

PAC MEETING MINUTES

November 20th, 2014

Attendance: Leilani, Christine O, Jocelyn, Leni, Erika, Valerie, Ali, Diane, Clare, Katrina, Corrinna, Becky, DeDe and Lorin.

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

Teacher Presentation:

Brandi and Chelsey, both LAT teachers at David Thompson, made a presentation to the PAC for a new reading program they are requesting funds for. The program is called the Leveled Literacy Intervention reading program. They reported that they have researched this product and talked to their colleagues in the District regarding the LLI program. They feel that DT could benefit from this product as approx. 10% of DT's student population is not currently meeting expectations in reading. Approximately 63% of those students who are not meeting expectations are primary students. They played a short video showcasing the product. They explained that the program has a written, phonics and repeated reading aspects which has been shown to increase fluency and comprehension. The program contains 110 lessons, in which each lesson contains 4 guided reading books and 6 take home books. The book topics are both fiction and non-fiction. Students who have taken this course have shown tremendous increases in their reading skills after participating in this program. (For example, some children have shown a 7 and a half month progression over the 18 and a half week program.) The cost is \$3100 and they are asking if PAC would cost share with the school to purchase the program.

A parent asked how many children are currently in LAT, Brandi answered that 43 children are currently participating in the LAT program at school.

DeDe explained that the school is willing to put forward \$1000.00 towards this program, leaving \$2100 for possible PAC support.

Brandi and Chelsey were thanked for the presentation and they left the meeting at this time.

MOTION by Christine that the minutes from the October 22nd, 2014 PAC meeting be accepted as presented, 2nd by Leni. CARRIED.

The agenda was approved with the addition of PAC Fridge under old business and Family Fun Inflatables under New Business.

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

DeDe apologized for Lorin and herself not being able to attend the last meeting.

DeDe reported that it is report card time and that because of the shortened beginning to the year the report cards may have a few less marks in them, however, they want to get back on to a more normal time table so this is why the report cards are being sent home as per a normal year. Report Cards will be going home next Friday. A parent asked if it was normal to hold Parent/Teacher interviews before report cards are sent home. DeDe responded that either way works, however her preference is to hold parent/teacher interviews after report cards go home. They are doing it this way this year as this is how it was set up by the previous administrator.

Volleyball playoffs are currently under way.

DeDe reported that they had a ventriloquist here at the school which was enjoyed by the children. She said that it was the school's first assembly of the year and that it went very well, saying the teachers did a great job of prepping the children for the assembly.

DeDe also reported that the Remembrance Day Assembly was amazing and quite possibly the best one we've had in recent years. There were 2 RCMP officers that attended the assembly as well and she said they were great. She also said that she felt the children really got it and understood the importance of Remembrance Day. A parent commented that her child was very touched by the presentation.

The Library Book Fair was a big success. Lorin thanked the volunteers that helped out at the Fair. The Book Fair made ~\$1500. He thanked everyone for participating in the Fair and said the library would be benefiting greatly.

DeDe described the Homework Club that is being held from 12:15 to 12:45pm 3 lunches per week. She said it is a very well used program and students have been benefitting from it. A couple of parents commented that they definitely appreciated the Club as their children participated in it and that it was very helpful.

Several Field Trips have occurred during the past couple of months. DeDe thanked PAC for the buses for the Salmon Run. Also, 20 students were able to attend Me to We this year. It was a great experience for them and these students have already been contributing to the school community and have future plans for further contributions.

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DeDe also reported that the Strings program is under way at the school and that there are 3 sessions participating. One of the sessions is after school. She stated that there were pros and cons to the after school session. One of the pros being that the students aren't missing class time to participate, one of the cons being that the after school session sometimes interferes with students participating in school sports or other after school programs. DeDe stated that DT still has all of the band instruments from when Mr. Powell lead the band at DT, we just currently do not have a teacher to lead a band class. She said she would like to see the band come back to DT sometime in the future.

DeDe reported that the school has been busy accommodating all the new teachers and students with requests for desks and other housekeeping items because of the large influx of new students. She reported that the school has filled the last teacher position which is a 0.2 (1 day/week) position. This teacher will be supporting the LAT program for 2 half days a week.

DeDe reported that the Behaviour Support Team will be doing a little bit of reworking of the expected behavior rules at DT, to include expected inside, outside and community behaviours. Over all she has been pleased with student behavior this year. They even had one week where there was not a single behaviour report sent to the office.

DeDe reported that holding a Christmas concert was a debated topic with the teachers this year. Again because of the late start and the class time needed to prepare for the concert, the staff had to determine if a concert should be held. In the end it was determined that DT will be holding a Christmas concert on the afternoons of December 17th and 18th. It will be called "The Best Christmas Gift" and will follow a similar outline to last year's presentation where the Grade 7 students will have the speaking roles and each classroom will participate in performing a song. Mrs. McCauley has taken this project on.

DeDe reported that Pro-D days at the school have been very successful and have included DT hosting 2 other schools for a Math and Technology Pro-D day. Mr. Toews and Mrs. McCauley organized the event and it was very well received. The visiting schools were impressed with the technology level at David Thompson and Mr. Toews thanked the PAC for the financial contributions needed to make that possible.

At an Administrators meeting, Sean, the principal at Westsyde Secondary School, met with his feeder schools (David Thompson, Arthur Stevenson and Westmount) and offered to provide funding to send a teacher from each school to San Diego High Tech High. This conference is about project-based learning. Because DT has such a large student population, DeDe and Lorin decided that DT would send a total of 3 staff members to this conference. Lorin will go, as will

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Mrs. Stumpf (primary rep) and Mrs. Brennan (intermediate rep). There have been lots of Pro-D activities happening at the school as well as mentoring.

Questions:

A parent asked if a parent volunteer would be able to head up a band program or band club at the school. There was some discussion regarding the time commitment required for the position being a possible deterrent to teachers taking on this role. Another discussion came up regarding paying a band leader from Gaming money. Discussion continued regarding how much Gaming money we actually have and that although we have ~\$17,000 of Gaming money in the bank, we have already allocated a large portion of those funds to the school this year, such as money for the Salmon Run buses and money for Skating buses and field trip buses etc. Another parent posed the question if a Westsyde Secondary student might be able to lead a band club or perhaps a teacher from Westsyde Secondary who may be interested in grooming up and coming band members for the Secondary School. A suggestion was made that perhaps band club would have to meet in the mornings to avoid after school activity conflicts. Leilani was to follow up on this issue with Lorin.

Teacher Liaison:

Ali reported that Mrs. Webster confirmed that the Mathletics account purchased by PAC and the school last year was still good until January. She also reported that the teachers were polled to see if they wanted to continue using Mathletics and it was determined that after January they do not wish to renew a Mathletics account. Ali also reported that the teachers looked into using the Kahn Academy instead of Mathletics, but they found that the Academy was not as user friendly and had a little more focus on intermediate and secondary school content.

Ali reported that she had been given 6 requests for funds from teachers as they were invited by Leilani at the staff meeting to bring forward any monetary requests they had to the PAC.

Request from Mrs. Brennan - 10 yoga mats for DPA - there was some discussion about putting out a call to parents for any used yoga mats they might have before buying mats for the school. Leilani was going to look in to getting used yoga mats, if unsuccessful we were going to put a request in the next newsletter for yoga mats from parents.

Request from Mrs. Jorgenson and Mrs. Pitman - Requested \$732 each for a miscellaneous list of various educational toys that focused on various developmental aspects at the kindergarten level. (see attachment)

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There was a question from a parent if the school was able to share some of these costs. DeDe was not sure what her budget was going to be quite yet so could not really answer that question on the spot.

Request from Mrs. Carr - Class set of white boards for \$165

Request for 2 under the desk spin bikes - \$149 each - Mr. Martin was interested to see how this idea would work in the classroom for those children that have a hard time sitting still for long periods of time. A parent wondered if this may be distracting to other children in the classroom due to noise and motion. Apparently the bikes are very quiet but were not sure about how distracting they might be which is why they wanted to just get a couple as a trial.

Request from Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Stumpf, Mrs. Bentz and Mrs. Petty - 30 day quote of \$2004 for a set of leveled readers for home reading books was requested. As DT added a new division to the school, Mrs. Petty had little resources and Mrs. Webster also reported that she had no home reading books in her classroom when she got here. DeDe interjected that this request is possibly due to the growing pains that DT has had over the past couple of years and that because home readers are well loved and well used they do need replacement from time to time. DeDe also reported that historically PAC has purchased home readers requested by teachers.

Request from Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Schneider - \$3472 for the Leveled Literacy Intervention program as presented at the beginning of the PAC meeting. The school is putting forward \$1000 toward this program which would require the PAC to pay \$2472 in order for the LAT teachers to purchase this.

MOTION by Leni that PAC pay up to \$170 for Mrs. Carr's request for a class set of white boards, 2nd by Jocelyn. CARRIED.

MOTION by Leni that PAC purchase 2 under the desk spin bikes as presented in the quote (see attached), 2nd by Corrinna. CARRIED.

There was a short discussion regarding how much money PAC has to spend out of the general account. Leni reported that PAC has approximately \$21,000 in the bank currently, however, that does not account for paying for the remaining Senor Froggy, Hot Dog, Soup, Spaghetti and Chili days as well as the Purdys fundraiser. Leni suggested that PAC would have around \$10,000 available to spend. Christine also asked about the budgeted items that PAC approved at the last meeting and Leni said that those expenditures would be covered by this year's fundraising efforts.

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There was further discussion regarding the requests from Mrs. Jorgenson and Mrs. Pitman. It was reported that PAC has purchased significant amounts of educational toys and classroom improvements such as home readers for the kindergarten classes in the past couple of years. Someone suggested the possibility of requesting a pared down version of their request to lower the cost. It was also suggested that this purchase would benefit the least amount of kids in comparison to other current requests such as the home readers for the Gr. 2 and 3 classes and the request for the LLI program would help improve the school academically speaking. There was a question from a parent wondering if parent donations would help the kindergarten classrooms. There was also a suggestion that parents could also donate home reader books. Someone explained that the home reader books are very specific books which are carefully written to keep each book at a certain reading level. Another parent suggested that teachers would gladly accept books to be used in their classroom, not necessarily as home readers but just as books for silent reading or other purposes.

MOTION by Ali that PAC pay \$2100 for the LAT request to purchase the Leveled Literacy Intervention program as described at the beginning of the PAC meeting, 2nd by Clare. CARRIED (2 opposed).

A parent wondered if this program could be more widely used in the school rather than just in the LAT program. DeDe wasn't sure but thought that would have been a good question for Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Schneider when they were in attendance.

MOTION by Ali that PAC pay \$2004 as requested by Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Stumpf, Mrs. Bentz and Mrs. Petty to purchase home readers for their classrooms. 2nd by Dianne. CARRIED.

A parent suggested that Ali ask the teachers at the next staff meeting if they would be willing to draw on the community for specific donations of books, etc. A parent also wondered if teachers would put out wish lists for scholastic books which could be purchased for the classrooms by families wanting to help out at the next book fair.

Discussion returned to the kindergarten request, but a point of order was identified that there was not a Motion on the table to discuss so,

MOTION by Jocelyn that PAC deny the requests from Mrs. Jorgenson and Mrs. Pitman for a total of \$1464. 2nd by Clare. CARRIED (3 abstaining from vote).

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There was some further discussion about the kindergarten request, some felt the kindergarten teachers deserved the money, no one disagreed, however as funds are limited and PAC is expecting further requests from other teachers, some felt that because we have purchased a fair amount for the kindergarten classes in the past that PAC should spend money on other classrooms and areas of the school first.

DPAC REPORT:

No Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (see attached):

Leni explained that PAC has approx. \$21,000 in the bank in the general account because PAC has collected money for hot lunches, school clothing and purdys, however has only paid out the teachers for pizza day, 1 senior froggy day and 1 hot dog day and paid out the school clothing. She also stated that she needed PayPal account transaction information to reconcile with our records. Basically PAC has brought in a lot of money, but not paid out a lot of money yet.

COMMITTEES:

Fundraiser updates -

Christine reported that QSP magazine sales brought in about double from last year, so our profit should be somewhere around \$1000. Christine also reported that the Purdy's fundraiser brought in ~\$6000 which was about the same as last year so PAC should profit around \$1500 to \$1800. The hot lunch numbers were reported to be comparable to last year with a few increases noted for hot dog day.

Ali reported that there was an unexpected increase in chocolate milk prices and that PAC is now being charged \$0.74 for chocolate milk and \$0.69 for white milk and we are currently charging \$0.75 for both. She said that she was planning to increase the milk prices for the January hot lunch orders to \$1.00 for chocolate milk and white milk. She said that the ice cream sandwiches we still get at a good deal and sell them for \$0.75, a parent suggested we increase that price to \$1.00 as well for easy calculations and rounded numbers. It was generally agreed to that we increase prices in January as described. Ali also reported that we now get everything from Westsyde Cooper's foods for our hot dog day supplies with the exception of the milk which we get directly from Blackwell Dairy. Ali also reported that a few parents have been particularly unkind in regards to hot lunches and ordering and have been rude when speaking to the school secretary and wondered if perhaps this could be addressed in the next

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newsletter. It was also suggested that we explain that there are no refunds or exceptions when ordering hot lunches.

Jocelyn reported that Art Card fundraiser deadline is tomorrow and asked if she could have 2 volunteers to help count up the money tomorrow at 11:30am. Clare and Leilani said they would help out.

October Movie night - Jocelyn reported that the movie night was very good and we basically broke even with money from donations and concession. Jocelyn also reported that AV Technicians from the Henry Grube center said that if we gave them more time before the next movie night they would be able to make the set up much better.

OLD BUSINESS:

Request for Funds - New High jump mat - Ali reported that PAC will be able to purchase a used high jump mat from the Kamloops Track and Field Club, however, she is still waiting for a quote from them before PAC can decide to purchase one or not.

New Playground Equipment - DeDe explained that Mr. Dempster said that there was some room in the front playground for new equipment but not a lot as the playground was re-graded for a specific reason. DeDe said she would get together with Naomi to discuss looking for some gross motor skill equipment that could be added to the front playground.

PAC ski trip sponsoring - From the last PAC meeting there was a question from a parent regarding how it is determined which children are in need for subsidizing. Ali explained that the teachers know which students are in need as parents come to them if finances are deterring them from allowing their child to participate. A parent asked how many students PAC would potentially be subsidizing so that we have an approximate cost. Ali reported that it was unknown at this time as only initial forms have been sent home to see how many families would be interested in participating. This topic was tabled until PAC can have a better idea of cost.

Shirts for field trips - There was a request from a parent for access to identifying shirts for students on field trips to help with keeping track of DT children that they are responsible for. Ali came from the staff meeting with the suggestion that students can utilize the old orange DT jerseys for this purpose.

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School Dance - There was discussion at the last meeting about a PAC sponsored dance possibly on Family Day. The suggestion again came up to have dance leaders for the dance kind of like Zumba style. A parent asked if the dance was going to be held as a fundraiser or as a community event. After some discussion it was determined that PAC should use the opportunity to use it as a fundraiser. There was a suggestion of a raffle for the dance, however, as you need a gaming license to hold an official raffle someone suggested a silent auction as you do not need a gaming license to hold a silent auction. Some possible dates were thrown out as dates for the dance, Feb. 9th (Family Day), Feb. 14th (Valentine's Day Saturday). A parent asked who would be heading up the dance. No one immediately stepped forward. Leilani said she could not do those dates as she was away at that time. March 6th was then suggested as an option and Leilani said she would head up the dance and would start the planning stages.

Shelves in PAC room and PAC Fridge - Ali reported that the new PAC fridge was in place in the PAC room and that PAC had purchased it for under \$800 including delivery and pick up of the old fridge. She reported that the fridge does fit in the old space however the doors do rub against each other when opening and closing the door. She also reported that she had to clean up the PAC room quite a bit before she could move the fridge in to place. Christine commented that shelves in the PAC room would be helpful in giving us a little more storage space as the PAC storage cupboard upstairs was requested to be used by the school, leaving the PAC with little to no storage space. If shelves were put in the PAC room this would help to alleviate the lack of storage.

Jocelyn amended the original MOTION to purchase a PAC fridge by motioning that the \$1200 left over from the purchase of the fridge be re-allocated to add shelving in the PAC room, 2nd by Corrinna. CARRIED.

Ali and Christine will work with DeDe regarding upgrades to the PAC room.

There was a brief discussion about holding a Gift Card Fundraiser at the school.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karate instruction via Gaming money - Erika reported that she was approached by a very well qualified karate instructor who was interested in offering karate classes at the school. The suggestion was a 1 hour class for 20 kids learning a defensive style karate similar to how we have done yoga in the past. Erika was going to follow up with the instructor to determine his availability and cost and then PAC could co-ordinate with Mrs. Hansen as to what would work for the school.

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Family Fun Inflatables - Ali was approached by a parent at the school who owns and operates Family Fun Inflatables, which rents out all kinds of inflatable bouncy castle type equipment. Ali passed around the pamphlet she received from the parent and explained that the company was insured and could be an idea for the Family BBQ at the end of the year. Many parents thought this was a good idea, Leilani reported that this idea was floated around for last year's BBQ but it didn't work out.

General Discussion:

There was some discussion regarding the need for a December meeting. A parent felt that if we don't have a meeting in December, the next meeting would become too long. The third Wednesday in December was the 17th, however, this was the day of the Christmas concert and 3 days before the Winter Break so it was decided to have the next meeting on Wednesday December 10th at 6:30pm.

Next meeting Wednesday December 10, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes recorded by: Christine Ony