



DCE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Parent Council Executive Members:

Lynn Walker, Chair
Karli Butler, Vice Chair (Absent)
Kari Halter, Communications Liaison
Leah Whyte, Secretary
Candice Abraham, Wellness Committee

Guests and DCE School Representatives:

Helene Hewitt, Principal
Jay Robertson Vice Principal
Jenn & Stacy Teacher Representatives
Christa Gawron, Business Manager

Public Trustee: Trina Boymook

Mental Health Capacity Builder: Julia

Guests: 0

Parent Representatives: We had 15 parent representatives in attendance

DCE School Council Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 6:01 pm

Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement

- Read by Chair

Call for Agenda Changes

- No changes requested

Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Breanne
- Seconded: Robyn
- Passed

Call for Changes to Minutes

June 20, 2024 AGM

- Motion: Kari
- Seconded: Melissa
- Passed

Mental Health Capacity Builder - Julia

Julia will be filling a new position this year at DCE promoting mental health for students and staff. She will be visiting every class, every week and will be working Monday thru Thursday's. Julia took the time to provide an example of her teachings this week on understanding self-regulation and the parts of the



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brain. She will be joining the school council meetings every month providing us an update and providing the same teachings as in the classrooms.

School Trustee Report – Trina Boymook

Welcome to another school year. I'm excited that you have decided to attend the first school council meeting of the year. School Council meetings is a great way to hear directly from your school principal about what is taking place in the school and to share your thoughts on how we can improve as a school system and build a supportive school environment for all students.

The Board met August 22 for our first meeting of the 2024-25 school year. In July the Minister of Education announced one time funding to address higher than expected enrolment growth and unavoidable cost pressures, including inflation. It was anticipated that we would receive \$1.6M of the \$125M. At our August 22 meeting we approved the allocation of these new funds. The \$1.6 will be targeted at classroom complexity with \$66K going to cover the cost of an EA Capacity Building Pilot (ensuring our educational assistants continue to be trained and up to date on the most effective practices to support complex students) with the remaining being allocated to schools using the newly developed classroom complexity algorithm The algorithm includes the following factors:

- Provincial Achievement and Diploma Exam Test Results
- Socio-economic factors;
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit self-identified students;
- English as an Additional Language;
- Students in care; and
- Students with non-leveled special education codes and student population size

September 12 we held the groundbreaking ceremony for Sherwood Heights replacement school. Excavating of the new school site began early July. Construction is expected to be completed spring of 2026. As we prepare for the opening of the replacement school, a community survey will be made available mid-October gather thoughts on the name of the replacement school that will see Sherwood Heights and Ecole Campbelltown coming together under one roof.

COSC first meeting will be held on October 2. A Meet and Greet will be held ahead of the meeting starting at 5:30 where pizza and refreshments will be served.

Trina stepped out of the meeting to hear announcement from the Premier regarding funding. Announcement advised there has been an increase in students of 33,000 per year. There will be a one-time capital injection of \$8.7B to new capital projects over the next 3 years for public, charter and private schools.

Wellness Committee Update– Candice Abraham

Candice advised with the amount of work last year that went into the Wellness Committee and her going back to school, Kari Halter will be joining her this year. Kari is also the Communications Liaison. Candice advised they would be continuing to run with the following events and programs this year:

- Book drive at Literacy Night;
- Wheel or Walk Wednesday's (WOW);
- Pink Shirt Day: Discussion was had on whether to continue with t-shirts or do buttons or pins instead. Artwork will be done in January with distribution of item in February;
- Buddy bench;
- Healthy snack days: still looking into sponsorship;
- Watermelon days for track days;
- Mustang Mention prizes: will start in April 2025 to collect prizes and sponsorship;



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- Playground Pals: This required a lot of volunteer time last year and they would be looking for a teacher representative to help facilitate as it was difficult to coordinate last year with the councilors splitting time. Julia volunteered to take on this project.

Chair report – Lynn Walker

Welcome to the first school council meeting for the 2024 / 2025 school year. First and foremost, I wanted to thank all of you for your hard work last year and over the summer, without all of you we would not be able to accomplish everything.

School Council Annual Report

Was submitted to EIPS on June 26, 2024 and provided EIPS with a summary of activities and engagement opportunities which supported school goals. Report will be posted on DCE website. Report included:

- Members of School Council;
- Meeting dates;
- Communication;
- Committees;
- Activities and events.

Meetings

As discussed at June's AGM we are required to hold a minimum of five meetings per year and changes for the 2024 / 2025 school year are:

Date: 3rd Tuesday of the month (excluding April and December)

Time: 6pm

AGM: Will be moved to May from June (pending approval of new Operating Procedures)

Scheduled dates:

- September 17, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- February 18, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025 (AGM)

Email Accounts

We are in the process of transitioning email addresses for Communications and we've been able to gain access to the Secretary email. With the two-factor verification some safeguards are required to be able to recover these emails in the event we lose communication with the past user.

The recovery email for all DCE should be: general.dce@eips.ca

An email will be sent out in the next month on how to update the email profiles with these safeguards and our Operating Procedures will also be updated to reflect these changes. A reminder as well, these emails are for DCE business use only and should not be used for personal use.

Principal Report – Helene Hewitt

Thank you

For a smooth start up!

- Meet the Staff went really well and we had positive feedback from doing it the night before school.
- Positive feedback on knowing class placements both with our Meet Next Year's Teacher event and in the June report card - reduced anxiety.
- Family Wellness Night was a success! Great turn out despite the weather!



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Staffing update:

- We have welcomed a few new staff members this year:
 - Ms. Jamie Ennis returned to us in Grade 3
 - Ms. Wait moved to Grade 5 as Mrs. Burke moved to Ontario permanently
- We are hiring some more educational assistants to support students with complex needs

Enrolment Update:

- We are a BIG happy DCE family this year!
- Our projected enrolment was 658 students and we are currently at 670 students with the following breakdown
 - 72 kindergarten
 - 82 Grade 1
 - 82 Grade 2
 - 121 Grade 3
 - 108 Grade 4
 - 103 Grade 5
 - 103 Grade 6

SEP

- Focus on three large goals:
 - Mental Health
 - Math - Fact Fluency
 - Writing
- We are well underway with our Mental Health by:
 - MHCB project
 - Flagship project - Restorative Practices, Brain neuroplasticity, Connections Over Compliance book study for staff
- Math Foundational Facts
 - Staff have been reading research
 - Grade level approach to daily practice 2 min twice a day to increase fluency

Upcoming Community Events

- Sept 19 & 20: Picture Day
- Sept 27: Orange Shirt Day
- Sept 30: National Truth & Reconciliation Day - no school
- October 1: Bus evacuation practice
- October 3: Terry Fox assembly and school run
- October 4: PL Day - no school

Other Information:

- Literacy and Numeracy Screeners are underway:
 - No more STAR
 - Using GOA screeners for K-3
 - Using the 3Ts for Grades 4-6

Fees:

- Can be found on our website
- Posted late in September - due 14 days from posting
- Credits automatically applied to reduce fees
- Pay through Parent Portal



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- Can request a fee waiver by December 15, 2024 - the forms can be found online

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 15, 2024 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:34 pm adjournment.