

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 11 January 2022

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Cyndi Whaley	Jodi Green	Nic Green
Mari Imahori	Cindy Luchka	Adrienne White	Jen Grant
Erin Prescott	Sara Healing	Elena Schultz	Erin Long
Katia Dilkinia	Chris Wright		

Staff: Cindy Harte & Tim McCreesh

Old business

1. Nicole did the territory acknowledgement.
2. Dec 2021 minutes: motion to approve by Jodi Green, seconded by Adrienne White.
3. West Coast Seeds fundraiser (Nicole): Morgan is organizing again this year, and the email went out in early Jan. Goal to get the seeds by end of February (well before March break).
4. Parent education (Nicole): Jennie has put together the session on the Approachable Adult by Island Sexual Health. There was no link to register in the email, so Nicole will double-check with Jennie if there will be one or not. Jennie (via Cindy L) says the zoom link will be sent out the day before the session.
5. Fun Lunch: The January fun lunch is canceled because parents aren't allowed into the building again to help out. Those who paid for Jan can have that as a credit in the system, though it wouldn't carry over to next year. Mari would like to wait to provide the credits to see how many months will get canceled. Question about adding a second fun lunch in March to make up for Jan: Mari says that maybe from another vendor since this vendor was short-staffed anyway. We will make a decision about carrying out the Feb and March fun lunches at the next meeting.

New business

1. COVID situation (Nicole): Nicole thanks the DPAC parents for their help and support. Difficult to mediate the situation with varying levels of information. The DPAC has no more or less information than any parent at Doncaster. Gentle reminder to be kind and keep in mind what is beyond our control.
2. School updates (Cindy H & Tim):
 - a. Cindy thanks Nicole and Tim for communicating with parents in December about parents' covid exposure (only 2 days in) is going well and very positive so far. There were 73 absences on Monday and 64 absences today due to parents being cautious. Last week only staff and a few kids were there. Staff discussed and planned for a possibility of going online for virtual learning. Also implemented new health guidelines. Inside the building, there are 2 staff members who are on leave (Mme Roberts and Mme Harrison) for at least a month or so. Unknown when they will return.

- b. The week of Jan 24th is literacy week. The theme is “the great outdoors”. They will send info home to families, and events will occur at school, such as guest readers via zoom (e.g., the principal of Cedar Hill middle school, Officer Alex Omoding, The author of the Raven Who Stole the Light), and school-wide reading.
 - c. Cindy said that two big boxes of amazing books have been donated as a surprise from Nic Green’s company. Jodi Green is a parent volunteer at the Doncaster library, who helped with this. Those new books will be held until Jan 24th (literacy week), and be revealed to the kids at that time. Nic says that Russell Books company deserves recognition for providing the books at wholesale cost. Nicole also thanks Nic for creating the new DPAC website.
 - d. The postcard project from Gage Gallery: Focus on climate and making sustainable green choices. Kids will create a picture on the post card and write some sentences on the back. These will be hung up on display in the gallery.
3. Q&A for Cindy & Tim:
- a. Erin thanks them for their communication and is wondering about staggered start and end times. Cindy said that they considered it, but decided against it since it impacts families greatly and also impacts staff who work part time. Instead they changed the line up spaces and asked parents to stay off school property as much as possible. They do have a gap in when each class is led inside and where kids place their coats/boots when they come in. Also staff help the kids go in and out at lunch recess in a more orderly fashion.
 - b. Erin also wondering if there is a concern or need for appropriate clothing for kids going out in the very wet weather at recess. Cindy says that they collect useful clothing from the lost and found to help out kids who get soaked or don’t have a jacket. The dragon’s den is also open and available for kids who want to stay out of the rain.
 - c. Chris wondering about potential staff shortage. Tim said that they prepared last week for a potential staff shortage. They would first try to move staff internally. For example the music or learning support teachers, or even Tim or Cindy, could cover for an absence, in addition to getting TOC (supply teachers) to cover any absences. If they couldn’t staff it that way, the whole school would close for a full week (7-day functional closure), which is a decision the superintendent would make. This would only happen if a lot of staff and supply staff were away/unavailable. Nic wondering how much advance notice of a functional closure parents would get. Tim said that probably they’d have a feel for staff shortage, but an emergency situation could occur. A health closure for a specific class could also occur.
 - d. Nicole asks about getting clear direction on what happens when there are positive cases at Doncaster. Cindy H. says that Island Health (VIHA) has not provided that guidance to them yet, but they may get it this week. Jen Grant wondering if we can encourage parents to share information about positive cases in the event of no communication from VIHA this week or in the event that VIHA’s guidance does not satisfy her desire for transparency. Cindy says that parents have the freedom to communicate as they wish, and that the school and DPAC “bodies” don’t need to be involved. Jen G. expresses her wish that individuals share information about positive covid tests. Nicole says that class

