queen Vic school community to not that it’s not acceptable behaviour and that TDSB must act
* Roxanne had volunteered to start the letter but got swamped so Ben will start the draft