

PAC MEETING MINUTES
2015-2016 Planning Meeting
June 23rd, 2015

Attendance: Leilani, Christine O, Jocelyn, Leni, Michelle, Becky, Katrina, Clare, Diane, Damon, Sharon, DeDe and Lorin

Meeting was called to order at ~6:40 pm.

DeDe explained that the beautiful set up in the library, which consisted of tables with tablecloths, center pieces, thank you cards from all the classrooms, big painted flowers on the book shelves, booklets from the kids, a poster from the kids and of course fruit trays, treats and water, was organized and set up by Miss Yeast, Mrs. Bentz and Mrs. Webster, the PAC Appreciation Teacher Committee.

DeDe then briefly introduced Sharon Cooley to the PAC. Sharon will be DeDe's successor as principal at DT next year. Sharon said she was looking forward to working with the PAC and being part of the DT community.

Fundraising - There was a discussion of how much money each of our current fundraisers make and roughly speaking each fundraiser makes approx. \$2500 with hotdog day making more at \$3000 and QSP making less at \$1600. PAC raises over \$10,000 with our current fundraiser line-up.

There were several new fundraising ideas for the new school year:

- **Gift cards** - the idea behind this fundraiser is that the gift cards are for things that families are purchasing anyway so wouldn't be an "extra" purchase for the family. After some discussion, Jocelyn said she would look more into this fundraiser.
- **Family donation** (per student/per family) - the idea behind this fundraiser is to ask families for a donation at the beginning of the year without selling them anything. It would of course be 100% optional.
- **Parking Space Rental** - idea was to auction off a designated parking space to the highest bidder. When asked, DeDe suggested that this idea would be very hard to enforce in the parking lot and could create conflict. This idea was rejected as a fundraiser at this time.
- **General Grant's David Thompson Account for Bottle Returns** - a parent suggested PAC set up an account at General Grant's where parents can drop off bottles and donate the proceeds to David Thompson. This account could be set up year round so parents can drop off bottles at any time during the year. Michelle agreed that she would look into setting this up for the school.
- A parent asked if a **Carnival** had ever been done at the school before. Christine said that yes, years ago DT used to have Carnivals every year. The amount of volunteers required to organize and operate the Carnival was one of the reasons why this event was not carried forward in recent years.

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- DeDe explained that we do not have Carnival Equipment any more but that she had given the equipment to the Westsyde Fellowship Church for their use and we were assured that if the school needed or wanted to borrow this equipment we would be able to do so. The shortage of storage at the school was the main reason for this move.
- Suggestion for the First Day of School to advertise our fundraiser line up at a coffee and doughnut/muffin event with posters, etc.
- Also idea of a **Winter Fun Fair** with silent auctions and/or gift baskets. A parent thought a **Family Day Fun Fair** may also work.
- A **Brag Night** where parents come in to view their children's work, there could be auction/gift baskets at this event
- **Art Sale** - where kids make Art objects and sell them. A parent felt that this would only work if all the teachers bought in to the project to make it school wide as students would need class time to create their art.

At this time it was decided to table the new fundraiser discussion until we got to a point where it could be determined how much additional money we needed to cover our plans for the next school year. Leilani requested that the Art Sale/Fun Fair idea be added to the September PAC Meeting agenda.

Compost and Waste Stations -

From the recommendations the PAC received back from the Waste Naught Garbage Audit, it was suggested that the school purchase a composter for the school and 10 gallon billy boxes (recycling containers) for each classroom. The total cost of this recommendation would be \$984. Some discussion surrounding this proposal included, wondering about teacher buy in, would all teachers be willing to have compost collection in their classrooms. DeDe felt that, although she could not speak for the teachers, composting and recycling is the way that things are going to be headed in the near future and felt that if we didn't go forward with this project now, it would likely be something that DT would end up doing anyway in the next few years. Another parent voiced concerns about the logistics of the composter, for example, vandalism prevention by installing a small lockable cage around the composter, would the composter be locked all the time, would the kids have to unlock it before they could empty their compost, etc. Would PAC provide bins for compost waste in the classrooms? Another parent questioned why these costs were directed at the PAC and wondered why the school or school district could not pay for this project to go ahead. DeDe responded by saying that this project was originally presented and brought forward to the school by the PAC and was 100% PAC driven. Leilani also explained that Marcia (Waste Naught) also presented the compost idea to the School District and she was told that there is no room in the budget to begin this project right now. Leilani stated that the District would be very interested to see how this pilot project went at DT and would look at possibly going district wide if the results were favourable. Another parent

suggested that we write a letter to the Board requesting that the District track the cost savings of the project at DT and possibly reimburse the PAC once cost savings are established. Another parent asked about the number of recycling containers would need to be increased if recycling increased. Leilani explained that there could be an option of swapping out the large garbage bin in the parking lot with a large recycling bin instead if we show a significant decrease in garbage volume.

**MOTION by Jocelyn that PAC spend up to \$1100 to purchase a school composter, 16 10 gallon billy boxes and 16 in class compost bins with lids for use in September. 2nd by Leni.
THE MOTION WAS TABLED AT THIS TIME UNTIL WE COULD DISCUSS OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR SUCH AS THE NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.**

New Playground Equipment - Jocelyn presented the quotes and possible playground options for the 25' by 30' space available for new playground equipment. Some of the options were rope web type structures which would help kids build strength through climbing. These options ranged in price from \$17,000 to \$28,000. Another option was to install spinners which were \$8000 each. Some parents expressed concern over the safety of the spinners and would rather not purchase that type of playground equipment. Jocelyn also added that she had some information regarding picnic tables and benches that were discussed at a prior PAC meeting for those kids who like to sit and draw or read at lunch. It was decided that \$20,000 would be needed for the additional playground equipment.

