

## PAC MEETING MINUTES

October 1st, 2014

Attendance: Leilani, Christine O, Jocelyn, Leni, Ev, Diane, Naomi, Erika, Christine T, Valerie, Lorin, DeDe and Faun as Teacher Liaison.

Meeting was called to order at ~6:30 pm.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Introductions were made.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order. It was announced that the executive positions up for election at this time were:

Treasurer

Members at Large - 1 position

DPAC Rep - up to 2 positions

SPC Members - up to 3 positions

Christine O nominated Leni for the position of Treasurer, Diane seconded the nomination and Leni let her name stand. There were no other nominations and Leni was appointed Treasurer.

The main responsibility of the Member at Large position was explained as coming to PAC meetings so that there is a member of the executive represented to help create quorums. Erika expressed interest in the position. Christine O nominated Erika, Jocelyn seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Erika was appointed Member at Large.

The DPAC Rep position duties were explained as going to the monthly DPAC meetings and reporting back to the PAC what is going on at the District level. Valerie expressed interest in the position. Christine O nominated Valerie, Diane seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Valerie was appointed DPAC Rep.

Nominations for the three positions of SPC Members were called. Again the position was explained. There was some discussion as to the time commitment of the position. Diane reported that last year they met maybe once or twice at the end of the year. DeDe indicated that it may be more of a time commitment this year, perhaps meeting monthly with a large portion of communication of the SPC happening through email. After expressing interest in the position Diane and Clare were nominated by Christine O, Jocelyn seconded the nominations and Diane and Clare were appointed to the SPC. DeDe indicated that Sandy LeBourdais may also become a 3<sup>rd</sup> member of the SPC, representing our First Nations families.

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At this time the nominations were closed and the DTE PAC Executive Committee is as follows:

Chairperson - Leilani

Vice-Chairperson - Jocelyn

Treasurer - Leni

Secretary - Christine

Members at Large - Erika, Corrinna and Diane

Our DPAC representative is Valerie and our SPC members are Diane and Clare with an opening available to Sandy.

### **Teacher Liaison:**

Faun was in attendance tonight as the Teacher Liaison and reported that she had been our Teacher Liaison for a couple of years now, however, with the change in administration this year, there was some discussion as to perhaps returning to the Teacher Liaison position being a parent going to Staff meetings rather than a teacher coming to PAC meetings. DeDe said that the staff meetings happened every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday and felt that having a parent attend the first 5 to 10 minutes of the meeting to discuss any requests or just gather information had worked successfully in the past. Christine O reported that Ali, although unable to attend tonight, was interested in this position. Christine O nominated Ali for the position of Teacher Liaison, Leni seconded the nomination and there were no further nominations so Ali was appointed to the Teacher Liaison position. DeDe mentioned that she was hoping to streamline the teacher request process so that administration gets a heads up about requests from teachers for PAC.

Faun requested funds for her kindergarten classroom totaling \$370 which included individual white boards, erasers, dry erase markers a set of classroom markers and pencil crayons. (See attached)

There were no further questions for Faun so she excused herself from the meeting at this time.

**MOTION by Christine that the minutes from the May 21st, 2014 PAC meeting be accepted as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jocelyn. CARRIED.**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of PAC communication in newsletter under New Business.

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

DeDe started out her report saying that both she and Lorin were happy to be here at DT as we have a wonderful school community. DeDe is returning from a 2 year absence from DT.

DeDe reported on the influx of new students at the beginning of the year. 51 new students showed up after the teacher strike was over causing a lot of new decisions needing to be made as far as student placements were concerned. One of these decisions being that the school needed another division and had to wait on school board approval before being able to place children in classes. She explained that there was a lot of thought involved in placing each and every student and that they started the process by placing ministry coded children (children with special needs) first. After those children were placed in classes they then placed all the other children taking in to account academic performance, social needs and emotional needs of each student.

There was some discussion regarding the use of the portable for the new classroom division. It is a Grade 3 class and has been taught so far by Ms. Gustafson, but a permanent teacher will be selected after the Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> posting of the job. The earliest that teacher will be selected is on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. DeDe acknowledged that there were some concerns about the portable and that she and Lorin were working to resolve those issues.

DeDe and Lorin reported on some technology issues at the school. Lorin explained that the mobile computer lab was not very successful last year as the laptops had issues with their batteries lasting for the entire day and there was also some wi-fi problems as sometimes the wi-fi would not work on a few of the computers during class time, however, would work fine when someone was trying to fix the problem. Lorin will continue to work on these issues. The school did receive some of our old computer towers back so that a couple of computer stations could be placed in each classroom.

It was also reported that all smart boards had been mounted into classrooms, however there were still 4 classes without a smart board. These classes have TVs and VCRs in them.

A parent asked if there was a Bring your own Devices policy for this school district and explained that she was aware of certain school districts that have implemented this type of policy. Lorin and DeDe reported that there is not currently a Bring your own Devices policy in SD73, stating that the idea has merit but the issue is that not everyone has the means to provide this technology for their children.

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There was a brief discussion regarding cell phones at DT. DeDe stated that the district policy is that cell phones are not allowed in elementary schools. DT's policy is that if they are not visible they are not looked for, however, if a student is using a device at school as a first warning the device lands on the teacher's desk for the day, 2<sup>nd</sup> warning the device has to be picked up by a parent/guardian.

Lorin will be keeping the school's website up to date for us this year, with a link to the school calendar also being on the website.

Sports News: Volleyball tryouts are happening over the next couple of weeks. Mrs. Hansen will be the sports coordinator for the school again this year.

The Terry Fox Run will be happening this Friday at 10:20am. Christine O mentioned that she would check with Cooper's about juice boxes for the event. Each student was requested to bring a toonie to school for the run. A parent expressed interest in helping with this event and was directed to speak with Mrs. Hansen.

There is not currently an assembly schedule up yet as everyone has been busy with class setup this past week. There should be one available soon.

School pictures have been rescheduled for October 22.

The first Pro-D of the year will be on Friday October 24.

DeDe reported that some field trips are being approved, however there will be a priority placed on academics this year and teachers are thinking hard about which field trips to participate in. They will have a better feel for this as the school year progresses. They did report that they approved a Field Trip to the Salmon Run on October 20<sup>th</sup> for Mrs. Stumpf and Mrs. Webster's Grade 2 classes.

DeDe also explained that DT's SPC had 2 goals, the first being Technology and the second being Social Responsibility.

The school has developed a school wide matrix for expected behavior which is ROARS (Responsibility, Organization, Attitude, Respect and Safety) and is talked about every morning during morning announcements. As part of the Social Responsibility goal, DeDe explained that DT has a behavior support team that looks at data on student behavior to identify times of the day or locations around the school where behavior issues have occurred. With this information the team can look for patterns within these behaviours and help make choices to make the

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school a more positive place and to help make students feel more safe when at school. DeDe provided an example from another school in which the children used boredom as an excuse for poor behaviours, so the behavior support team taught old school games like 4 square and skipping, etc to the kids to engage them in constructive activities during their free play time. DeDe is requesting a PAC rep be part of the behavior support team and bring information from the team back to the PAC to let parents know what is being done at the school to promote social responsibility. The team would meet once a month during the day. Mr. Martin is on the team as well as the LART staff, DeDe and Lorin. Valerie and Jocelyn volunteered to be on the behavior support team. DeDe mentioned that they may use Pro-D days to look at social responsibility at the school as well.

DeDe also reported that the staff had wanted to have the students in Den groups during the first week of school to go over the matrix and expected behaviours at the school, however, because of the late start, the teachers voted and it was decided that students would go to classes instead. Den groups consist of children from K-7 in each group. Den groups will be forming soon and we should start hearing about them shortly.

Leilani asked if anyone had questions for DeDe. Clare commented that she has had a wonderful experience coming to this school and felt very welcomed. DeDe commented that DT has one of the biggest school populations in the district and that can come with a lot of challenges, however, the community is very supportive and DT kids are very good and welcoming to new students. DeDe mentioned that Mr. Martin also commented on how great the community at DT was and was impressed by how well the beginning of the year was handled by everyone in regards to the 51 new students and placement of the children.

There was another question regarding whether or not there would be a community event like our Mug and Muffins from last year. DeDe mentioned that in other schools their PACs had utilized that first short day of school to have a kind of parent social with coffee and snacks outside. Some parents believed this would be a great idea for next year. There was further discussion about other opportunities for such an event like the Early closure day on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. DeDe said she would talk it over and that something could possibly be arranged.

