

PAC MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2015

Attendance: Jocelyn, Christine O, Leni, Valerie, Ali, Becky, Clare, Diane, DeDe and Lorin

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

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

Jocelyn asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Leni asked that a "Bus Money" topic be added into the agenda.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Academic Report - Report cards will be going home March 12th, with an Early Dismissal day occurring on March 5th.

Field Trips - DeDe reported that the school will be having two skiing days next week, although they may not happen because of the warm weather this year. The ski hill is staying in touch with the school to let us know if those days will proceed. She also reported that some classes are still going on skating field trips.

School Activities - There is a Strings Assembly taking place next Friday at 1pm. This assembly gives the beginner Strings' members the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. There is also a Strings competition at the Sagebrush on March 2.

Library - The Battle of the Books program is progressing. Mr. Toews will be meeting with the different age groups this week. The Battle of the Books is taking place on April 16th. Lorin reported that the Book Fair purchases are arriving at the school. They have boom boxes and listening stations and audio CDs. The library will be spending more in the near future.

Housekeeping - DeDe reported that Tim Dempster will be coming by the school tomorrow and checking the playground space to see what dimensions are available for any new additions. DeDe also contacted some of her colleagues and asked them who they dealt with in the past for gross motor skill and balance development equipment.

DeDe also reported that maintenance will continue to install the auto screens over spring break, adding a digital control system for the shutters, which would allow for the shutters to be automatically opened and closed at a certain time each day and for a master switch to be in place in case of emergency.

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Behaviour Support Team - DeDe mentioned that Feb 25th is pink shirt or anti-bullying day. DeDe also explained that the Den groups that were explained earlier in the year would not be happening this year because of the late start and snow days which impacted the team's planning time. Den Groups should be ready to roll out next year.

Pro D - Lorin went in to details about the Hi-tech High conference that Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Stumpf and himself attended last month in San Diego.

Hi-tech High started off as a single high school 15 years ago and now there are about a dozen different Hi-tech High schools. The school is a charter school, which means it does not get a lot of government funding, but they do get a lot of corporate sponsorship and they do a lot of fundraising.

The school focuses on project-based learning which incorporates math, science, socials, art and English all in one project. There is a lot of collaboration between the different grade levels. There is no library or gymnasium in the school, however each classroom has special equipment needed to complete the students' projects.

There were approx. 150 teachers at the conference including an additional 7 teachers from the Westsyde area (6 from high school and 1 from Arthur Stevenson). Lorin described the school as very welcoming and was impressed with the maturity of the students at the school.

There was a question from a parent regarding whether or not this type of learning structure would trickle down to the elementary school level. Lorin said that the Ministry of Education in BC is building a model around the hi-tech high concept to make schools more student needs focused. There was another question regarding the success of the students after completing this type of education and Lorin said that 82% of students completed their studies at hi-tech high schools and that of those 82%, 95% of them were accepted into Universities. Lorin also noted that these students have to write the same SATs that other high school students write.

Aboriginal Math conference - Mr. Martin and Mrs. Carr are attending a Math conference with an aboriginal aspect to it next Friday.

Westsyde Family Meetings - DeDe also reported that there had been a Westsyde Family Meeting (meeting between all the schools in Westsyde) and that they had officially agreed on a common goal for each school's School Improvement Plan and that it will be added to each school's School Improvement Plan. The goal is "Collaboration".

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Last Friday the Grade 8 Leadership Group spent the afternoon with the kindergarten kids and had planned activities which they explained and the kindergarteners then participated in. There is also a plan for the Westsyde Secondary School to host Grade 7 dances for all Westsyde feeder schools (Westmount, Arthur Stevenson and David Thompson). Also in initial planning stages was the idea of having a career fair for the Grade 6 and 7 students.

District Information - DeDe also apologized for a miss cue regarding the District's Thought-exchange emails that were sent out. Superintendent Carl DeBruin has sent out the emails to canvass parents for feedback regarding their experiences with the District. Some parents stated that they had received the emails but that some of the information was not applicable to them and that some questions simply didn't make sense. Another parent comment was that the District may be missing a portion of the population by doing email only surveys as some parents do not have emails registered with the school. DeDe explained that this was a first attempt at something like this and that future surveys may be better organized and communicated.

School Improvement Plan - DeDe explained that the school would be adding the Collaboration from K-12 goal into the plan and that they are in the process of putting it together. Parents will have an opportunity to be involved in the development of the SIP for David Thompson.

Teacher Liaison:

Ali read a thank you card from Miss Yeast's class saying thank you for arranging our yummy hot lunches!

Ali reported that the teachers liked both the hanging basket and gift card ideas for future fundraisers, but there were some split reviews. There was a question regarding a Purdy's Easter fundraiser. Christine said that Gail had asked if we had thought about doing one, and that Christine said that we had done one in the past however it was not very successful, but if Gail wanted to do one that it wouldn't hurt anything. Christine would talk further with Gail.

Ali also reported that the teachers suggested taking a trip to Dufferin Elementary school for some ideas for gross motor playground equipment.

Ali stated that she had talked with Mrs. Hansen about bringing in Dylan Armstrong to the school, however he is gone training for the 2016 Olympic games. She was able to get Oleg, the head coach at the Track and Field Club to come to the school for a demonstration. This would be happening in late April.

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Ali also presented a Request for Funds from Mrs. Brennan for 10 mini white boards and 16 whiteboard pens for approx. \$60.

MOTION by Ali that PAC pay up to \$100 to purchase 10 white boards and 16 pens for Mrs. Brennan's classroom, 2nd by Clare. CARRIED

DPAC REPORT:

Valerie shared an invitation to an information sharing session on the "Askable Adult" on Thursday February 19th. This session is focused on sexual health and how to present it to our children.

TREASURER'S REPORT (see attached):

Leni discussed the bus funding situation with the group. She detailed that we had already allocated \$3200 for busing for each class to have \$200. We then approved buses for the Salmon Run for up to an additional \$3200 and for skating field trips up to \$2000. Last meeting we then approved an additional \$1600 for busing and entry fees for a total of up to \$10,000. Although we can pay this amount, Leni was concerned that we may be overcommitting ourselves in busing fees and was not sure that it was the PACs intention to spend so much money on busing in one year as at the last meeting the group discussed \$6000 per year being too much to spend on busing. Leni asked if this motion could be taken back. Ali said that the teachers were already informed that this money was allocated to them, but that the motion from last meeting had the provision that it was for this school year only so we can revisit it in next year's budget. Leni also reported that we are again in a deficit this year in our general account and we need to watch spending on big ticket items and keep a closer eye on what we are spending in the future. A parent suggested that we discuss a strategy for spending next year and have a game plan or goal for what we want to spend our money on and work towards that...for example if we get playground equipment information we can have a better idea of a goal or target amount of money to spend and on what.

COMMITTEES:

Hotlunch updates - Ali reported that hot dog orders went up. Leni reported that the farm to table days were not generating a lot of profit and that she has given this information to Leilani and we may have to revisit pricing for next year. Christine went over a breakdown of orders from this hot lunch sessions, please see attached spreadsheet.

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Spring Fundraisers - Jocelyn reported that the Jameson Creek greenhouse was not in a position to hold a fundraiser for the school. Christine said she would ask Gail about a Purdy's Easter fundraiser, but that it was getting a bit late so may not be able to fit it in before Easter especially with the 2 week spring break. The gift card fundraiser idea came up again for Mother's Day, but we would need to get things rolling quickly to have it done before Mother's Day. Jocelyn suggested we needed a different kind of fundraiser, like a community building type fundraiser, but acknowledged that we would need a planning committee to make that happen. Christine reported that the yearbook ordering forms would be going out but since we do not sell yearbooks to generate a profit, they won't have an effect on our revenue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scooter Racks - As the weather is encouraging kids to break out their scooters we have noticed that we still do not have scooter racks that were approved for purchase via email vote at the beginning of the year. DeDe will follow up and find out what has happened to them.

New Playground Equipment - already covered this topic in Principal's Report

Yoga Mats - Mrs. Brennan still does not have the yoga mats that were donated to the school.

PAC room shelving - Christine had no report as she has not measured up the PAC room yet.

Karate update - Ericka was not in attendance to discuss possible primary lessons

Fruit Program - No update on the fruit trays, DeDe will look into it.

MISC DISCUSSION:

Ali asked that the PAC room be cleaned up after the Farm to Table hot lunch days because she has had to clean up a very messy and disorganized PAC room before Hot Dog Day several times.

DeDe also reported that for Hot Dog Days once the Play First lunch hour comes into effect we will still have to eat first on those days as we don't have the space and/or resources to cook hot dogs while the staff is using the staff room to eat.

A parent asked about the possibility of getting community donors to build things on school property. There was a suggestion of adding benches and picnic tables outside for a place for kids to sit and draw, etc during the lunch hour. DeDe thought this would be a great addition to the outdoor resources at the school. There was some discussion that concrete benches or

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tables would be best due to vandalism and durability concerns. There was also some discussion around having picnic tables and eating outside which may create safety concerns around choking, allergies as well as garbage issues. DeDe said she would discuss this possibility with Tim Dempster when he came tomorrow.

Another parent asked about the possibility of adding a rock climbing wall to the grounds. Christine said that DT had looked at climbing walls in the past and that cost had been a factor in not getting one as a small wall is close to \$10,000.

Another parent asked about getting lines repainted for hopscotch and four square, as the playground had been repaved in the summer, but the lines had not been repainted. Another parent asked if the front playground would be remaining gravel and dirt or if we were at least going to put grass in. Someone thought there were plans already for that space. Another parent asked about stairs to the upper fence opening on the front playground which could help alleviate parking lot congestion. DeDe said she would bring these concerns to Tim as well.

Next meeting Thursday April 9th, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

(Minutes recorded by: Christine Ony)