



> **Parents' Meeting Minutes**

**January 18 2016**

5:45 pm Snacks and Greetings

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School – Library

**PAC Executive**

Kelly Carter (KC), *Chair*; Cynthia Farnsworth (CF), *Vice-Chair*; Janet Smith (JS), *Secretary*; Holly Low (HL,absent), *Treasurer*; Ken Eliuk (KE), Theresa Gibbons (TG),*Fundraising*

**Representatives**

Daniel Knibbs (DK), *Principal* , Margie Trevao, *Vice Principal (absent)*

**Members at Large:**

Tanya, Julie, Tammy, Kate, Sara, Andrea, Sandra

**1. Approval of Agenda**

-Agenda and minutes approved.

**2. New School Update**

-Steve Snyder and Chris Atkinson gave the PAC an update on progress on the seismic upgrade.

-Steve reported the proposal just went through the urban design process, a milestone. The plan is that by March-April the school will have a development permit and then it will have to apply for building permit. The hope is that construction will go ahead in July. Once there is a building permit, the VSB puts it out for a bid to a construction company.

-Chris pointed out Lord Nelson is very lucky, because seismic upgrades have been frozen for all other schools now by the province

-As for the childcare space in the building: most of the legal work is done with the City but the ministry still has to approve the long-term lease.

-A contractor has to come up with a traffic plan that will take place during the construction, and that will be reviewed by City. That is for car and for foot traffic safety.

The entire construction is expected to take 18 months, maybe 20. Moving day is ideally January 2018.

-KN expressed the need to have concrete things to fundraise for as a way to spur those efforts. Steve said the planners have narrowed fundraising needs pretty much down to things outside the building. When those are identified, the planners will get the PAC to weigh in on that and what is possible. He said he will try to come back with that information in February

-he added the latest iteration of the design features an extended covered area, separate from the school building

**3. Parent Info Night, January 27**

-SH reported the talk Your Child Online is for parents but the same experts will speak to children the day before that about online safety. The PAC is going to try to get more people out because parents requested this topic to come back for a parent info night and it's an urgent topic for both small and older kids. MT points out parents are in a position these days where they're catching up to what their kids are doing online. SH will send out another email to parents with a subject line to that effect.

**4. Movie Night, February 12**

- we still need volunteers. CF will send out the Google document again now that it's the New Year for those who couldn't commit that far in advance.

**5. Carnival, June 3 after school**

-KN said lots of people have signed up. There are plans to go back to all the committee leads, and just add a couple more. We'll meet soon. She floated the idea of exploring moving food service inside



cafeteria and will investigate whether that's possible. It has also been suggested to make it clearer that the tickets are different for rides and other events.

-KE suggests a carnival newsletter to get people updated and collecting raffle items, etc.

#### **6. Hot Lunch program**

-KC reported Sylvia is concerned about someday losing the program. We have to make sure we have a full funded program; we need to have a minimum of 125 kids taking part in it, which we have at the moment. But she stressed that it is necessary for parents to pay for the full month, not partial months.

#### **7. Pink Project, February 17**

-Buses to get the kids to the Giants game event cost about \$1800 and KC asked if the PAC could help with that cost, as it did last year. Parents are not sitting in same section as kids because they're doing their performance but can buy tickets to watch the performance. KC moved that we pay \$1800 toward transporting the kids to the pink dance. JS seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

#### **8. Administration report**

-New principal DK has been here 10 days, visiting classrooms and talking to kids and parents

-He reported the VSB is in the midst of special-education audit and file review, which came back very favourable, and that's a reflection of the dedication and diligence of staff here

-the school has started training in the new curriculum and that includes the new Pro D days on March 4 and April 13. MT reports once teachers train they will come to PAC and explain it to parents.

-DK said there would be a kindergarten new-parent info night on February 3 at 6:30 pm, and Kate and Sandra agreed to speak as parents at it again.

-DK reported registration is ongoing and at this stage 54 in-catchment kindergartners are registered and there will be cross boundary kids coming, but he does not know yet from the VSB how many the school will take and he has to be cognizant of what the new building will accommodate.

-MT had a community member come to her to complain about cars parking illegally during school dropoff, especially when raining. Theoretically there is nowhere to park to stop and take in your kids, except for Garden Street, so she asks parents to please spread the word.

-MT explained foundation skills assessment tests in certain grades are going on in a few weeks and forms have gone home.

-she asked parents to look for The Growing Tree in the hall, with its "leaves" replacing the ROAR tickets. They still have the same purpose: to be given out when an adult catches a student doing something good, to do with the code of conduct.

-at the first assembly of year some teachers gave kids certificates as similar rewards.

-MT said Grade 4s and 7s were part of a drumming workshop on Friday.

-She also updated the parents on Pridespeak, in which Grade 5s, 6s, and 7s had someone come in from the LGBTQ community. She remarked that teachers were really happy with the kids' response.

**Meeting adjourned;** MT ended the meeting by playing a video of teachers doing a fun goodbye Pink Dance for outgoing principal Mette Hamaguchi.