



# Princess Margaret School Council

March 29, 2023

6:00 PM

Miss Dostie's Classroom

## Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Darren VanHooydonk (Superintendent), Pratima Burton (Student Achievement, Leader - Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism), Cindy Kohinski, Angela Leitch, Nakita Dostie, Pat Dostie, Kiley Cowan, Jaya Newell, Garrin Topp, Crystal Topp, Tess McFarlane, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Alexis Peacock, Tara Carter, Amanda Cronkwright, Tariro Kaparipari, Alicia MacMillan, Casey Jenkins, Amanda Riel, R. Buckley, Carmen Schmidt, Kristina Labasan, Lee Villanueva, and Vikas Setia.

### Elected Positions on School Council

**Chair:** Tess McFarlane

**Secretary:** Jaya Newell

**Treasurer:** Alicia MacMillan

We have some parents and guardians joining our meeting online tonight through Teams meetings. Cindy introduced our special guests: Darren VanHooydonk, Superintendent of Princess Margaret and Pratima Burton, Leader of equity, Inclusion, and anti-racism with DSBN. They will be presenting later in the meeting.

### Chair's Report:

#### Results of the Survey

A survey was sent to parents and guardians in January regarding parent council meetings. The survey results are as follows:

1. Would you prefer to meet using Microsoft teams or in person? 65.9% said in person
2. Is the 6pm-7pm time frame convenient for you? 77.50% said yes
3. Are you in need of child care in order to attend meetings? 41.9% said yes. Miss Cowan was providing child care for our meeting tonight; however, there weren't any children at tonight's meeting.
4. Are there other reasons that prevent you from attending? No reason - 36.4%, Work - 30.3%, Child Care - 18.2%, and Other - 15.2%

#### Fundraising

We brainstormed some ideas as a group on what kind of fundraisers we can do. Below are the suggestions:

1. 70's style danceathon
2. Little Caesars pizza kits
3. Student Entrepreneur Day (not for the 1<sup>st</sup> fundraiser)
4. Cookie Dough
5. Krispy Kreme

Miss Cowan shared that Brock University did a Krispy Kreme fundraiser and it was very successful. We are responsible to pick up the Krispy Kreme donuts from Mississauga so we will need volunteers to drive to Mississauga. Purchases for Krispy Kreme can be done on cash online. Tess will look into doing a Krispy Kreme fundraiser and will report back to the school council. Next year we will start fundraising earlier.

## Volunteers

We are seriously close to losing our bingo slot. Since 2003 we have received \$50,622.41 from bingo. We use these proceeds to pay for taxis to drive our sports teams to their games at other schools as well as sport referees. We are extremely desperate for volunteers. We need volunteers the last Saturday of every month from 4pm – 6pm. We need 2 volunteers to attend during each of our time slots. This is a dire situation! In order to be a volunteer you need to complete a straight forward, 45 minute online training video. You are able to sit down during bingo and don't have to stand and walk around the whole time. If you become a bingo volunteer, you will receive a Princess Margaret shirt that you must wear while you volunteer at bingo. If you would like to be a bingo volunteer, please call the school.

## **Principal's Report:**

### Equity and Inclusion Presentation

Darren is going to see if he can provide us with online technology for our school council meeting that gives a 360 degree view of the classroom.

Niagara Falls has 500 newcomers that are attending 5 different schools. There is an impact on teachers to serve all students and there is also a big impact on the children. We are diverse in Niagara as there are more global citizens. It is important to show understanding. Darren is from the Toronto area and has worked in education for 28 years. The full understanding of equity and inclusion is based on human rights and finding ways to make everyone feel supported and included. Sharing support in schools and how to celebrate the narrative and story is very important. Eg. Is it celebrated in books and by teachers? We have to re-envision Halloween and Christmas. Our newcomers had horrific journeys, but that is not their narrative. Equity is very personal and DSBN is committed to making a better world for all children.

