

## Donald Cousens Public School School Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 16, 2016

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Learning Commons

### **Attendees:**

Fawzia Durrani (Principal), Stephen Louca (Vice Principal), Julie McFayden (Chair), Ritu Sharma (Vice Chair), Heather Black and Sana Khan (Council Secretaries), Susanne Woo, Summiaya Ahmad, Jennifer Lo, Rohini Thackhanamoory, Catherine Zheng, Romana Ambike, Vivet Mendoza, Marcia Smith, Deepak Varma, Anne Beare

Regrets: Ida Leung, Brenda Bush

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome / Sign in (Julie and Fawzia)

Our new principal was introduced and welcomed to council, along with an introduction to each council member and attendees.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Current balance is \$8328.75. \$5000 has been reserved for school beautification, and \$300 going towards the "You're the Chef" program.

Movie night raised \$206.

### **School Council/General Updates:**

School Beautification update

Stephen reported that the Ministry of Education will be paying for the sunshade to be installed in the kindergarten area. The installation will take place somewhere between June and October. The school will be responsible for the cost of maintenance.

A second portable will not be planned for the coming year, but should be considered as a future possibility when planning any school beautification projects. Basketball nets are approved to be installed.

Council also discussed other opportunities for using funds for other purposes outside of school beautification, such as spending on science and technology or arts and culture initiatives which would benefit the students in the coming years. Other proposals will be considered, keeping in mind that funds already designated to school beautification must carry forward for that purpose.

PRO grant - Sana, Rohini, Ms. Ahmed and Ms. Mendoza are working on ~~the~~ getting speakers focusing on mental health.

#### Upcoming dates:

- March 10, 2016: Michelle Cassidy, Mental Health Specialist will present a session for parents on student mental health. Topics to include anxiety, depression, and resources available to parents.  
*Note: translators will be available in both Mandarin and Cantonese; Catherine has also volunteered to help with translated flyers to promote this session.*
- April 14, 2016: Yoga for students and parents/caregivers - 2 1-hour sessions
- April 28, 2016: Information session from Harold Adams of Kinark, a lead agency in York Region for children's mental health.

#### School/Administrator Report:

- School Dance-a-thon was a success and pledges are still coming in
- Tribes Day will be Feb. 23, and is being sponsored by the French council. The activities will centre around French culture, Carnaval celebrations, and will include some outdoor activities.
- Report cards will be issued Thursday, Feb. 18
- Parent meeting for the Fraser Grade 8 trip is to be scheduled
- Fawzia is arranging an information night for parents on EQAO, focusing on reducing anxiety in students
- School Cash Online - this new system will soon be available for DCPS parents to use for paying online for field trips, pizza and milk programs, etc. Mrs. Durrani and Mrs. Beare attended a workshop on the new system, and Mrs. Beare has been trained. Parents will be able to set up an online account, and will receive email notifications, once registered, whenever there is a payment that is due that can be paid online. Notifications may also include field trip permission sign-off. This system is voluntary for parents, and will reduce the number of students bringing cash to school. Parents can also volunteer to attend field trips using this system. Google translate will also be on the site.
- The school will have Author Night in May and Game Night in June

#### Fundraising/Other Council Items:

Movie Night - Thursday, March 24: anyone interested can contact council to volunteer to help out, selling snacks, etc. (Catherine, Romana and Vivet have volunteered). Julie will circulate a note to solicit more volunteer support.

Fun Fair - Fun Fair committee is forming, and we welcome any volunteers for the planning, fund-raising, food, and helping out the day of the fair. (Heather, Ritu, Catherine, Marcia, Jenn and Julie have volunteered)

#### Other upcoming events at school:

Asian/South-Asian heritage events in May - enriching culture and literacy through the arts

#### DCPS Online/School Blog:

DCPS is on Twitter

The school home page has a link to the blog, but users have been unable to subscribe; this issue is being investigated and should be corrected soon.

The school newsletter is open for discussion, as many parents were concerned that the issues with the blog, along with discontinuation of the newsletter would take away some of the information parents had available to them. A survey is in the works to have parents vote on how best to have school information communicated to them.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:30 pm**

**Next meeting:**

April 7, 2016 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Learning Commons