

Parents' Meeting Notes

Monday, September 11, 2017

5:45 pm Snacks and Greetings

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School – Library

Child-minding available

PAC Executive

Kate Newstead (KN), Co-Chair; Angela Wong-Moon (AWM), Co-Chair; Lisa Osaba (LO), Vice-Chair;

Laura McGowan (LM), Treasurer; Courtney Hall (CH), Secretary

Representatives

Daniel Knibbs (DK), Principal, Rosemary Thomas (RT), Vice Principal

Members at Large: Jennifer, Leanne, Amanda, Amy, Caitline, Yvonne, Matt, Emily, Steve, Meg, Tristan, Greg, Rebecca, Sarah, Cynthia, Leah, Karen, Claudette, Janice, Helen, Sandra, Terrence, Bonnie, Kelly

1. Welcome and Introductions (KN)
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes: (AWM approved; HG second for both)
Discussion re: snacks vs. pizza at PAC meetings. Will have only snacks moving forward.

3. Seismic Report (DK)

Lots of walls up, sometime this week first floor panels will go in, need to be flexible with timelines, portion of Garden street will be blocked off for crane, lost some time over summer due to contractors, masonry, etc. But still roughly on the same completion timeline for August, but may start September in the old building and transition to the new building. Completing power for the new building, building big trench for it at entrance way, but waiting on BC Hydro for approval, kids will be able to go around the whole school, but not at this point. Contractor had trouble with city related to parking. **DO NOT PARK** on southside of Kitchener st from Garden to Lakewood as getting complaints and could delay construction. Notice will go out to families and try to avoid parking there when possible. Structural steel is up, need to level, and then floor panels to go in, crane will be parked at south-east corner, and road closed there.

4. Financial Report (LM)

Great year of raising funds

\$70 000 at start of last year (September 2016)

\$123 000 at end of year last year (June 2017) including \$4 000 contingency

Will have statement soon for end of August

KN did recap of why we are raising funds – aiming for \$200 000 that will cover items not covered by VSB for the new school. Also items that we fund as a PAC regardless of the new build.

Fundraising: coffee, movie nights, family pics, silent auction, parent info nights, purdeys, poinsettias, donalds gift cards, carnival, gaming grants

Controls in place with LN PAC so that no one can take money without authorization. Laura to call to follow up re: gaming grant and to find out about this year's grant.

5. **Recap of 2016/2017, Volunteering**

Meet the teacher night, will be hosting coffee in the gym

Movie night, Oct. 27, attempt to make the movies universal but not always possible but aim for one every year, we have a volunteer for projector, NEED VOLUNTEERS for concession, managing the door, etc.

Monster Mash event at school during the day with children in costumes.

Donalds Gift Card will be running soon. We get 10% from purchase.

Mabels Labels should be up and running now. Will be emailing out information. Possibly get 20% from purchase)

Purdy's and Poinsettias at Christmas

Pancake breakfast

Parent Information Night, last year was sex education, this year social media plus other topics

Welcome to Kindergarten

Grad ceremony for Grade 7s

Staff Appreciation for teachers and admin in late spring (May/June)

Scholastic Book Fairs

Volunteers in the library

Also do the big Spring Carnival, which is the big even of the year. Also did the silent auction last year, but doing both was a lot as well as asking for a lot of donations from the community partners. Might do a yard sale this year instead so that we are not asking for donations from community businesses.

6. **Committees and Events plan, 2017/2018**

Need help with:

Grant Writing

Updating the website and maintaining it

Graphic Designer for posters for movie nights and crowd funding website

Science Fair – brought in scientists from the community, initiative from parents, but need to sort out how to do it (i.e. having scientist demonstrate, teacher involvement, cooperation of admin, etc.). Could be just children making science projects and displaying them in the evening at school.

Continental Coffee fundraiser needs a lead, KN to follow up with previous leads

Art Project/Card Art fundraiser opportunity, Leah to look into and KN to follow up, ideally a Christmas fundraiser but does not have to be (i.e. Thank you cards, Birthday cards, etc.). Best done without a specific theme.

7. **Upcoming Dates**

Movie Nights: October 27 (Halloween Theme): still trying to sort out movie
December TBD
February TBD
April TBC

Movie Committee leads are Helen and Claudette. Need to determine movies in advance so we can advertise all at once.

Meet the Teacher Night Thursday, September 21st, 6-6:30pm reception followed by 2 half hour meetings with teachers. Parent/Guardian only event. There is no childminding that night. More information to follow from administration. Not an opportunity to discuss your child, more to meet teacher, see classroom, etc.

Discussion re: student-led conferences vs. talking to teacher without student present. More an opportunity for child to show you what they are doing vs. discussing what is written on the report card. Works on goal setting, specific to child. Can make an appointment to discuss specific needs with teacher at a later time. Some discussion regarding finding out more information regarding what is being taught in the classroom.

Next PAC meetings: October 16th, November 20th, December 11th (possibly)
Try for 6:30pm-8:00pm for the next few meetings

MonsterMash: Planned for October 31st – it would be helpful to have a couple of extra parent volunteers (in costume). This started as a danceathon fundraiser, but has since become just a fun event.

Photos with Alistar is in October/November – date TBD

8. Admin Report

School year underway.