Pratima's slideshow presentation:

DSBN Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Journey

### Equity

Student Voice

Inclusive Spaces,

Culturally and Historically Responsive Curriculum

Anti-Bias, Anti Racism, and Anti-Oppression Learning

Community Partnership

Identifying and Removing Systemic Barriers

Ontario Ministry of Education Commitment to Equity

- 2009 - Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy - As a result of the strategy, every school board has:
  - An equity and inclusive education policy, and
  - A religious accommodation guideline in place.In addition to those, DSBN is currently working on Gender Identity and Gender Expression Guidelines and Inclusive Language Guidelines.
  
- 2014 - Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario - By identifying, removing, and preventing, systemic barriers and discriminatory practices, students will be able to realize their full potential, and that will improve student achievement.
  
- 2017 - Education Equity Action Plan - A three-year strategy to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices, systemic barriers and bias from schools and classrooms.

## 2013 - Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 119

- Policies, Programs, Guidelines and Practices
- Shared and Committed Leadership
- School-Community Leadership
- School-Community Relationships
- Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment Practices
- Creed Accommodation
- School Climate and the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment
- Professional Learning
- Accountability and Transparency

## Policy G-03: Equity and Inclusive Education

- Gender Identity and Expression
- Abilities

### **DSBN Equity Action Plan**

We believe that each individual deserves:

- To have their identity and lived experiences honoured,
- To learn in a culture of respect, dignity, and acceptance,
- To have access to education free from discrimination and barriers.

### **Student Voice**

Engaging and responding to student agency

Action Highlights:

- Student representation on the Equity Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee
- Leadership Niagara partnership
- Establish equity representative on all Student Councils
- DSNB Student Equity Alliance (DSBN IDEAS)
- Rise Up - Students Leading the Change Conference
- TOES Niagara Black Mentorship Program
- Brave Space Groups in schools

### **Inclusive Spaces**

Creating brave spaces where everyone can bring their full self to actively listen, explore and learn together

Action Highlights:

- Equity Champions
- Student Learning Series - Embracing Ourselves, Identity, Building Community
- Considerations for Holidays/Days of Significance
- Considerations for Planning Events with an Equity Lens
- Knowing Each Learner: Cultivating Caring Conditions PD for all staff
- Supporting Gender Identity and Gender Expression  
Guidelines - Family Guide in development

### **Culturally and Historically Responsive Curriculum**

Designing instruction that honours the identities, cultural knowledge and genius of all students

Action Highlights:

- Inclusive Classroom Additional Qualifications course for educators and administrators
- Anti-Black Racism Additional Qualifications course for educators and administrators
- Heritage Month Family Resources on website
- *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy* – Learning journey with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

- Days of Signification Calendar with book suggestions
- Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Education Resource Website for teachers to further learning

### **Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Learning**

Developing a critical lens to disrupt oppressive practices to improve outcomes for all of students, staff and school communities

Action Highlights:

- Understanding Human Rights PD for DSBN staff
- Equity PD for all educators, support staff and Education Centre staff
- Partnership with unlearn, Harmony Movement
- Nelson: The Future of Education for Black Students; See Us, Learn Us; Canadian Black History
- Trustee Learning - Equity Fundamentals and The Learning Pathway

### **Community Partnership**

Engaging families and community members and organizations

Action Highlights:

- Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee
- Building Cultural Knowledge Series
  - Disrupting Islamphobia
  - Black History Month: Celebrating Black Excellence and Joy
- Creation of a Community Connections to support:
  - Knowledge Building
  - Community Supports
  - Advocacy

### **Identifying and Removing Systemic Barriers**

Eliminating disproportionately and disparity

Action Highlights:

- Policy G-03- Equity and Inclusive Education
- Aspen Student Information Database - gender identity options
- Creed Based Accommodations Guidelines, Parent Guidelines
- Review of Graduation, Awards Criteria and Recognition Practices
- Supporting Students: Gender Identity and Gender Expression Guidelines
- Inclusive Language Guidelines

Reminder: The Spring Literacy Night and Book Fair will be held at the school on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

The next school council meeting will be on May 23, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:11pm