

Parents' Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School - Multi-Purpose Room

Child-minding available

PAC Executive

Jennifer Hickey (JH), Co-Chair; Leah Kimura (LK), Co-Chair; Angela Wong-Moon (JH), Vice-Chair;

Bonnie Leong (BL), Treasurer; Courtney Hall (CH), Secretary

Representatives

Daniel Knibbs (DK), Principal, Lisa Pathyil (LP), Vice Principal

Members at Large:

1. Welcome and Introductions (LK and JH)

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes: (Elizabeth motioned, Bonnie seconded, did not review June minutes)

3. Build/Tear Down Update (DK/LP)

Mitigation process has been started, no definitive timeline as to when old school will come down but guessing 4-6 months. Hoping for building to be down by Christmas/ Winter Break and then remediation of site, so track installation will be weather dependent. Fingers crossed that the process begins by the New Year. Funding has been granted an extension for the track due to delays. Still completion phase of the new school, trim work to be down in classrooms, hallways, gym, etc. Gym will be a few more days and then should have access. Top floor opening is coming soon.

Approximately 75 pages of deficiencies so far, which will be addressed. Frog Hollow will have to fob in to get in the school, have video recognition and then use the elevator up. There will be one access point for the old school when they do the tear-down, as well as will most likely have flaggers in position as well to ease the traffic flow. Concerns re: height of orange decorative window trim, Concern has been passed on to Steve, project manager.

4. Financial Report (BL)

As of Aug. 31, 2019 (including VSB account from 2018/2019):

\$226, 698 (after all expenses went out in June 2019)

Teacher stipend may need to come out of the gaming account. PAC funds come from gaming grants (BC Gaming Grant - approx. \$8,000, BC Tire Stewardship for track, crowdfunding), fundraising, etc. Extensions on gaming grants have been granted due to the new build being a big factor in raising funds.

All funds have been fundraised over the majority of the last 6 years. Major fundraisers were socials, carnivals, etc. Approximately \$100,000 was for track, nodes, kindergarten play area as well as \$100,000 for furniture in common areas. Last year VSB announced that they would provide funds for the furniture for the common spaces. There will be a new committee needed regarding on how to spend the money moving forward based on school needs in the new learning space. Some funds are in longer term investments.

Bonnie is always open to share information regarding the finances, safeguards in place (i.e. no online, two signatures required), etc.

5. Recap of 2018/2019, Goal of 2019/2020

Have decided to pull-back a bit on the fundraising push that has occurred in the past. Considering if events enrich the children's education, build community, funds it raises

No longer doing the coffee fundraisers, poinsettias, education nights, baby-sitting course/home alone course. Also, Carnival will not be the same event as before, so may downgrade to a different event (i.e. family picnic). May re-assess in the future due to space. Lack of parent involvement has led to putting some of the events/activities on pause. The PAC is always happy to help support ideas, so please bring your ideas to any members of the PAC. VSB offers many great speakers, which is why the PAC has put a pause on having speakers.

Events that will continue are: Movie Nights (Oct. 18th, end of January, and in the Spring), the Card Project (which will start soon as teachers will have art in by Oct. 10th and ordering will be online), one Donald's GC fundraiser in the New Year, Parent Social on November 22nd at the Croatian Cultural Centre (i.e. food, bar, DJ, etc.), Purdy's at Christmas time, a spring related activity (i.e. carnival, picnic), Entrepreneur/Science Fair in February (query re: doing an environment/climate theme) with the idea to alternate with an Art Fair the following year, Sports Day Snack (end of May/early June), Pancake Breakfast (Friday, Dec. 13th), Teacher Appreciation Lunch (June)

Parent Social on November 22nd at the Croatian Cultural Centre (i.e. food, bar, DJ, etc.) - need approval due to need to put a deposit on the room for \$200 and with bartender is \$600. The location does the clean up. Tickets will most likely be \$20 and drinks will be approximately \$5 per drink. Angela first, Michelle seconded, all in favour.

Upcoming Dates

Movie Night - Oct. 18th

Communication is mainly by email. Working on a PAC communication board.

6. After-School-Care Social Media Page

Lord Nelson Child Care Society was governed by a parent board, which were overseeing a program to provide childcare to children. Had 50 spaces in old school, but

in the new school the program was reduced to 40 spaces but still need the same number of staff. Also was falling on the backs of a few parents that were working full-time. Frog Hollow was selected as the third-floor operator, for a 0-5 program as well as out-of-school care for 20 spaces. LNCCS approached Frog Hollow to take over the childcare spots, and the focus was sustainability moving forward as there will be 60 out-of-school care spaces. Waitlists between LNCCS and Frog Hollow were amalgamated. Priority is given to Lord Nelson students. Frog Hollow is set to open at full capacity by Oct. 1st or when the upstairs space is ready.

Would be nice if there was some sort of connection regarding Lord Nelson Elementary and childcare options available for out-of-school care. At present, there is Eagles in the Sky, Frog Hollow, and some parents that run care out of their home. Looking to see if there is a parent that would be willing to run a Lord Nelson Childcare Facebook page. Seems to be a bigger issue, childcare is covered by VCH, access to sink/washroom, amount of outside space. PAC can bring this issue to the DPAC (District PAC) to see if other schools are running into this issue as well. Interested in the level of need regarding childcare need at Lord Nelson and there is the potential for a committee to follow up with this issue.

There is supervision from 8:40-8:55am and from 3:00-3:20pm provided by teachers and tends to be more at the front of the school. Supervision aids at recess/lunch time wear vests. If there is an issue in the morning, students can come to the office; however, the supervision is general. The school office is only open until 3:30pm.

7. Additional Agenda Items

- a. Signage on Washrooms - Boys/Girls' signage; however, is there the option for gender-diverse children welcome? Admin will follow up regarding such with the VSB.
- b. Eating Lunch in Classrooms - primary students (Gr. 1-3s) are currently eating in the multi-purpose room, KG students will be joining in December; however, will not have space for all the primary students. Intermediate students are eating in their classrooms. Lunch is now at 12:00, the supervision aids are out on the field by 12:15pm, and most children are done eating by 12:05/12:10. There is a supervision aid and support staff in the multi-purpose room.
- c. Climate Strike on Friday at 1pm - wondering what the stance is with the school? The VSB has allowed students to leave the school and they will not be penalized if students choose to attend. There is a discussion regarding having a Lord Nelson group attend, and if so, is there interest.
- d. Bike Racks - are there plans to have another bike rack installed? Another one will be installed shortly from the other school, but one is being updated. There will be more bike racks installed when the new site will be completed, near the covered area of the new school. Project manager will be attending a future meeting.
- e. After school/lunch time programming struggles with space. Hastings/Templeton Community Centre runs those programs and they tend to focus on inner-city schools.

8. Admin Report

Busy month. All staffing in place.

475 students (some students on waitlist). Had quite a few walk-up registrations this year. Do not typically take cross-boundary students. 20 divisions at present. Number of students fluctuates based on students in grades and size of classes. VSB makes predictions every year based on census, and LN seems to be on target.

Staffing changes:

Mrs. Hardie Gr. 5/6

Ms. Lee Gr. 4/5

Miss Zerbe - Fine Arts Prep

Mr. Mercer - Resource

Naila Heintz for support staff

Approximately 32 students needing support staff and Nelson has 6 support workers at present. Had 4 supervision aids last year and were decreased by 1 last year and admin are in discussion with VSB to increase that back to 4 supervision aids. Usually have supervision aids, admin staff and support staff outside during recess/lunch. Currently have 3 exits to the school. There are 2 additional exits if there is an emergency. Students are exiting school closest to their pods. Students are getting reminders to walk on the sidewalks transitioning to the field/play structure. Unfortunately, cannot hear the bell from the field, but have strategy in place.

Foundation Skills Assessment for Grade 4s and 7s. Has shifted to earlier in the school year.

Fee Schedule Package went home approximately a week ago as well as request to update information. Approximately 80% of fees have been received so far. There are provisions in place if parents/families cannot pay fees.

School calendar is on the website. Has instructional days, pro-d days, holidays, etc. Plans to have digital signage on the scroll above the cork board.

School growth plan has been passed. The focus is on self-regulation and self-direct their own learning. Children were all interviewed approximately 3 years ago and will be reviewing those questions to see if there is any change due to the focus. Based on the responses, the focus may shift or may stay the same. Leslie Germain is the school counsellor and teaches self-regulation to classes in order to reach more children.

This year, report cards will go home in February and in June. Goal will be moving to a strength-based approach, what the child can do, more individualized and self-reporting. Parent teacher conferences are in October and February. There are a few classes still piloting new reporting format, with 3 formal points of contact a year with parents and teachers. Oct. 16/17th are parent teacher conferences.

School crossing guards can only work in a marked crosswalk and there is discussion regarding updating the crossing points of the school now due to the new entrance of the school.

Thanks to the PAC for providing snacks for the Open House and for assisting with the transition to the new school.

Oct. 11th from 10-11am will be the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Minister of Education will be in attendance.

Next PAC meetings:

Monday, Oct 21, 2019

Tuesday, Nov 19, 2019

Meeting ajorned.