

## DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 7 JUNE 2018

*Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.*

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In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Glenn Wagner	Elizabeth Corry
Robin Grazley	Fiona Ely	Marika Glickman
Torben Schau	Cindy Luchka	Mercedes Schmidt
Katia Dilkina	Katie Ryan	Kevin Gao
Sheila Ford	Dan Perrakis	Erin Long
Nicole Branton	Sandra Robertson	

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

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Introduction: Jana Relf, incoming Grade 4/5 teacher and Vice-Principal

1. May 2018 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Fiona Ely, seconded by Erin Prescott
2. Parent Education -- Fiona
  - Follow up from Kerri Isham's Power Up workshop on May 10
    - Recap for those who weren't able to attend: Kerri presented a very informative overview of her program and the place of sexual health education in the curriculum. It was too bad turnout wasn't higher, but the parents who did attend were favourably impressed.
    - Kerri normally brings her whole program to the school. Elizabeth reviewed her 3-step process: first the parents attend her workshop, then the PAC and/or school decides to invest in her program (must have full buy-in to ensure effective delivery). She does a professional development session with the educators on delivering content effectively; then, 2 weeks of 2 sessions each in each teacher's classroom. After that, teachers should be able to feel comfortable going ahead on their own.
    - Brenna noted that if the PAC is interested in investing in the Power Up program, the teachers must be on board as well -- this initiative would need to be brought to them for approval.
    - Fiona was in touch with Kerri after the workshop regarding details -- for this September, she is booking in June. Kerri would either be able to lead a session on a Pro-D day, or offer pro-d by teaching students with our teachers in the classroom observing; she could also do an hour after school finishes during the week she is here teaching. Her fees depend on how many classes she would be visiting -- one-week segments, one in the beginning of the year, then revisit later in the year.
    - Question from Glenn: what did people who attended think? Mercedes: Kerri was very confident as an educator, very current -- age-appropriate skills as well -- her rapport

really stood out, ability to elicit questions in a way that a teacher might not be able to. Katie noted that one of the Kindergarten teachers who attended felt empowered after that session to teach some “body science” in her classroom.

- Fiona has some documents from Kerri re: moving forward, but copies are not available tonight: letter to all parents explaining the program, common FAQs
- Elizabeth offered a few observations of what stood out for her (reinforced by Kerri’s book): first, that the curriculum can be interpreted in wide variety of ways (i.e. “safety” being taught without any reference to sexuality); the importance of early intervention to prevent abuse, i.e. naming body parts; and Kerri’s empowering positivity about boys’ and girls’ bodies, all bodies.
- Glenn: if PAC wanted to pursue this and bring it to teachers, would we run afoul of mandated curriculum? Brenna: no, but we have a curriculum committee and they have to make the decision. If the PAC decides they want to pursue this opportunity, Brenna will bring it to the teachers, but we need to honour the process. Mercedes reiterated that Kerri said explicitly that she won’t come to a school if she does not have full buy-in from teachers. Brenna felt it was more likely that finding space was a greater issue than content. Elizabeth noted that Kerri has modified her curriculum to fall within the new curriculum.
- Katia: is it perhaps not realistic to fit this into the coming school year? Brenna: it depends on what the pro-d looks like.
- Glenn raised the question of who would pay. It was agreed that most likely the PAC would; some parents remembered references to grants, private funding, but were unsure how much or what it would cover. Fiona noted that the estimate is \$2000-3000 to teach students; pro-d is flexible but likely an additional cost. Glenn stated that we should budget as though we will foot the whole cost; Erin noted that we currently have that flexibility in the PAC budget.
- Katia called a vote to see how many are interested in pursuing the Power Up program among the parents in attendance. The majority were interested, and it was agreed to move on to the next step: seeking approval from the curriculum committee. Brenna will share the information with them, and we’ll go from there.
- Question: how has sexual health education been covered in the past? A few parents offered a quick review: a public health team used to come in to teach sexual health education, but funding has been cut, leaving schools to find their own way. There is also no real reporting about how it is taught now. Kerri’s approach of “body science” was explained.

### 3. Monk Office school supplies fundraiser -- Katia for Catherine

- This fundraiser has come together -- thank you, Catherine! We are organized in time to make the deadline. Orders must be in by June 14, and will be delivered on June 26. Any orders not picked up in June will be here in September. Cindy will be taking on this fundraiser next year.

### 4. Kindergarten Orientation (May 15) -- Katia

- This event went well, lots of fun -- lots of people came by the PAC table too. Thanks to Adrienne and Cindy for staffing this table!

#### 5. Bike to School Week -- Erin

- Events held May 28-June 1 -- thank you, Erin, for organizing!
- The blender bike was here on Monday, bike decorating with Chantal on Friday.
- Prize draws were held last week for participants who biked/scooted/walked/parked & walked to school.
- The Principal's Walk was held yesterday -- we will need to include thank yous in the newsletter to Cobs and Thrifty Foods for donating snacks for the Celebration Station, and Domino's for prizes for the draws. Mercedes reminded us that there is a Doncaster 5% fundraiser with Cobs as well.

#### 6. End of Year Picnic on June 21 -- Mercedes

- There will be popsicles for kids! They are in Wendy's freezer right now.
- Wendy mentioned that there is chalk, games, bubbles in PAC cupboard -- we'll put them out -- also volunteers to help Wendy hand out popsicles -- this frees up the freezies for Fun Day.
- Posters are going up tomorrow (thanks to Wendy) -- someone should send PDF to Katia and Brenna for advertising as well (website/Week Ahead). Katia to get in touch with Wendy, and send an email to class reps reminding everyone to bring their own food.
- Erin: the picnic is open to new families as well if you are free on the 21st.
- Mercedes: there is no foul-weather plan -- if it's raining, the picnic is probably cancelled.

#### 7. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast -- Katia for Michelle

- Michelle has the food organized, but needs a couple of volunteers to help with setup, putting the food out, and a couple more people at the end (c. 10 am) to clean up on June 29. If anyone is able to come either 7-8 am or 10-10:30 am, please let Katia know.

#### 8. Back to School BBQ -- Erin

- Not much to report. We will need to follow up with Red Barn in August, as they still do not have a BBQer. Erin will follow up again to make sure it doesn't fall through the cracks -- it would be good to have a few other people on logistics closer to the time.
- For this event, families will preorder food for pick up.
- What if there is no BBQer? Cindy mentioned the Kal-Tire hot dog cart, which we have had in the past, also the Chevy Grillverado (which some of us have used at Lakehill Preschool). In the worst case, we go back to pizza and wings.

#### 9. First Aid for Grade 5 -- Cindy

- In the past, PAC has paid for Grade 5s to do First Aid training at the start of lunch monitoring -- we were not sure who could put on this course, as apparently we burned some bridges with a couple of providers due to payment and scheduling issues.
- Cindy has done some research. Alert First Aid could do 1.5 hrs of basics for up to 30 students at a time -- more than 1.5 hrs is way out of our budget, as we might have to have 3 groups. This would bring our costs to \$450 (\$150 per group). Josée thinks it was a full day before, but we may have had a connection who got us a deal. Erin: Braefoot apparently does more of a Home

Alone training session. Josée confirmed that it doesn't have to be a full day, as the lunch monitors are always able to ask for help from an adult.

- Question: would parents be willing to pay for a more extensive course? Answer: the students would not be First Aid-certified ... we could explore getting a full-day course, which is \$30/student (9-2:15). It was agreed that this might be more than we need.
- Home Alone is appropriate for age 9 -- some, but not a lot of first aid.
- What is the goal for this course? no one is quite sure ... it is logical that it was linked to lunch monitoring, not panicking if someone needs help, life skills. The group discussed whether Home Alone might be better. Elizabeth noted that the signs of anaphylaxis can be subtle ... some training on this could be useful for lunch monitors. Josée: there is a reminder in classrooms and they do receive training. Brenna pointed out that student lunch monitors are not fully responsible, as there is always an adult there too -- more of a leadership piece.
- Mercedes felt 1.5 hrs sounded reasonable, and others agreed. Katia proposed that we try the 1.5 hour course with Alert First Aid and see how it goes for this year -- we could make it a safety course with its own certificate.
- Cindy observed that it is more than we budgeted. However, Katia noted that we did not offer a course this year, and Erin agreed that we have some room in the budget.
- Cindy will touch base with Brenna -- course tentatively booked for Monday, September 17.