reps may offer to share information from parents anonymously, but not all class reps may agree to do that.

- e. Adrienne is wondering what parents should do if their child tests positive. Parents would phone the office to let them know that they are keeping their kid home and why... But the admin can not do anything with that information (unless VIHA provides them different guidance). Katia thinks we should let families know that when they tell the school about a positive case, that the school cannot share that info with the class, so that parents should share that info with the class. Nicole explains that the onus needs to be on the parents to share, and the onus *not* on the PAC or the school.
- f. Nic wondering why Doncaster did not appear in the provincial (VIHA?) list of schools with positive test cases in December. Tim said that there was a lag of about 36 hours before Doncaster was added to that list on the website.
- g. Jen is wondering if the school can provide information anonymously to the class. Like if they did so, would they legally get in trouble for doing that? Tim asked for direction about this issue, and was told to wait for VIHA, and was told to *not* tell anyone.
- h. Cindy L. wondering about at-home rapid tests that VIHA won't even know about. If parents let their kid's teacher know, Cindy H. says that the teachers are also not allowed to share that info with the class families.
- i. Katia feels that there is a mixed message from health authorities as well as from the school: Between wanting to keep people safe, but that omicron is so contagious, so relax about catching it. Katia also concerned because kids aren't fully vaccinated yet. She expresses disappointment in the lack of cohorts, staggered start/end times, and play areas. Cindy H says that implementing those things is more difficult than it sounds, and that inside the building the classes are not intermingling - only outside. Katia says that Campus View kept the cohort system all of this school year.
- j. Mari appreciates when the class rep emails the class's families, so she wants to clarify that we're not going to discourage that. Nicole clarified that we will suggest that they do, but that we won't force them to. Mari also feels that "the questions that can't be answered" are not necessarily a bad thing. Nicole clarified that she was somewhat harassed by parents in December over this issue, so she wants to ensure the class reps don't get that kind of pressure. Cindy H. clarified that what happens for chicken pox cases is that they would first hear of it from the parent, then they'd confirm with VIHA, and then they are allowed to share it with families. Chicken pox and a few other things are on a list that the school is allowed to share, but COVID (and now lice) is not on that list.
- k. Sarah Healing says that she and her other parent friends felt that the communication from the school and the PAC made them feel that by communicating with each other that they were doing something wrong. Cindy H. says that they will take that into consideration for future communications that come out from the school, and thanks Sarah for sharing those feelings. Katia also feels the way that Sarah expressed.
- l. Katia, asking on behalf of Warren: why are parents not required to wear masks again outside? Cindy H. said that they will be sending out an email reminding parents to wear

a mask while they are on school grounds, though explained that families have opposing opinions about this.

- m. Nicole also explained that she heard from several parents with opposite opinions to others about disliking the informal communications, and only wanting VIHA communications. All policies will not please everyone. Cindy L. concerned that if the PAC class rep shares info informally, it might come back to Nicole as PAC president. Nicole says that she hopes that parents will just use the class list directly to communicate any positive cases. But if they'd prefer to remain anonymous, *then* they can go through the class rep (possibly).
4. January newsletter (not discussed at the meeting): Things to include:
 - a. Parent education session Jan 25th.
 - b. Fun lunch Jan cancellation(?)
 - c. The upcoming west coast seeds fundraiser.
 - d. The Feb date for next meeting.
 - e. Summary of previous fundraisers results? Though final numbers and money transfers aren't complete yet.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 1 February 2022, via Zoom

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.