

## Grand Avenue School Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday October 23rd, 2024

**Attendees:** , Katherine Warwick, Carly Robson, Caitlin Goodale, April Boudreau, Corry Desaulniers, Bridget Molloy, Ronna Parkhouse, Janine Burge, Stephanie White, Jessica Walker, Kaitlyn MacDonald, Jason LoStracco, Brad Walker, Geoff Renolds, Stacy Heidman, Sarah Smith, Pamela Hendricks, Carolyn Gallo, Heather Forrest, Bethany Hickling, Chantell Virtue

### **Principal's Report: Ronna Parkhouse**

- **Ancestral Land Acknowledgement:** We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples an acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related by to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.
- **Introductions**
- **School Advisory Council:** Paula has withdrawn as co-chair. It was too difficult for her to make the meetings.
  - **MOTION:** Corrie brought a motion to vote Jason LoStracco as Co-Chair and Jess Walker as Chair. First: Corrie Desaulniers, Second: Brad Walker
- **Annual Review of Constitution:** we will discuss this with council next meeting.
- **EQAO:** Results are are. Our students have done very well. DSBN is number one in the province for math.
- **Grad Hoodies:** students went with similar designs to last year, with a few surprises. Just waiting for a mock up from the company.
- **Photo Retake:** November 12th.
- **Code of Conduct:** With the new PPM that came out about social media and cell phones. A Code of Conduct was needed for more concrete expectations. The Code of Conduct applies to the entire school community (staff, students, parents etc.). Teachers have reviewed the code with their student body and many have chosen to display this in their classroom. We also have the code of conduct displayed in the hallway.
  - **Code of Conduct:**

#### **Members of the school community will:**

- Treat each other with kindness and respect
- Support learning and keep distractions out of class
- Help others when they're in need

#### **Members of the school community will not:**

- Bully, cyber bully, or encourage others do so
- Harm others, including harm with the motivation of hate or discrimination
- Use a personal mobile device during class unless permitted by an educator
- Use, share or sell vape, nicotine and/or tobacco products on school property

Speak with a staff member if you or someone else needs help.

- **Fire Drills:** Fire drills are completed for Fall.
- **Lunch Bunch:** Started last year as a Pilot Project with our youth counsellor Miss. Amanda to discuss issues that come up with the Grade 8 girls. Miss Amanda, has referenced similar ideals to the Dove Self-Esteem project. The group enjoys pizza and games where they discuss relevant social issues. Ronna and staff have noticed a decline in the issues the students were experiencing. This program was then opened up to the grade 8 boys. This year the program was opened up to the grade 7 girls. If there becomes a need for the grade 7 boys, it will be opened up to them as well, but they appear to not be experiencing this issues. The grade 8's appear to have some concerns with high school and the group has been collaborating on these issues.
- **SNAP Program:** "Stop Now And Plan" with Miss. Amanda, in Ms. Cressey and Ms. Herridge's rooms. This program helps them think about their actions and make a plan.
- **DSBN Finance:** School Cash online is the preferred method for dealing with transactions. There is also the donate me button, which we discussed was difficult to find. We are working with tech to solve this issue and make it more accessible on the website. If you now someone that would like to make a large donation they can contact Sadie. We will invite the DSBN controller to come out and do a presentation and answer all of your questions.
  - **Fundraising:** Any money raised this year through the school, has to be spent this year, with the exception of technology and playground maintenance. Ex. If we need Chromebooks, the money can sit in our account until we've raised enough to replace them.
  - **Cash Payments:** DSBN is getting away from any cash exchanged in schools. In the past, we have done freezies and popcorn with cash. We will discuss this further with Finance.

#### **Chair Report: Jess Walker**

- **PIC Conference:** Held on Wednesday, November 6th from 4:00 pm to 8:15 pm at Eden High School in St. Catharines. This years conference will focus on student well being in a digital age. Childcare and a light lunch are provided. DSBN will organize a bus if there are enough parents interested. This event is free and sign up is online. Parents are allowed to choose two different sessions.
- **DSBN \$500 Parent Education Allotment:** We did receive last years allotment at the end of the Spring. Paul Davis invoiced for more than expected so we were able to use some of these funds to cover the cost of his presentation. We have our \$500 allotment for this year for parents and the school community. In the past, we've done "Jump Math". This program is designed around math and literacy. There is a great list online of what other schools have done previously.

#### **Financials: Geoff Reynolds**

- **Closing balance of \$4989.90**
- **Pasta and Sub days:** going to school council. They're currently not on the report. Ronna will update with Sadie.
- **PIC** is not on report. Ronna will update with Sadie.
- **Pizza & Pasta:** Price went up by a dollar for both (\$8). This is not on the school side of things. Ronna will look into it. Jason requested to have the lunch costs broken down with the current price of lunches and allotment to PC.
- **School Lunches:** Ronna funnels pasta and subway lunch proceeds to council. Any proceeds from pizza the school uses for things the school needs. For example; offsetting the cost of school trips, assisting in the cost of bussing, assisting with grad and the butterflies in kindergarten. The proceeds are used to supplement the teachers and students.

- **Teacher Allowance:** There are leftover balances in some of the classrooms and zero in others. Could we top these up at the beginning of the year? We currently do not have the budget to top them up. Will be be sharing with prep, library and French? We need to add them to the list for teacher allowance. There I also a class missing from the list. Needs to be updated.
  - Ronna has mentioned that staff is well aware of the decision to maintain the playground and not not expecting a teacher allotment. Council would still like to contribute. If we include all staff it would be \$2600. Could we start at \$75 and top-up in December?
- **Playground:** we voted for swing maintenance, but there isn't proof of funds paid out of financials. Sadie, had to write a requisition. It has been sent in and we're in queue for maintenance. We will not be charged until this has been processed. So essentially though money is showing up in financials \$3700 has been spoken for due to playground maintenance.
- **Purposeful Playground Link:** Jason mentioned that it would be helpful to have a playground link, as most parents probably do not have a clue that the playground maintenance is funded through parent council. Corrie mentioned its up to council to create awareness through our school community. Could this be part of the Newsletter? News Now? Radio? Neighbourhood flyers?

### **Fundraising: Stephanie White**

- **Halloween Dance:** Can we pull it off? It took a month last time. Could we do an early holiday party?
- **Little Caesars Pizza:** School takes home \$6 a kit. Could we sell them on parent teacher night so that families can take a pizza home after? Stephanie will look into this. Parents would pre-order and they would take their pizza when leaving. MOTION: Jeff Renolds put a motion to do pizza on parent interview night. Council agreed.
- **Art Sale:** As a silent auction. Possible do this on parent teacher night. Ronna spoke to the teachers about it and they felt overwhelmed with report cards, interviews and book fairs. They suggested spring. Stephanie said they could bring things from home. Ms. Molloy, mentioned we have the Art Gallery coming February 10th & 11th and we could reserve some of those pieces for the Spring.
- **Scholastic:** Are they taking cash? No. Most children bring cash so it may cut down on fundraising if children cannot buy during the week. The only opportunity will be after school hours
- **Poinsettias:** Wasn't enough interest. Stephanie proposed Christmas Cactus' and would look into price.
- **Grinch Trees:** Carly proposed looking into Grinch Trees. Stephanie will look into this as well.
- **Gingerbread house kits:** Carly proposed looking into kits to sell to families. Families are already buying them. Chantell mentioned looking into local cookie businesses like Sweet M's in town.
- **Dance-a-thon:** look into February or March? The school has traditionally made a lot of money doing this. This involves an admission, purchase of juice and snacks. Children also have the opportunity to raise donations outside of school. Ms. Molloy also has a connection for toys to auction off at the dance-a-thon.
- **Garage Sale:** Was brought up last meeting. So children could buy gifts for their family. We could do tickets on school cash online. Charge 0.25 per ticket. Make all gifts the same price.
- **M&Ms:** look into this for January fundraising. Should we just leave January free from fundraising?
- **Movie Night:** Possibly in May? Hopefully we could have this outside, but weather depending.
- **Summer Party:** June? Hopefully we have enough parents that would be able to take this on. Ms. Molloy mentioned the "Extra-Va-Grandza". We had a great turn out previous years, prizes and hopefully this would be successful to bank for our reserves for technology and

playground next year. Could we open this up to the community? Could we take funds this day?

- **Chromebooks:** We could purchase a surplus of Chromebooks for September. Unfortunately, they become damaged and expired security certificates. We have to discard them to DSBN. Each hall of classrooms (2) has about 25 chromebooks. This is our year to receive our allotment of technology, but we haven't heard anything as of yet. Unsure of what the total allotment is. Council spent \$4000 one year and \$6000 another year. They're \$400 to \$500 each.
- **Mabel's Labels:** Can we start this online? 4
- **Bench & Fielding:** Jana had mentioned via email that some schools have done these fundraisers and they've raised about \$17,000 dollars. The businesses typically delivers to the school and parents can pick up. Ronna would like to know what schools as she had heard the answer was no. If we're able Stephanie would like to do this in November for the holidays. Corrie mentioned we should prioritize fundraisers and this may be our biggest fundraisers. Could we reach out to the other councils that have successfully done these fundraisers?
- **McMillians Cookie Dough:** They last 8 weeks after opening. They have frozen produce, muffins etc. Possibly, we could have this as an on-going fundraiser.
- **Fundraising Sub Committee:** Who is interested in helping with all of the fundraisers? Send out an email. Council needs help to organize and handout different fundraisers.

Thank you, to Pizza Di Nonna that donated the pizza for the families at tonights council!

**Next Meeting: TBD**