



> **Parents' Meeting Minutes**

February 15 2016

5:45 pm Snacks and Greetings

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School – Library

PAC Executive

Kelly Carter (KC), *Chair (absent)*; Cynthia Farnsworth (CF), *Vice-Chair*;

Janet Smith (JS), *Secretary*; Holly Low (HL), *Treasurer*; Ken Eliuk (KE), Theresa Gibbons (TG, absent), *Fundraising*

Representatives

Daniel Knibbs, *Principal*, Margie Trevaio, *Vice Principal*

Members at Large:

Helen, Kate, Julie, Tonya

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

-All in favour

2. Carnival

-Kate was absent but KE reported jolly jar notices will go out soon, as well as a carnival newsletter. A key piece to the fundraising raffle will be finding good prizes. It is planned to keep the carnival features close to last year's, minus the book sale.

3. Movie Nights

-CF said there have not been enough volunteers, so the PAC needs a more steady management volunteer to organize the others. The next movie night is February 26 with a screening of Hotel Transylvania 2 and one or two people may be needed at the door. There will be one more movie night before the end of the year.

It was suggested the PAC send out its volunteer signup sheets by email again.

4. Parent Seminar

-SH mentioned it helped when a teacher sent out an email letting the parents know about the info night. JS pointed out we need to have signage to direct parents who are not familiar with the school and sometimes need to make it clearer the seminars are not for kids. CF said the childcare offer seemed to work at \$5. SH and CF asked if the PAC would support a more expensive speaker, Raj Dhasi, on managing conflict and brain development, for \$1200 to \$1500, bearing in mind the PAC could raise back some, if not most (with a raise in ticket price), of the money. CF surveyed the table and most people said they would be willing to pay between \$5 and \$10 for the info night. Other suggested topics were anxiety and emergency preparedness; MT suggested a survey of parents to see what topics they were interested in. The group agreed to try to book the speaker and MT will look at dates that would suits the school. MT suggested putting the explanation of the speaker night in plainer language to parents.

5. Babysitting course

-CF reported the PAC sponsors part of the cost of it and it's offered for ages 11 and up. DK said he would forward the name of another company that gives the course for comparison. JS asked if the PAC could also find out if there is a Home Alone course to offer for ages 10 and up. CF noted she will soon be certified to run workshops in the latter.



6. Other Business

- CF notes it's an important time in education with big changes coming. On February 24 there is to be a big meeting at Bayview Elementary School gym from 7-8:30 pm for interested parents, with several panellists
- KE reported a few break-ins in the neighbourhood around Nelson school, with people knocking on the door to find out if people are home and then going around back to break in. Please make sure your doors are locked and report anyone suspicious to police.
- KE reported they are starting up the garden soon
- HL reminds anyone organizing an event like a movie night or parent info night to email her, the treasurer, to determine floats in cash needed, etc.
- CF reminds that PAC elections happen in June and it's nice to get new people involved.

7. Administration report:

- MT reported on the Acceptance Dance and the board at the school where kids could write down what the word means to them -MT said a parent works at Adanac Lodge with seniors and had requested the group of lead dancers perform again at the facility -February 24 is anti-bullying day and so kids should wear their pink shirts to school that day as well -MT said teachers facilitating the new curriculum will come to the PAC to explain it sometime in April or May, and reminded parents that the curriculum implementation means the days March 4 and April 15 will have school closures.
- DK reported on the VSB process leading to its Strategic Plan for the next five years and the board will want stakeholder input over the next six months regarding everything from resources to equal access. An ideas fair was to have been held at Prince of Wales school on February 18 and an online public survey, an open house, and community conversations will be launched on March 5. More info is at VSB engagement at www.vsb.bc.ca/VSBengagement.
- DK also reported on the Long-range Facilities Plan, reminding that Lord Nelson is in a good spot because our construction is in the late stages of planning. He explained the goal of achieving 95 percent capacity at local schools and that enrolment has been declining in the city since 1997, but that no list has been generated yet of potential school closures.
- DK also reported a posting will go out for Ms. Tam who job shares with Ms Snell, till the end of the year. DK said registration is proceeding with 68 in-catchment kids already registered for Kindergarten.

Meeting adjourned