

Dufferin Parents Council
September 21, 2016

Present: Gord McCreary, Karen Pugh, Jen O'Brien, Monica Van't-Spyker, Corrie Way, Stephanie Farrow, Sean Gibbon, Mary Forcier, Trisha Simon, Daniel Pickersgill, Thomas Stratford, Jocelyn Jay, Cathy Costa-Morris, Kathryn Romphf, Sarah Jorgensen, Temple Swift, Chasity Schweitzer, Christina Gilman, Amy Henderson, Ashley Vicano, Larry Brock

Regrets: Jill Berridge, Rahno Simpson

1. Welcome back to parents and staff, old and new! Introductions were made. A special welcome to Jen O'Brien, our new staff representative, and Mary Forcier, our new community rep.

2. A show of hands for who would like to be a voting member was taken, and, conveniently, 15 parents volunteered! DPC voting members for 2016-2017 are:

Amy Henderson
Ashley Vicano
Cathy Costa-Morris
Chasity Schweitzer
Daniel Pickersgill
Gord McCreary
Jocelyn Jay
Karen Pugh
Kathryn Romphf
Larry Brock
Sarah Jorgensen
Sean Gibbon
Temple Swift
Thomas Stratford
Trisha Simon

3. Principal's report

- Mme Fusco has been hired to replace M Paquette, but as Mme Fusco is on maternity leave, Corrie is looking to hire an LTO. She is also looking for an LTO for Mme Desjardins.
- It is exciting to see the changes in the "Learning Commons" (a.k.a Library), with still more to come: carpet area/reading/teaching corner, bench seating, smartboard/projector installation. This is all courtesy of DPC's \$5000 contribution and a matching contribution from the GEDSB through last year's CPIP grant
- **ACTION:** Corrie will put a list of teachers and their grades in the next newsletter. She will have a bulletin board with their photos on it set up also.
- **ACTION:** GET YOUR POLICE CHECK (it needs to be done every 2 years) AND VOLUNTEER FORMS INTO LYNN PETERS. We all need to have these done to be on DPC.
- Thanks to Larry and Company for hosting a very successful Meet the Teacher. Approximately \$900 was raised...plus \$86 in Dufferin swag sales.
- Formal parent interviews are Thursday Nov 17 evening and Friday Nov 18 after Progress Reports

- EQAO results were received today. Grade 3s do their testing in French, Grade 6s do them in English. Grade 3 results were 61 in reading (below provincial results of 72), 75 in writing (provincial = 74), and 54 in math (provincial = 63). Grade 6 results were outstanding: 100 in both reading and writing (81 and 80 respectively provincially), and 79 in math (province = 50).
- The French Immersion Accommodation Review committee will be presented to the Board's Committee of the Whole in November. The Board is recommending a "cap and grandfather" system. It comes down to dollars for infrastructure, and lack of french immersion teachers.
ACTION: do not believe everything you read on Facebook:) Read the GEDSB website's "blackboard".
- Parking message RECEIVED – you scared us Corrie!

4. Financial Report: See attached for financials for both the end of last year and the beginning of this year. We currently have \$353.37 in the year-end account (meaning the Carnival cost DPC \$1646.63), \$9677.37 in the General account, and \$55.78 in the Lottery account.

5. Teachers' Report.

- The kick off for Les Maisons is Thursday September 29.
- Terry Fox Run will be Friday September 30.
- Mme Coretti will be directing Le Grinch (La Grinch?) french production December 20 and 21 with primary kids.
- Mme Coretti will be starting a drama club for older students!
- There will be an advanced, intermediate and senior ukulele group this year!
- A K-3 Lego group will be run by Mr Zylstra and Mme Rochette.
- Cross country and soccer have started. Mme McGrail is hoping to have a junior intramural soccer club.

6. Committee and Executive elections

- DPC committees, committee chairs and executive were determined. Thank you to everyone who stepped up! See attached list.
- Cathy and Kelly Klema will organize a fundraiser calendar for February.
- Temple will be happy to "coach" the incoming social and fundraising committees.
- Kathryn will write regular updates for Corrie's newsletter regarding what's happening at DPC.
- Thomas will work on getting us a list server to organize our email lists.

7. Concerns regarding the state of the school were brought up by, well, pretty much everybody.

- Interior concerns:
 - A need to re-paint the hallways and tunnel. Parents feel it is time to paint over the murals and let this group of students paint new ones.
 - A need to re-do the traction slips on the small ramps in the basement
- Exterior concerns:
 - Many parents expressed concerns about the wood chips promoting tripping, carpenter ants which bite (who knew?!), and the need for constant shoveling off the sidewalk and path. Larry suggested cheap lawn and garden edging materials in the pen to stop the "leak". Playground supervisors countered that the wood chips are causing fewer injuries than the asphalt, especially scrapes.
 - Corrie would like the mounds levelled

- The lines for 4-square, hopscotch, etc need re-painting.
- The kindergarten kids need better activities to do in the Pen. Vandalism of the storage box has been an issue, so this needs to be considered when suggesting options.

ACTION: Corrie will talk to Facilities about options for the yard. She will put in a work order for painting the interior, and will ask about costs to re-paint the lines in the schoolyard.

ACTION: Corrie will ask Student Council to follow up on the plans for a Friendship Rock.

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 12
6:30 in the Library