Other financial considerations for next year - At the last staff meeting, Ali asked the teachers for any upcoming requests they may have to help us with planning for next year. Mrs. Poirier requested an incubator kit as she hatches chicks every year and has not had as much luck in the past couple of years due to an older incubator. Her request was for \$300. Mrs. Stumpf also requested \$546 for a lap top for the data projector in her classroom. It was asked if the school might pay for half of the laptop to share the costs, however, Lorin explained that the school was looking at purchasing several data projectors for next year and would not have room in the budget to share this cost. It was determined that these amounts were small enough that they could be tabled until the September PAC meeting.

DeDe reported that because the Westsyde Pool would be shut down next year, if PAC went forward with swimming lessons, buses would be required to transport the children to the TCC pool. After further discussion, she was reminded that the teachers agreed that swimming lessons could be skipped for next year and then the following year provide swimming lessons for the Grade 2 and 3 students and for the Grade 5 and 6 students to make up for the lost year.

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After further discussion regarding PAC's current financial status it was determined that PAC would need an additional \$10,000 to purchase the playground equipment and composting package.

Discussion then returned to fundraisers and what type of fundraisers could be done to meet this \$10,000 need. Discussion continued regarding a voluntary donation amount of possibly \$20 per student or a family rate for those with more than 2 students (a suggestion of \$50 for a family of 3 or more children was made). Sharon was asked what she felt about the suggestion. She felt it was something that could be done, but that it could not be combined with the school fees/ YPC form that the school sends out in September. She thought that perhaps PAC could send a letter home to parents outlining what fundraisers are coming and when so that families could better plan for which fundraisers they would like to participate in and which they wanted to skip. Another parent felt that maybe we shouldn't ask for the money right away in September as this is an expensive time for many families and could be viewed as a burden. Perhaps waiting and requesting donations in October or giving a longer time frame to accept the donations might be better received by DT families. Christine suggested that the hotlunches website had a built in option to add a donation to a hot lunch order form.

There were more ideas for fundraising in smaller amounts, like having toonie or loonie days or a playground day where kids bring in a loonie or toonie to go towards the playground. It was suggested that a fundraiser committee be formed to discuss and decide these things and bring their recommendations back to the PAC.

MOTION by Leni that PAC add a voluntary donation option on the hotlunches website which has a suggested donation of \$30 per family with a complete explanation of why PAC is asking for the donation and that these donations will be going towards the purchase of new playground equipment. 2nd by Jocelyn. CARRIED

Discussion then turned back to the composter and recycling bin motion. There was some concern from a parent regarding compost materials being stored in the classrooms and how fruit flies, etc might become an issue in classrooms. It was suggested that we're not really sure how it would affect the classroom, but that is why PAC would provide bins with lids for the compost material and daily or even more frequent trips to the composter may be required.

MOTION was amended by Jocelyn that PAC spend up to \$1500 to purchase a school composter, 16 10 gallon billy boxes and 16 in class compost bins with lids for use in September. 2nd by Leni. CARRIED

Scooter racks - Mrs. Brennan's Dad has offered to build scooter racks for the school out of wood and he would be able to provide them within the \$900 budget PAC had already approved.

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First Day Back to School - Question about if the PAC wanted to put something on for the parents on the first day back. Suggestions of coffee and muffins that we have done in the past, turning it into a bake sale to incorporate a fundraiser into the day was also suggested. A popsicle with the principal day was suggested for prior to the first day of school Leilani agreed to organize a coffee and muffin day, Becky said that she would help out and even bake. Leni offered to bake as well. It was decided PAC would set it up outside and have it as a welcome back thing.

School Facebook Page - There was discussion regarding school/district policies on facebook pages. Jocelyn offered to forward the information she received from the DPAC to Clare which outlined a good starting point for what the DT facebook policy should be. There was discussion about how other schools handle a facebook page. Some schools admin does it, others PAC does it and others still have a combination of both. Discussion then focused on how information would be posted to the page, it was suggested that all posts be approved by page admins before they would be publicly viewed to avoid inappropriate posting on the site. Clare had originally had the understanding that it could be a more free flowing type of information exchange and was unsure if she would be able to keep up with the approvals of posts as she is working now and felt some opportunities for information exchange would be missed because a post might not get approved in a timely enough manner. Lorin volunteered, or was volunteered, to be the school representative on the facebook page and would also be able to approve posts throughout the day. Clare agreed to take on the facebook page for PAC and would work with Lorin to get a facebook page up and running for the school for next September.

2015-2016 Fundrasier line-up -

It was decided that PAC would not offer QSP next year as several parents had a frustrating time working with QSP to get magazines (specifically digital editions) to work properly, but that we would do the Gift Card fundraiser instead at some point during the year. It was also decided that PAC would go ahead with Purdy's and the Art Card fundraiser, however the Art Card Fundraiser would occur after the Christmas break as it was too hectic to try and get them completed in time for Christmas. We would also keep the hot lunch fundraisers the same as last year, hot dog days, Senor Froggy Days and the farm to table days.

Next meeting Wednesday September 16th, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

(Minutes recorded by: Christine Ony)