### **DPAC REPORT:**

No Report

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT (see attached):**

Leni presented the financial report. We have ~\$11,000 in the *Gaming* account and ~\$11,000 in the *General* account for a total amount of funds of ~\$22,000. Leni reported that we have spent more money than we brought in last year but stated that this was an intentional use of those funds. Leni also reported that we should be getting this year's *Gaming* funds soon. Leni also reported that she was unable to reconcile the bank statements because the bank put a hold on our mail as the school was closed in June due to the teacher's strike. We have requested in writing to have the mail placed off hold and the 2 statements needed mailed to the school. Once these statements arrive, Leni will be able to fully reconcile last year's accounts.

Leni also presented last year's budget to actual spending spreadsheet and our proposed 2014-2015 budget. (See attached) It was decided that we would wait until the next meeting to vote on the budget to give people a chance to think about it.

There was some discussion surrounding the use of our *Gaming* funds as Leni presented a summary of the *Gaming* money from previous years and what needs to be spent this year for sure. Playground equipment came up as a good option with suggestions of more swings on the primary side and possibly some gross and fine motor skill development equipment. As the grounds were just recently re-done this summer, we're not sure as to what can be accomplished. Naomi was to request some information from Mr. Dempster the District Grounds Manager.

### **COMMITTEES:**

**Fundraiser line up for this year** - Because of the late start this year, Christine O mentioned it might be a good idea to ask the teachers again if the Art Card fundraiser would be OK to proceed with as it does take up some class time. Jocelyn said the cards didn't have to be Christmas related and could be tied in to class curriculums. Teacher Liaison will ask the teachers at the next staff meeting if it is OK to proceed. Jocelyn has already ordered the supplies, but there is no cost to PAC for doing this.

This year's hot lunch schedule was also brought up. There was some discussion about increasing the amount of hot lunch days, some parents were in favour of more hot lunch days. On the other hand it was brought up that perhaps some families would not be able to participate in more hot lunch days due to financial constraints, also it was brought up that Mr. Wood talked about the number of our hot lunch days perhaps interfering with the District's lunch provider contract. It was also discussed that we would need teacher buy-in for increased food days as they are usually the distributors of the food and have to handle the after math and clean up of the lunch. Leilani reported that she was going to speak to the staff at the next staff meeting

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regarding the farm to table hot lunches. Leilani also brought up the possibility of bringing Menchies in to the school. She said that some schools bring Menchies in on  $\frac{1}{2}$  days, she wondered if perhaps we wanted to do this on a regular monthly basis. She described the fundraiser as having the Menchies mascot coming to the school with a couple of options of pre-packaged frozen yogurt and a couple of options for toppings. Some parents felt that once a month may be too much for this type of food day and suggested that perhaps we hold a Menchies fundraiser at a school event, such as the year-end BBQ or family dance, etc. It was suggested that we have a trial Menchies run one day in November, however, after some discussion we felt that with QSP, possibly Art Cards, Purdys and the regular lunch days it might be too much to fit in and that we should table this topic until Spring.

There was some discussion regarding microwaves being available in the school, however, DeDe responded that microwaves are generally not allowed because of safety issues and the need for supervision when children are using the microwaves.

A suggestion of a Volunteer Co-ordinator for PAC was introduced to help bring in volunteers to help with hot lunch days. No one volunteered for this position.

**October Movie Night** - Jocelyn asked if an October Movie Night would be a good idea. She can get How to Train Your Dragon 2. She was thinking Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> as the night for it. She described the event for those parents new to the school. There was a question regarding if we would be accepting food bank donations. Jocelyn responded that we could do that or perhaps we could be accepting donations for one of our DT families that are in need right now. It was accepted that October Movie Night would be a good idea.

This turned the discussion to more ideas about what could be done for this family, such as family dances and accepting donations at the school. A parent thought that perhaps we should consolidate all fundraising to a single event. DeDe responded with discussing what had been done at the school in the past when another DT family also needed help and said that the school held a variety of different events for the family, such as a coin drive, bake sale, pig kissing, hair shaving, etc and felt that more than one event should not be a problem. DeDe did mention that with all of these fundraising activities, Coralee carries the brunt of the work in counting all the money from all these activities and suggested that it would be very helpful for Coralee to have help from parents when executing these fundraising plans. One suggestion for a fundraiser was to auction off a parking space in the school parking lot. Leilani was going to get started on organizing these fundraisers for the family.

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### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Request for Funds - New High jump mat** - Mr. Cinel requested a new high jump mat last May for track and field as the existing mat is missing foam and he feels that is a safety concern for the kids. DeDe was unaware of the request but is going to get a quote and we will revisit this next meeting.

**New Playground Equipment** - This was already discussed during the Treasurer's Report.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Alternate days for PAC Meetings** - Some parents have expressed their interest in attending PAC meetings however our regular day of Wednesday does not work for them. Leilani proposed alternating nights for PAC meetings to allow more parents the option of attending. DeDe asked if daytime meetings have ever been discussed as a possibility for PAC meetings. Christine O mentioned that they have been brought up in the past, however, for working parents and parents with small children at home, day time meetings don't work as there is no babysitting available and working parents are working. It was suggested that we alternate between Wednesday and Thursday nights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

**MOTION by Jocelyn that the PAC meetings alternate between Wednesday and Thursday nights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month at 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Naomi. CARRIED.**

**Teacher Requests for Funds** - DeDe asked if perhaps the PAC would be willing to supply buses for any classes wanting to go to the Salmon Run. One parent asked about the storytelling around the Salmon Run and wondered if the children were taught any First Nations background about the Run. DeDe said that there was material taught about the Salmon Run and that the parent was welcome to take a look at it.

**MOTION by Christine O that PAC spend up to \$3000 of Gaming money to supply buses for any classes who would like to go to the Salmon Run. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane. CARRIED.**

Christine O read a letter from Mrs. Stumpf (see attached) requesting PAC pay for Grade 2 and Grade 5 swimming lessons as we have done in the past as well as buses for skating as we did last year. She also requested buses for the Salmon Run for her and Mrs. Webster's classes.

**MOTION by Jocelyn that the PAC pay for Grade 2 and Grade 5 swimming lessons and up to \$2000 in Gaming money for skating buses this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Naomi. CARRIED.**

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A parent brought up the \$100 per classroom money for the teachers and wondered if we were doing that again this year. Christine O said that it wasn't in the budget, however, we did give this money to them last year.

**MOTION by Clare that PAC allocate \$100 per classroom for use by teachers. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Naomi. CARRIED.**

Christine brought up Faun's request for funds from earlier in the meeting (see attached).

**MOTION by Christine O that PAC pay up to \$370 to grant Faun's request for funds for individual white boards, dry erase markers and erasers and class sets of markers and pencil crayons. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clare. CARRIED.**

There was also discussion around Mathletics and if teachers were planning on using this program again this year. DeDe said that she heard it mentioned today, but didn't have much more information about it and that she would discuss it with the teachers. One parent suggested the Khan Academy as another option as it is very good and free of charge.

One parent asked about the possibility of purchasing First Nation's mats for the school. DeDe said that she was looking in to it and that those mats would be purchased from the school budget.

Leilani brought up Yoga for the kids. This was a shared cost program (PAC and parent 50/50) that we tried last year with a lot of success. Leilani said that the instructor from last year would not be available this year but was in the process of finding a different instructor. She was also hoping to have primary and intermediate yoga sessions this year as last year we only tried it for primary kids.

**MOTION by Naomi that the PAC use up to \$500 of Gaming money to subsidize yoga sessions. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ev. CARRIED.**

**PAC communication in newsletter** - Jocelyn requested that there be more communication from PAC to parents in the newsletter to keep information flowing. Christine O reminded the PAC that once the hotlunches website is up and parents have registered their children, PAC will have access to the email system to send out broadcast emails to all registered parents. A question was asked as to how many parents would not receive those emails if they didn't sign up on the website. Christine O responded that yes some parents may not receive those emails, so there will be instances where paper notices will need to be sent out as well. She also stated that she was emphasizing that the website was not only used for hot lunches but it was also a

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communication tool for PAC and parents, hoping that more parents sign up even though they don't participate in hot lunch days. Using the email system would also alleviate extra work from Coralee in creating the newsletters.

**Misc** - Christine O reported that the \$500 given to the Grade 7 parents for year end activities last year was coming back to PAC as the parents fundraised all the necessary money and did not need PAC's \$500.

There was some discussion surrounding a First Nation's Family meeting that will be occurring 2 mornings per weeks. This meeting will be for aboriginal parents and families. This is in the beginning planning stages so more information will be coming.

Leilani requested that if any parent had ideas for other activities around the school to bring those ideas to her.

**Next meeting Wednesday October 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm.**

Minutes recorded by: Christine Ony