

Earl Haig School Advisory Council Meeting
September 30, 2020
7-8:30 p.m.

Advocacy - Dara , Nupur
Nutrition - Pilar, Claire
K - Michael
P - Kristen Currie
Fundraising - Josh Grossman, Nicole Lambe
FI Lead
Intermediate Rep - Lorraine Godwin
Ward 16 Rep - Rosalyn Wise, Nupur
Communications - Kate, Karen, Michelle, Madelaine
Secretary - Cleo? Jen Wilkinson
Treasurer - Stephanie Little, Nicole Lambe
Polly Vandenburg - Chair
Shannon Butcher - Past Chair
Members at Large - Jennifer Barnes, Tanya Mustachi

Treasurer's Report

- Carried over previous balance of \$27,480 from 2019-2020
- Really only spent money on classroom support in the spring
- Publish report monthly
- Have a few fundraising events over the year - pumpkin patch, bake sales; most money comes in through festival which is usually held in June
- One of big support items in the past has been giving each teacher \$100 for their classrooms; usually about \$3300 a year
- Over the years have supported tech, things for the playground; last year voted on recess kits; have been able to go forward with that spend, Mr. Taylor has been working with teachers to provide kids
- Probably a pause of spending anything more on tech right now given climate
- Will work with teachers and staff to work on how to spend the money
- Money must be spent within 2 years period
- Money for play structure (about \$80,000) kept in a capital account with the TDSB - not counted towards School Council Fund balance
- Usually support Grade 8 Grad (awards, cake, signs last year)

Outdoor Learning Update

- Susan Ly volunteered to spearhead outdoor classes
- In consultation with teacher led outdoor committee, looking into getting stumps in yard, taking advantage of picnic tables

- Currently at a standstill with the TDSB - Susan spoke to the superintendent earlier this week, he is going to try and fasttrack the process with Facilities services and thinks he will have good news
- Form going home to allow students to go for outdoor walks etc - return these ASAP
- Possible Outerwear Drive - some kids may not have adequate warm clothes for time students will be spending outside
 - This might look like extras in the school for teachers to add as needed, allocating spare items etc
- Look into situpons or wave desks?
 - Not sure how many teachers are interested but we can look into creating a supply and then looking at demand from there
- If interested in helping, email Susan at susanly@rogers.com
- Playground
 - We cannot build the playground we fundraised for at this time because it would take up too much room in the yard - we need as much space for them as possible
- Recess kits - Mr. Taylor
 - These are already funded by money raised last year; don't need to vote on it today
 - Allocated \$4,000, spent \$4,043
 - Soccer balls, footballs, utility balls, scoops, skipping ropes of different sizes; balls sized appropriately by age
 - Placing items in IKEA bags, which are easy to clean - if anyone is going to IKEA, we need extra bags (big blue ones with the handles)
 - Equipment is cleaned between uses
 - Must be used in designated areas
 - Ordered yesterday

School Supplies Update

- Parents wanted to be proactive about what we can do to support kids coming back to school who might not have what they needed
- Sally - anticipated that some families might not be able to provide everything requested by room teachers
- Reached out to teachers to get list of what students would be expected to have
- Budget of \$220-230 - was able to get 10-20 of the items
- Ms. Sanderson helping to distribute items to older grades; Sally has not heard back from teachers in younger grades
- Wanted to make sure we didn't overspend right off the top; if there are gaps, might need to vote on spending additional monies

Fundraising

- Came to grinding halt in March - were going really well before this
- Didn't have Fun Fair in the spring as normal

- In February, school had purchased Chromebooks for the school - many of those have been redistributed to other schools
- Told by the Board that this was a donation; tech will stay with the kids who received it until they leave or age out
 - Not sure how many were taken because they came in over the summer; 22 Chromebooks did come back per Ms. Landry - waiting to see how they will be deployed
 - Committee is now deciding how they can be deployed based on where there is need - may need to go to Earl Haig virtual students who need tech
- Is there a need for more tech? Still waiting to hear on this
- Should we spend more money on tech if there is a need specifically at Earl Haig?
 - Weren't planning to spend because it might be requisitioned back
 - Ms. Landry: not sure what will happen if more schools go virtual - can't say for sure they won't be requisitioned
 - Ms. Landry and Ms. Upeslakis will meet with Tech Committee on needs and then come back to the committee to see if we should spend
 - Consider waiting until next switch to Online Learning deadline before spending? Should we consider waiting period, or look at investing in something that's static and not as easy to remove from the school?

Nutrition Program

- Re-launching the program - permission form went home via email and teachers have hard copies
- Starting off with just the snack program and see how that goes - can't do hot lunch program this year
- Want to get feedback from community on whether there is interest in cold lunches (everything has to be packaged for safety reasons)
- Want to get the program running because we otherwise risk losing our grant in the future

Other Business

Principal's Upeslakis

- Nine full days into the school year - up and running
- Children are kept together in cohorts
- Three recesses, three lunches

Questions

- How does returning back to in-person from virtual learning work if year was started in person?
 - Will try to get them back into their original classes as much as possible, depending on numbers
- Social distancing with desks - I know they meet Ministry standards, but at lunchtime the kids are facing each other and eating without masks on. Want to work with kid's teachers

to purchase sneeze guards - is that okay? Are other classrooms facing the same problems?

- Ms. U thinks this is a good idea
- Haven't found a reasonably priced source yet
- Concerned for winter - trying to find a solution before it's a problem
- Ms. Landry - Ms. Nishimoto has a solution and got a good price, Ms. Landry will get info
- Right now lunch is eaten during instructional time - each teacher is handling it differently (some having only class eat, some reading a story or having quiet reading while eating to minimize talking etc.)
- Mr. Taylor can go around and see which teachers might be interested in having guards
- Some teachers are running out of things for sanitizing (wipes, hand sanitizer)
 - School has lots, teachers can get more at the office
 - Also have soap for classrooms with sinks
 - Another shipment coming on October 5
- Outdoor Learning - other schools have managed to get outdoor learning up and running already; wondering why our school hasn't been able to do this with the same speed, especially now as it's getting colder
 - Susan approached Principal U about the logs, she forwarded it to Facilities that school was good to go, response came back that they weren't
 - Schools that have done it so far: Secord, First Nations, Roden, Equinox
 - Don't have much time in schedule that space in playground is available - used for recess, lunch, gym class, and all space is allocated - really only first hour in the morning and hour at the end of the day is when outdoor classroom would be available
 - Tried to make sure that each "zone" of the playground has somewhere to sit
- Outdoor Learning - Seem to be focusing on outdoor learning on school property - some schools are making use of parks, ravines etc as part of outdoor learning strategy. Has this been considered by the school? Kids could be outside all year if they are dressed appropriately.
 - Plan in place for branching out of school community - have to get all paperwork in order (walking forms etc)
 - Teachers are eager to use Monarch Park, the dome etc
- Will classrooms need to be reorganized based on transitions at first point?
 - Only had 10 students by 4pm and they were spread out across the grades - will not need to reorganize
- COVID case - have the children in that class already been notified?
 - Yes - if you have heard anything, your child's class was not affected
- Can all newsletters go to virtual parents as well?
 - Yes - have mailing list for them now so all parents will get all newsletters

Other Business:

- Allocation of \$100 per teacher again this year, to be spent at teachers' discretion on classroom initiatives?
- Motion made by Shannon - motion is passed with 78% of the vote

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20