

DUFFERIN PARENT SUPPORT NETWORK

Monday, January 12, 2004

Present

Barbara Horvath
Phyllis Noce
Angela Dearsley
Sharon Spencer
Helen Sherrard
Julie Wood
Pat Gardner

Regrets

Tina Hinsperger
Wendy Mobbs
Joanne Moore

Call to Order: 10:05am

1. Agenda

To accept the agenda for the January 12, 2004 DPSN Board of Directors meeting.
M/Barbara S/Julie

2. Minutes

To accept the minutes of the last meeting, December 8, 2003.
M/Pat S/Phyllis

3. Coordinator

Activity Report

Past activities include:

- Avril Lavigne – cheques continue to be deposited. No problems thus far.
- Cosmic Kaos December and January – both sold out
- Website updates – the new spring schedule and membership forms are now on the website.
- Snow Days – in future for all workshops which fall on a no bus day, the workshop will be cancelled and a message left on the answering machine indicating same. If bad weather develops later in the day, the workshop may be cancelled at the discretion of the coordinator and facilitator.
- UGDSB Distribution Approval – Bob Borden is working for us to try to get a “blanket approval” for all DPSN items for distribution to the schools in Dufferin.
- Spring workshop schedule distributed – All workshops will be held at the Early Years Centre in Orangeville.
- Resource Guide – Continue to work with Darla Fraser to update.

Priorities for next month:

- Spring Dance at Rec Centre – Town will provide arena space after ice is gone
- Volunteers for next Cosmic Kaos laser dance
- Family Games Night
- Resource Guide – continue updates; Phyllis may have a volunteer who can also work on this
- Work on email distribution list to include doctors, sports clubs etc.
- Website—continue updates particularly meeting information
- Newsletter – prepare and distribute a Dufferin Parent Support Network newsletter

M/Julie

S/Barbara

To prepare and distribute a newsletter to Dufferin County schools with a cost of no more than \$500 in the event that funding cannot be obtained elsewhere.

4. Reports

Program Committee

Julie Wood reported that parents have expressed an interest in a workshop for parents of “spirited kids” ages 6 to 18. The initial proposal is for a one time workshop on a Tuesday evening in the spring to be held at the Early Years Centre and facilitated by Nina Little and Julie Wood. Julie will check with Fran Walker for her input on the use of ADD/ADHD funds to help with the costs of this workshop.

The DPSN series of fall 2003 workshops served approximately 65 families which is an increase over the fall 2002 series of 100%. This number is lower than our spring series, but that appears to be a trend due to the time issues in the fall with school and school year activities. Spring workshops generally seem to have a higher enrolment. For fall 2004, workshops should probably not begin until October and fewer workshops should be offered in the fall than in the spring. The spring schedule includes five of the top six requested workshops from the participant feedback forms.

A parent with a six month old breastfeeding infant inquired as to the possibility of bringing the child to a workshop. DPSN is in full support of breastfeeding parents and can see no problem with this. The facilitator should be made aware so that he/she can approach the parent regarding any issues that may arise in terms of disruption of the workshop (if the child cries etc.). Helen Sherrard will let the parent know that men may also be present at the workshop in case this is a comfort issue.

Treasury Update

Phyllis Noce reported that funds available are approximately \$10,000. If the next NCP funding arrives in April there should be no financial issues. Expenses should be kept to a minimum. The year end is now being done and a statement will be presented when available.

Status of Grant Applications

The United Way has not yet responded to grant applications. A response should be forthcoming shortly. Helen Sherrard spoke with Monika Ochnik of the National Crime Prevention Centre who indicated that funding will be available for the phase two application, but funds will not roll out until April 2004.

Fundraising Activities

Phyllis Noce suggested that we pursue Nevada locations in Grand Valley. She will try to set up a time and will contact Helen Sherrard or Barbara Horvath to accompany her.

The Cosmic Kaos dances have become very successful, however, there are beginning to be some issues with the need for a larger space. Helen Sherrard will pursue the school board for a gym as an option. There have been a number of parent volunteers out recently and there are several taking the lead in terms of procedures for leaving, crowd control and the coat room. Positive feedback was received from a Peel Region police officer and parent attending for the first time. He was pleased with chaperone/parent volunteer rules and the control at the dance.

Some concern has been expressed about the dry ice and the sore throats and hoarseness it seems to be causing. Pat Gardiner will check if there is any information available at the health unit on the health risks. Helen Sherrard will follow up with Marcus regarding less use. Additional signs will be prepared warning of the possibility of selling out and advising when all tickets are sold. Helen will also see if Marcus can change the wording on the flyer to indicate that you should ensure your children have tickets before leaving.

There was an issue with the pickup of a child at the last dance which appears to be a recurring problem. The procedure for parents who are continuously being called to the pick up their children is as follows: 1st offence – reminder that this is a child protection issue and they must pick up their child. 2nd offence – reiterate that this is a child protection issue and that on the next offence, the police will be called to pick up the child. 3rd offence – call the police to pick up the child.

5. Risk Management

No current risk management issues to discuss. Sharon distributed a risk management checklist to be reviewed prior to the next board meeting for discussion during the 9:30am session on Board Policy/Development.

6. New Business

Dufferin Children's Festival

Dufferin Child and Family Services will not be coordinating the Dufferin Children's Festival this year. This event could be a fundraiser, but would entail a lot of work. Letters are being sent to all the participating agencies to see if they have an interest in getting involved. Katimavik has expressed an interest in coordinating something in conjunction with a Youth Day. Jacqueline Moore from DCAFS will speak at the next Dufferin Youth Advisory Network meeting about the Festival to see what the interest is from agencies there.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DPSN Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2004 from 10:00am -12:00 pm at the DPSN office located at 235 Broadway Ave Orangeville ON. Board Policy/Development session will be held at 9:30am for Directors only.