#### 10. Magic Forest Restoration -- Katia

- introducing the "Magic Forest" ... Garry Oak meadow at end of Derby/Thistle/Cedar. It is beloved by Doncaster children after school, but teachers have used it as a natural outdoor classroom in the past as well. Last January, SD61 closed it off as unsafe, as many of the trees needed work. As we discovered, the area wasn't on their maintenance list -- they could close it, but couldn't remedy the problem. We applied for and received a generous grant from the McNally Foundation to pay for entire restoration. We have been assured that SD61 will maintain it from here on, it is on their list.
- The work has started, but not sure where we are -- Brenna will follow up. The money has been spent. Glenn asked whether Brenna will receive a report on the work, and she stated that she will request one.
- We need to thank the McNally Foundation -- from the students and PAC.
- Brenna: we are interested in organizing a community cleanup as well -- this is likely an adult job.
- Sam Hampton, who is not here tonight, has been in touch with Cheryl Bryce (Songhees Nation) regarding educating the Doncaster community about indigenous ecosystems. At this point, we're not sure what this would look like. Katia was thinking perhaps an assembly where she could come and talk in September when everyone could be there.
- We may also wish to hold a grand opening when it's all ready.

#### 11. Garden Update -- Erin

- \$500 grant from VanCity -- thank you!
- From here, we need to work with SD61 on approvals to get our garden project going. Teacher Abigail Bigam has been spearheading efforts to create an edibles garden on the school grounds

-- we are now working with the district on logistics (WATER). Brenna has been in touch with Matthew at LifeCycles, will talk to the district as well.

#### 12. Budget Summary -- Erin

- budget check-in: we have raised more money than we anticipated, with more to come, including gaming grants: approximately \$30 000. Our accounts are healthy, and we can in fact spend money.

#### 13. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

- Brenna: we did the blanket exercise at beginning of the year, and have been incorporating discussions of our colonial history. On Monday's Pro-D Day, we will have the district expert here talking on how to incorporate First Peoples' principles of learning.
- Josée: Parent Appreciation Coffee will be held at 8:15 am on Wednesday, June 13 -- thank you to Cobs for donations!
- Brenna: Beach Day is coming up on June 25 at Gyro Park -- we will be busing students to the beach this year, and the whole school will attend. We do need parent volunteers to come, but they will have to meet us there (no room on the buses).
- Josée: our final year-end assembly will be held June 28 at 11 am -- followed by the Grade 5 BBQ. Mr. Thomas will be coming back to BBQ for the Grade 5s.
- Brenna: Jump Rope for Heart was held May 25 -- thanks to the PAC for oranges! The kids had a great time skipping and also dancing (the floss!), and we raised \$2700 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation.
- Brenna & Josée: we shared the layout of proposed class configurations for next year at the new parents info meeting earlier tonight, and can put it up for PAC afterwards if people are interested.
- Josée: we have a few new teachers coming next year -- Grade 4/5 English, Grade 4 French, new VP and 4/5 English (Jana Relf), new counsellor Meaghan Storey (bilingual). MakerSpace is still TBA
- Brenna: Finally, thanks to PAC for support, feedback on what would be valuable for tonight's new parents night, Bike to School Week, the Principal's Walk ... all the things that help support us -- also the Welcome to Kindergarten event. We appreciate that partnership!

From everyone, many thanks to Josée -- we are going to miss you!

*Next Meeting: Thursday September 2018*

*Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm*