

DFES SAC Meeting October 18, 2018 Minutes

In attendance: Josh, Becca, Lucie, Leslee, Tabitha, Sarah, James, Allison, Richard, Suzanne

Chair Report:

Dance is set for Friday, October 26, 6-8pm. Have volunteers, organizing is going well. Pumpkins for classes to carve or paint are in the lobby. Classes will work on them next week so they're ready for the dance and voting.

Book Sale: Will run during Parent/Teacher interviews November 22-23. Kids will be able to shop during school hours, Thursday November 22. Hours for Thursday evening and Friday to be determined. Most likely Thursday 4-7 and Friday 8:30-12 noon. Leslee will contact volunteers about helping in a couple of weeks. Collection will start end of October.

Craft Fair: Suzanne taking on chairing the fair. She will contact interested vendors. Date is set for Saturday, December 1 from 10am -2pm. Talked about the possibility of a Spring craft fair for future years.

Various fundraisers suggested and looked at to replace Entertainment Books. Safety kits, selling fruit, Bag 2 School, Vesey's bulbs all discussed. Bag 2 School was most popular among members; more info will go out in June about that. Vesey's bulbs also popular, and will be looked at for the spring.

Treasurer Report:

Account is growing and doing well. Just spent \$2000 for cultural fund for the school.

Principal's Report:

Allison Grimes presented on the need for a new sound system. The current one is broken. She had 2 quotes and council voted to spend just under \$3800 to buy the school a new, better quality sound system.

Richard talked about two School Improvement Plans; Math and Belonging. Staff want kids to feel like they belong, and be engaged in extra curricular activities. Sports and music are two big extra curricular activities currently at Dunning, but staff are looking at ways to engage kids who may not be into sports or music. Lori Davis and Leslie Katz have started a coding club for grades 6-7 during recess. 35 kids are showing up to this and they need more supplies. Council approved buying \$300 stop motion animation kits for the club, and is looking into buying 2000 pieces of lego in the near future. An email will be sent to parents first looking for donations of lego, and more will be bought depending on quantities donated. The goal of this club is to teach the grade 6-7 how to code this year, and to expand the club to younger grades, in future years, and have the grades 6-7 teach them.

Math Improvement Plan: the school learning team comprised of half a dozen teachers, the principal and the vice principal have been looking at EQAO scores and student learning. A Focus on Fundamentals of Mathematics will be implemented this year. Looking at automaticity, not rote learning. Helping kids develop flexibility with numbers, and be able to automatically figure out a

problem, and not have to over think it too much. If solving math problems can become an automatic process, it makes learning it easier for students. This takes repetition and practice.

Lori Davis is organizing a parents math night for Wednesday, November 14 for parents to get ideas on how to make math fun at home for students. More info will be coming closer to the date.

Kelly Walker, the Intermediate Student Success Teacher, is also looking at having a parents night at some point, with a presentation on anxiety possibly, or another topic helpful to parents. More info on this coming later as well.

Remembrance Day ceremony at Dunning will be on Monday, November 12. Similar to previous years, with lots of student involvement. Parents welcome. More info will be sent home in the coming weeks.

The November Staff Training is going to focus on Zones of Regulation. Staff will learn how to help students recognize which zone they're in. Example: red is angry, blue is sad, green is happy.

EA allocation for Dunning has gone up to 2.5. We welcome all new EAs!

Staffing has gone up by 40% of a full time person. Some staff changes will occur. Amanada Baxter will continue to teach grade 2 french immersion and also take over VP Nathalie Sharma's math classes. Nathalie Sharma will move to support to fulfil her teaching requirement.

The new learning blocks started this year have been working well, however in order to reduce kindergarten transition times, some shuffling of the current recess /nutrition break for grades 1-8 has been changed. At 10:30, starting next week, grades 1-8 will now have outdoor recess time first, until 10:55am, and then they will come in and eat snack at 10:55-11:15. This means pizza on Thursdays will now be given to the students at 10:55am instead of the current 10:30am. Students will also get milk at 10:55am as well. So 8:30-10:30 is learning time, 10:30-10:55 is outdoor recess, 10:55-11:15 is first nutrition break, 11:15-1:15 is learning time, 1:15-1:35 is lunch, 1:35-2:00 is outdoor recess and 2-3pm is learning time and then dismissal.

Richard will be away for another eye surgery November 26th until just before Christmas break. Denise Norris will be acting principal again while he's away.

Becca presented on some math decals to put up in the school. Richard is going to ask teachers what they want and will get back to SAC about buying them.

Next SAC meeting is November 15 at 6:30pm