



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL SAC MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Attendees

- Elaine Hua
- Caitland Ellis
- Geoff Moreira
- Ben Peto
- Deborah Walsh
- Nuno Silva
- Melissa Kozak
- Sarah Liss
- Melanie Kramer
- Lindsay (health and safety update onward)
- **Regrets**
 - Alex Kollo
 - Stephanie Nause
 - Roxanne Wright

Approval of agenda and December minutes

- December minutes were approved

Principal/Vice-Principal Report

- **10K Grant for tech art related project (a change the world project)**
 - Mandy can share details of the project, which involves 3D printer, in future update
 - Club is back up and running, starting off with education about waste and what can be done to tackle packaging
- **Chromebook update**



- Received another 10 Chromebooks
- Secured another 7 that had previously been unreturned
- Ask for the Chromebooks is off the table for now

- **Return to school**
 - School is well prepared with enough masks for staff, more coming next week; there are enough HEPA filters
 - Not changing cohorts. One of the recommendations from the board was to mix cohorts if school is short teachers – school will not do that given success to date and safety with teachers/students.
 - School will continue to report cases
 - We are following TPH guidelines to inform parents, but we will not be sending entire cohorts home, doing 5 or 10 days isolation at home per guidelines
 - Info will be going out as a regular Friday file + a separate return to school message
 - **Action item:** Caitland will share materials with Melissa for posting on site, in addition to Friday file
 - Follow-up question re: opportunity for possibility that snacks be had outdoors
 - For most part, snack is being encouraged to be outdoors
 - Strict protocol is for students to be facing forward, encouraged by teachers
 - MK noted that reinforcing in the message going Friday may change parent decision re: whether to send kids home for lunch
 - Any thoughts to putting another message in Friday file about the vaccine availability to increase awareness
 - Principal Ellis is already doing individual advocacy
 - The Friday file is an effective communications option – it has 87% reading
 - Follow-up re: on vaccination rates?
 - The grade 7/8 rate at 74%. On the screening app there is an opportunity to disclose, but we don't have detailed numbers. Agreed that we move forward with more cross-cohort activities without vaccination status



- **Kudos once again to Caitland, Geoff and the rest of the Dovercourt team**

- **Miscellaneous discussion topics**
 - Staff has asked about enrichment opportunity – a dance activity in June. This will likely be moved into the spring. Costs to be shared with SAC. Recommendation to look at someone in the parent community to deliver enrichment, and also consideration for treating this as a diversity opportunity as well, whether we can do a celebration of sorts
 - Another ask was for the coding ask – any costs? Not yet

Treasurer's Report

- Confirmed we are taking the money we had earmarked for Chromebooks off
- Principal Ellis will send Ben the bill re: movie licenses
- Aside for future agenda, adding movie nights

Events Update:

- Totals for previous campaigns
 - Danceathon was \$5,812.13
 - FlipGrid campaign totaled \$1,190
- Feb Reading Challenge
 - Proposed a reading campaign, with Samantha Ling
 - Motion to approve 3 parts of the campaign
 - Approve the campaign
 - \$600 cost, be able to use the Flip-give, \$100/class or division
 - Prizes – winning prize goes to the classes rather than individuals, with kids having input into what prize is selected
 - Details
 - Emphasis re: number/quantity of books should be de-emphasized
 - Books have been ordered, they come with audible books
 - When individual prizes were given, there was an equity issue. This is a good reminder that going forward we can continually apply this lens

Enrichment Update:

- Previous event rep raised opportunity for workshops for children by Naomi Tessler; see: https://branchouttheatre.com/dt_team/naomi-tessler-m-a/
- Currently no cost but that can be presented in future update for consideration
- Interest in SAC given opportunity to do work outdoors, opportunity for connectedness
- Need to consider approach (e.g. class vs cohort) but interested



- Melanie to share details with Caitland to vet and ensure that there is equity lens and that we follow board guidelines

Greening/Eco Update

- No significant updates given need for student involvement for garden change; by February 11th, have a plan to present
- SAC discussed garbage and challenges with schoolyard becoming an informal dog-park (particularly on weekend)
 - Opportunity for education relating to garbage
 - The school has become a dog park; there has been a challenge with sheer volume
 - SAC discussed historic efforts to address the issue (e.g. dog park in Dovercourt Park) and how challenges could be alleviated by Green Line park
 - A letter from SAC, in addition to kids, to advocate for the dog park on the green line could help
 - For now, strategically placed green bins – one at the exit towards Dupont, one towards the JK yard

Health & Safety Update

- No significant update.
- Noted the need to brainstorming how to get N95s for kids as currently, it's an equity issue
- SAC discussed creating a campaign (e.g. buy a box, donate a box); There is a huge shortage – kids medical mask; present it as a PPE drive – to be pursued offline
- Lindsay just joined

PROGrant approved – planning

- Roxanne is working with Elaine to make sure it aligns with what was in the agreement
- The money sits with the school, though it hasn't been transferred over and is waiting for board approval

Other Business & Adjournment

- Mental health burden has been considerable this last couple of weeks as there's a new time of uncertainty, pandemic fatigue and the exhaustion that we're all feeling
- SAC discussed how to connect as parents, either by division or other cohort
- One of the recommendations was that as parents and as counsel, we could set up a few drop in call nights
 - Connect, with rules of engagement
 - Have 1 or 2 SAC members for each group
- Part of the pandemic fatigue is just too much information and there is limited time on people's schedules, the idea of parents meeting other parents in similar grades/cohorts could be a positive appeal for people.
- **Other ideas considered included:**
 - Telephone # exchange?
 - Meet outdoors on the school ground with people walking around, facilitating meeting



DOVERCOURT PUBLIC SCHOOL

S.A.C.

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- Make it more specific, breakouts by class, linking up for smaller things
- One of the JK parents put a google doc out there to start meetings
- Although group discussed teachers coordinating, it was noted that it cannot be directed by the school, but can be facilitated by the school
- Helpful for SAC to put together the wording or message; Melissa to work with Elaine on messaging
- There are other potential digital activities (e.g. paint nights, joint cooking)