School organization: 462 students, 77 are English language learners, 28 special needs students, 21 divisions (20 divisions and primary autism district program)

New staff, some here temporarily, but are still doing some interviews

New councillor: Leslie Germine (M, T, R) 2.5 days a week

Grade 6/7: Ms. Scott/Mr. Volkerath - temporary job share and will be interviewing for position and will have a full-time position

Grade 5/6: Ms. Fong is in a temporary position, and are interviewing for position

Grade 1 – Mrs. Sullivan is on leave, but are interviewing for position. Ms Dredge in currently.

KG Mrs. Klein/Mrs. Tam – job share open as Mrs. Tam took a position elsewhere. Ms. Hsu in currently for position, but temporary spot.

Mrs. Rosati – job sharing in position

Now 4 supervision aids (up from 3 positions). New supervision is Ms. Cavezza.

Primary Autism District Program – filling position in autism program, currently a resource staff is managing that position, also new staff in that program, only one returning staff for that program

Discussion re: what influences hiring process (seniority vs. fit for position). Interesting times as lots of new teachers getting positions from graduating.

Rational regarding split classroom: Can only have a certain number of kids in a class (KG is 20, primary is 22, intermediate is 30). Split classes is -2, special needs is -1, etc. Sometimes have to structure classes creatively as if there are multiple children with IEPs/special needs, then they can't all be in the same classroom. Trying to sort out RTI (responsive to intervention) for some classes (i.e. math for Grade 7s) as because of smaller class sizes, resources are spread out more over more classes. If band comes back, it will be user pay but parents will have to advocate for it.

New building is being built for 20 divisions

Mrs. Mould and others taking on cross country and will be Grade 2-7 related to stamina and supervision needs. If a Grade 2 parent is super keen and will be 1:1 with child at an event, then may be allowed. Might have a km club for Grade 1/2s.

Soccer Sr Boys (Grade 6/7) with Niz

GymSense – gymnastics program in October for 3+ weeks

Student Information Packs (code of conduct, visual/media permission, technology conduct, email permission, etc.) went home – PLEASE RETURN

School agendas delayed related to fire in warehouse but should be here soon

School fees

- \$25 school supply fee
- supplementary fees for agenda
- \$10 performance fee
- \$15 activity fee
- \$15 for intermediate student workbooks

Lord Nelson uses email a lot to communicate as well as the website. Anna does a great job at updating.

Terry Fox Run – Sept. 28

Pro D Day – Sept. 22

Fire Drill (first of 6) – Week of Sept 25-29th, but waiting for the nicest day

Two earthquake drill – first around Great BC Shakeout (mid Oct) and the Big One (first Tuesday in Feb). One with practice for release.

Code Red/Lockdown drill – will potentially have police do a walkabout. Aim for children to be out of sight, lights off, doors locked, children quiet, etc.

Universal Washrooms – in front of gym for anyone to use

There are also washrooms marked as teachers, family, males, females, etc.

Other washrooms have locks that are more challenging for children to manipulate

New building will have stalls in all washrooms, and could be made more as universal washrooms

Mr. Knibbs has the Criterion package for the PAC to use.

Few new classrooms that have come in, looking for Lego, Trains, house centre donations

Added two new classrooms (replacing computer lab and OSC room). Nearly every space in the school is being utilized. Using Strong Start room. Have had to change the gym schedule – 2 blocks per class allocation due to logistics and scheduling– teachers allowed to use activity room as well as going outside.

Looking into mobile technology with the district before committing. Looking at \$25 000-\$30 000 for mobile technology unit. MAC vs Chrome Book. Potential for PAC to fund at some point.

Discussion re: teacher stipend. Last year PAC donated \$3850. Discussion re: how to break it down.

For next year, approximately 60 Grade 7s to graduate so approximately that many student placements for enrollment in KG (and elsewhere).

Discussion re: OSC classroom being used as a classroom but not a lot of light or ventilation in that room. Cost prohibitive to do any renos in that space with the new build occurring. Music room has smart board so cannot switch that space due to cost re: electricians, contractors, etc.. StrongStart is a district space with 25 student plus adults on a daily basis. Unfortunately no cost effective solution. Not sure the purpose of the cage around that door, as it blocks light from the room, potentially related to vandalism. Lots of challenges in VSB district with classroom setups.

Lunch program cancelled as not meeting the threshold of numbers. PAC/parents could revive the lunch program but needs a parent to spearhead. Discussion re: Queen Victoria lunch program as it is very well received. Use Grade 5s to distribute food. Would need to be stringent related to VSB guidelines. Also option for CST program to help with children that are not bringing lunches or enough food to sustain them during school. District was funding lunch program as was 70-80 children and needed to be 125 minimum. Need to look into providers. Emily and Sarah to look into it, as well as look into distribution of food to those who would be interested. KN to follow up. Children will be eating lunches in classrooms in new school. Appears to be quieter in the lunch room than before potentially related to the noise minimized from lack of the lunch program.

Discussion re: after school care and if that is being factored into the new build.

Lots of costumes stored in the school, but need to be gone by Oct. 31st. If anyone is interested in purchasing costumes, talk to Angela or Kate. All of the costumes are catalogued.

Meeting adjourned.