

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 5 October 2021

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Cyndi Whaley	Katia Dilkina	Erin Long
Robin Grazley	Sandra Robertson	Elena Schultz	Alanna Kellar
Michele Violini	Warren Weicker	Cindy Luchka	Adrienne White
Saumyata Kaushik	Natalie Buchmann	Olena Sydoriuk	Jodi Green
Nic Green	Laura Mercer	Mari Imahori	

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh, Helena Ewald

1. Tim McCreesh did the territory acknowledgement
2. Sept 2021 minutes: motion to approve by Cindy Harte, seconded by Katia Dalkina.
3. Created by Kids fundraiser: art work comes home and an email with additional instructions for parents ordering products (different procedure with the new company).
4. Magic forest cleanup: couch is gone, and only Erin and one other family were there. There wasn't a lot to clean up. Ok to wait several months before the next one.
5. PAC newsletter: Sandra Robertson and Jen Grant will do the DPAC newsletter.
6. Class reps: only one still missing (Mr McCreesh's class).
7. Doncaster wear:
 - a. Set up ordering through the hot lunch website? Cindy Luchka is still scoping out on how to collect the orders (was google form last year, plus e-transfers for payment, but this was complex). Note that if the money goes into the school account, the DPAC can't access it or have control. Only the school can. Michele mentioned in the chat that she could help with ordering/organizing. Mari also mentioned later that she knows exactly how to use the fun lunch order form to do the Doncaster wear order and any other DPAC ordering/event.
 - b. Cindy wondering if new colours should be selected this year. Nicole thinking to keep with the same colours used last time (navy blue, blue, and purple). Suggestion for tie dye, but Cindy says that's not an option. Would have to select white, and kids tie dye it themselves (possibly as a grade 5 event). Katia likes the idea of keeping 2 colours from last year (the most popular ones), plus one new colour. Cindy L. said that some people wanted black in the past. People suggesting orange for orange shirt day, as well as pink for pink shirt day.
 - c. Katia raised the point that maybe we shouldn't conflate Doncaster wear with the Orange shirt issue. Adrienne agreed that orange shirts should be bought through indigenous organizations, rather than something through Doncaster and the DPAC. Saumyata was supportive of orange shirt since it's very important this year specifically.

- d. The order would have to go in by the end of October, so a decision on colours needs to be made soon.
8. Update on Fun Lunch program for this year (Mari):
- a. a separate meeting was held and they decided to survey the parents. Agreed to decrease waste and increase nutritional value. Something that's easy to distribute as well. Was decided that packaging waste will be packed up and taken home.
 - b. Survey is in development right now (some extra questions might be added, and Mari wants to add information about packaging and nutrition for the various options as well).
 - c. For now, Subway with sushi as a gluten free option for Oct 26 (Subway doesn't do GF for schools). November will be Oregano's pizza since they have a gluten free crust, vegan cheese, etc (extra options) - will just do cheese pizzas. Mari looking at new vendor for December (Red Barn sandwiches, Cook and Create, or repeat Subway or pizza).
 - d. They might reach out to other PACs to collaborate.
9. School updates (Cindy & Tim):
- a. Updates to staff: all open positions are closed and filled now; the 0.1 for Tim's class, Rena Chadwick is back as 2 days/week music, Miss Ma filling in for Montgomery, Rebecca Lampart coming back Oct 25th.
 - b. Question: the letter from the teachers association that came home - what's the deal with them opposing the information from the superintendent (not doing the FSA)? Victoria has some controversy surrounding taking this test. Cindy Harte mentions that there are pros and cons. A tool for the district to assess. If parents send in the letter requesting their kids not do it, Cindy & Tim will scrutinize the validity of those exceptions and make some calls to families. Katia wondering if it's useful for students. They said it depends on how it's delivered, but generally, by looking at the data, it can help overall the teaching approaches. Not a good tool when the Fraser institute uses it to rank schools.
 - c. MDI (Middle years index) data shared in a slide show (which was shared with teachers at the last ProD). Doncaster's results compared to other schools in the Victoria district are generally better than the district average. Only 34% of kids said that they would talk to an adult at school if they were sad, stressed, or scared - they want to improve that. Doncaster low in the connectedness category - specifically connectedness with adults at the school - this is lower for Doncaster than the district average. They also want to increase the feeling of children belonging at the school. Nic wondering about whether surveying a child on one day actually represents the "truth". Cindy said that the questions are asked in multiple ways so that kids can understand how to answer better. Cyndi W. asked what strategies were discussed or planned to improve child-"school adult"(teacher, principal, custodian, office staff, etc) connectedness? Cindy H. said that it's up to each teacher. Tim decided to have some lunch dates with the kids. There is a chart in the staff room to share ideas for this among teachers. They are already seeing some good results. Nicole likes that there is an intention for this now.
10. Craft Fair (Nicole): One vendor offered to donate \$50/month to the DPAC to help with the lost revenue from having to cancel for the last 2 years. Nicole wanting to get an appreciation gift or gesture to thank this vendor for their generosity. Something from the kids? Action is to think

about this and discuss at the November meeting. Cindy L. suggested in the chat Doncaster wear and card project kid's artwork.

11. Growing Smiles winter fundraiser: poinsettias, wreaths - Nicole doing it again this year since it went so well last year.
12. Parent Education: Jennie working on doing something on sex education with Braefoot. Action is to email Jennie or the DPAC if there are further topics that parents want.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 2 November 2021, via Zoom

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm