

Duc d’Anville Elementary School School Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the SAC Meeting Monday, Nov 8, 2021

Location: Duc d’Anville Library

Attendance: Turkia A, Shauna M, Adam G, Nicholas G, Moira M, Anne M, Nicole M, Joanne K, Kathryn Morse

Called to order at 4:35

Approval of Agenda – Moved by Moira, with an addition of guest District 10 Councillor Kathryn Morse added by Nicholas, agreed to delay discussion of school grounds until Kathryn arrives at 5pm.

Welcome to new member, Turkia

Approval of Minutes – Amend Oct 4 meeting to remove Rachel W from attendees, and email motion date from August 8 to October.

Outdoor classroom construction started last week. A 30x30 space which will be accessible and include picnic tables. Anne mentioned the growing thorn bushes in the area might need to be pruned back.

An Arabic translator will be on staff 3 days per week. The SAC approved funds to contribute toward their compensation (to get more time). Adam had not heard back about grant approval but we got it the last 3 years so he anticipates we should receive it again. Those funds would kick in after Christmas. Turkia mentioned a large number of Somali speaking families and asked about supports for them. Adam said requests for additional support go through the YMCA.

School Improvement focuses on achieving Gr 2 reading level. Data is showing grade 2 students in all schools are struggling the most. Moira said data may lead to additional resources. Adam said data assists him to advocate for resources. P-2 teachers have to report monthly, online. Joanne said each quarter the students receive a letter grade. 2 students moved up but the benchmark moves too. She asked if EAL students were being tracked and Adam said the information was sent in. Turkia said many families need additional support and resources after covid.

Meeting dates would be submitted by Adam [Sent email Nov 29 listing Feb 7, March 28 and May 2nd as future meeting dates], Dec 6 chosen for the next meeting. The PTA was going to try to meet on the same dates.

Grant Spending, should have approx. \$4,500 left after funding the translation services for \$1000. Adam would be meeting tomorrow with finance. Consensus was that books would be the main expense. Moira said lower level, higher interest books are especially required, for older students who are at lower reading levels. Classrooms typically need 4 sets of each book for reading in groups. “Shrinkage” (ie. Books not returning from homes) is a concern. Adam said he would check with the book bureau to see how much was left. Shauna said they would ask teachers for their wish lists. Anne suggested

chromebooks might be needed. Joanne suggested iPads. Moira shared that the iPads had been sent in for work.

Principal's Report –

They are giving out 50-100 masks per day.

Lunchtimes are now cohorted.

A Remembrance Day virtual assembly would take place on Wednesday organized by the music teacher.

Report cards would be sent home Nov 24, a day ahead of Parent Teacher meetings, which would be conducted by phone. Joanne and Moira mentioned sending the report cards electronically was preferred to sending physical copies. Shauna mentioned there is a read-report available.

Parking lot lines were painted, and the office and hallway by the primary and pre primary classes. Last year the upstairs hallway was painted. Some staff and students painted 4-square and other games in the strip.

Murals have been requested from the Fine-Art Specialist who is available up to the end of November. They are on-call to our family of schools. Nicholas asked about how much time they spend at our school and Shauna explained it was on a by-request basis so it takes some administrative work to bring them in. Anne mentioned Ken G used to volunteer to teach art to the grade 5 classes pre-covid.

Nicholas asked about lunch monitors. Shauna said things are better and they even have some subs. Pre Primary needs more but they are posted separately. Adam mentioned how Pre Primary is supposed to be run separately but any problems there still fall on the school administrators. Anne mentioned that separate funding pots are the reason it is intended to work like that, separately, but since it doesn't work it might as well all be included together.

Kathryn Morse – Discussed roadblocks with money, and the difficulty with the Municipal/Provincial jurisdiction with school properties. She said the province may do the work while the city pays. She asked to be put in touch with the grounds supervisor. Adam said there is a new head of Ops for HRCE. Sometimes HRCE does not have the staff who can do the work and HRM staff is used. Adam expressed concerns about ice on the school grounds which caused an EPA to be injured last year. Moira said sometimes the water is so high in the parking lot you cannot park your car. Nicholas he has been working on these issues with the past 3 Principals. Parking is still an issue, but speed is less of a concern this year. There used to be a gate preventing access to the parking lot but in past years it froze. Kathryn shared that HRM staff considers Duc d'Anville one of the better schools regarding traffic safety/concerns. She shared that she has funds she is able to contribute to capital projects, and/or even possibly for books like dictionaries for additional languages. Anne said we will add discussion of this funding source to our next meeting agenda.

5:33 adjourned