

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 7 MARCH 2019

Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Robin Grazley	Katie Ryan
Katia Dilkina	Marika Glickman	Adrienne White
Fiona Ely	Penelope Barillaro	Cyndi Whaley
Cindy Luchka	Elizabeth Corry	Alison Hamer
Nicole Woods	Elena Schultz	

Staff: Ms. Brenna O'Connor, Mrs. Jana Relf, Mme Helena Ewald

1. February 2019 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Katie Ryan, seconded by Katia Dilkina.

2. Annual General Meeting -- Elections

- quorum reached (13 parents present)
- Tonight we will be filling the usual positions: president, VP, treasurer, secretary, then members at large (5 currently) -- only the role of VP is currently vacant. There are other roles, however, e.g. Parent Education Coordinator (Fiona) -- last time we discussed making this an executive position.
- Katia attended the VCPAC conference last weekend, and made connections with members of other school PACs. We may also wish to formally designate a VCPAC liaison, who would be represent Doncaster at the VCPAC meetings and report back. Some of the PAC liaisons link to other PACs as well, club together on parent ed -- larger audiences, etc. -- partnering with other schools, as we have begun to do with Braefoot. Nicole, Katie, and Elena all expressed interest in sharing this position.
- Katia can only hold presidency for two years -- if someone will volunteer to be VP, makes ultimate transition easier.
- **Nominations for the 2019-20 DPAC Executive:**
 - **President: Katia Dilkina**
 - **VP: Nicole Woods**
 - **Treasurer: Erin Prescott**
 - **Secretary: Robin Grazley**
 - **Parent Education Coordinator: Fiona Ely**
 - **VCPAC Liaison: Elena Schultz/Katie Ryan**
 - **Members at Large: Marika Glickman; Mercedes Schmidt; Katie Ryan; Adrienne White; Cindy Luchka; Elizabeth Corry**

- Voting was delayed until Fiona was present, and took place at 7:35 pm. All nominated candidates were unanimously elected.

2019-20 DPAC Executive:

President: Katia Dilkina

VP: Nicole Woods

Treasurer: Erin Prescott

Secretary: Robin Grazley

Parent Education Coordinator: Fiona Ely

VCPAC Liaison: Elena Schultz/Katie Ryan

**Members at Large: Marika Glickman
Mercedes Schmidt
Katie Ryan
Adrienne White
Cindy Luchka
Elizabeth Corry**

3. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

School Updates

- Brenna: reports go out tomorrow, parent-teacher and/or student-led conferences coming up next week
- School garden: they have now taken some of our money. Thanks to Abigail Bigam's hard work, the District's communications department has been able to produce a beautiful community consultation flyer, and the meeting is set for April 9. Once that happens, we can put in irrigation and fencing -- \$4500 (less than we thought). Abigail also got another \$2000 grant recently. The garden will occupy a 50 x 20 feet space near the primary playground. Many thanks to Erin, Abigail, and others on the teaching staff who have put so much into this project.
- We hope a representative from SD61 Facilities will be here as well on April 9 for this "community consultation with the neighbours and school district." After the consultation, a call will go out to community to help us build the garden -- Matthew from LifeCycles will help lead on that as well.
- Many of the teachers have been participating in an early literacy project -- meeting with Miriam Trehearne, literacy teacher, exploring evidence-based practices -- wall books, creating stories with other stories.
- Intermediate playground: Brenna shared a letter to the PAC from some grade 5 students, asking us to please consider making a change to the intermediate playground for the safety of the

school. Requests for new equipment included swings, slides, also a seesaw. Consensus was that the PAC is ready to explore a fundraising push to make the new playground a reality.

- Brenna also noted that last year, PAC provided feedback on the information circulated to new families; the info night for new families was successful. She asked for feedback on this year's version. Copies were circulated among the parents present for comments, improvement and development. Parents also suggested that copies be sent to all Kindergarten class reps for feedback from this year's K parents.
- Katia: we are planning to have a PAC table at Kindergarten orientation again -- can collect emails, send invitations to the end of year picnic, etc. -- helpful for September planning as well.
- Jana: Teddy Anderson, hoop dancer, was here recently -- kids enjoyed it, excellent messaging -- thanks to Candice Digeso for organizing.
- Grade 5s did great job representing Doncaster at the Basketball Jamboree -- lost one day to snow, but lots of good play.
- Grades 2 and 4 attended the symphony at UVic on February 25 -- the performance was exceptionally good this year, and all the kids did amazingly well.
- Some new faces at the school in the coming months: 3 students from Reynolds will be coming for work experience, helping in classrooms. We also have student teachers (4) starting after Spring Break, on 6-week practicums -- one currently in the school as well.
- new program started: [One To One](#), a children's literacy program based in Vancouver. Volunteers people come in to listen to kids read, play some games. The organization provides training in September, and most volunteer are retired people who will be listening to reading in English (fewer volunteers in French).

4. Bingo Night – Katia for Mercedes

- note from Mercedes: huge thank you to all those who helped make Bingo Night a success! We made \$600, and might have sold more food if it was not for the snow the week orders were due. The event was very well attended and lots of fun! It was also great to have concession in the gym (less running up and down the halls for kids). Thanks to Erin for organizing recycling/garbage (thanks from Mark, the night janitor, for this as well). Mercedes will happily take this event on next year.
 - We expect that next year we will be working with a different pizza vendor, as there were some problems with Pizza Hut's service.
 - Parents noted that there were lots of requests for drinks -- we should make sure people know to bring their water bottles next year.
- Mercedes and Erin are organizing another community cleanup for the Magic Forest: Saturday April 6, 1:30-3:30 pm. Brenna will send out the poster, and coordinate with Facilities to haul any garbage away afterwards.

5. Boardgame Night – Katia

- To be held Thursday April 11 (before Pro-D day). Erin, Katia, and Joy-Marie will meet next week to coordinate -- may borrow some games from the school's board game club too.

6. TC10K / Thrifty Foods Family Run – Katie

- 14 kids have signed up so far, so we do qualify for t-shirts. Adrienne will keep the notice in newsletter -- thanks for making sure people know it's the Fun Run (not the full 10K)!
- Quick discussion of a soccer jamboree being advertised -- is this the World Cups one that we did last year? Adrienne will look at last year's newsletter for info. Parents discussed choosing one event for the school to participate in, focusing on getting the students behind it -- less spreading thin?

7. Doncaster families at a Royals Game

- Brenna received more information about this, and we are looking into planning for next year (season runs end of Sept - mid-March).
- Sunday matinee game, 3-5:30 pm -- Royals offer discounted ticket rates (\$8 2-5/older kids \$13.50), school families sit together, and there is a skate with the players after the game.
- We would need someone to step forward as an organizer for next year -- find out who wants to go, collect payment, make arrangements re: tickets. Families can also pick up tickets at box office, but if we order together, everyone sits together -- community outreach.
- Katia will respond to the Royals contact to say that we are interested, and ask him to email with possible dates for next year.
- Cindy reminded everyone about the Royals' Chuck A Puck fundraiser, which a number of parents attested was very successful for Lakehill Preschool a couple of years ago. This might be a good contribution to the playground fundraising. Katia will also ask our contact how we get on the list for Chuck A Puck.

8. Other Projects

- playground committee for the intermediate side (Marika, Cyndi, Katie) -- draft response letter to the kids, start the movement.
- Question from Elizabeth about funds -- how much do we currently have available? Erin: we have about \$50K if we needed to buy a playground right this minute. Cindy: the playground equipment quote was about \$50K two years ago, plus installation.
- Parents wondered about warranties on the equipment, especially after the spinner was taken away and not replaced. Cindy thinks the maximum warranty for that piece would have been ten years, so it may no longer have been covered. Facilities might have to follow up with us about what happened. Elizabeth wondered whether stationary equipment might be better because of durability? The committee will look into this.
- If supervised by district, are there parents who would be willing to help with installation in order to reduce costs? Brenna noted that the District's volunteer policy has changed a little in recent

years -- we would need Facilities' approval first. Nicole and Penelope suggested that we clarify the process with the District first so that we know what is possible. Brenna will check with Facilities to get some info.

- Marika: is this summer (as the students requested) a feasible timeline for installation? Cindy: unfortunately, no -- we purchase the equipment, then we go on a list to wait for installation. It may be a delay of 6 months or more. Next summer could be a realistic deadline, though -- the district does work through the summer, but there is no guarantee it might happen then, as they will be busy building the childcare portables for the next year. Installation for the primary playground took about a month.
- Fundraising is the next thing: if we made a push through the spring/fall, we could order in December-January, then have it installed. Erin noted that the push for fundraising on primary playground was impressive; Cindy agreed, we raised about \$18K in 8 months. The scratch book fundraiser made us \$11-12K. One of the playground companies does help you fundraise, but we did it on our own -- people donate the scratched amount, and we provided donated coupons in return. Many who contributed felt this wasn't necessary, though -- we could also do kids' artwork as a thank you. This was a very successful fundraiser, but requires everyone to actually do it -- hard push, short turnaround. There are other ideas out there too. The committee will meet soon and start planning
- Parent library: idea which came out of Katia's meeting with Brenna & Jana last week. The PAC could invest some money into books that parents could borrow. Cindy/Erin: there is a library in the PAC cupboard currently which could be part of this. Elizabeth: some of the books suggested in the sexual health presentations would be great to have, especially since some are not available through GVPL. We could build a more current library -- add to budget discussion.
- parent (or parent-child) book club? Another idea which arose from last week's meeting -- community builder. Parents had a brief discussion of logistics and venues, and agreed we could mention it in the newsletter to see if someone might want to take this on.
- link to sexual health slides to be added to newsletter

9. VCPAC meetings

- As discussed in elections, we now have a Doncaster PAC rep (Elena/Katie) to attend future VCPAC meetings? Next one is Apr 23 at Doncaster, 7 pm
- education opportunities:
 - VCPAC has funding for four parents to attend the BCCPAC Conference (May 3-5)
<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/conferences1/conferences>
 - VCPAC also has some funding to help parents attend the Inclusion BC Conference (May 23-25) in Victoria. Please send requests to info@vcpac.ca
<https://inclusionbc.org/our-services/inclusion-bc-conference/>

10. Proposed SD61 2019/2020 School Calendar

- <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2019/02/Proposed-2019-2020-School-Calendar-1.pdf>
- submit your feedback to super@sd61.bc.ca by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019

11. Other Items

- Brief discussion: craft fair planning -- need new social media person, maybe earlier coordination on vendors -- Katia and Nicole to discuss further -- importance of creating an exit plan for Katia while maintaining this event's success
- other possible presentations for Principal/Vice-Principal's reports: math, assessment -- supporting challenging behaviours (Ross Greene) -- Math in May? (expert coming)
- The April meeting is same day as the parent ed on the reunification drill, which will be held at Cedar Hill. We discussed a few options, including delaying PAC meeting to 7:15; a shortened agenda; holding the budget meeting that day; and asking if we could have our PAC meeting at Cedar Hill instead of Doncaster to eliminate the venue change. More information to come.

Next Meeting: Thursday 4 April 2019

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm