

## DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 6 JUNE 2019

*Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.*

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In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Robin Grazley	Katie Ryan
Katia Dilkina	Mercedes Schmidt	Nicole Woods
Cyndi Whaley	Adrienne White	Elena Schultz
Maria Gateley	Nicole Normand	Elizabeth Corry
Linda Rehaume	Bronwyn Reelie	Andrea Kearney
Lauren Goodland	Chelsea Laxton	Jen Grant

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

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

#### *School Updates*

- Jana: our inaugural ultimate jamboree was held after school -- we hosted Rogers. Many thanks to Darrin for bringing this program in! There was great sportsmanship, lots of fun, and freezies. Hopefully this program will continue and grow -- lunchtime club and PE lessons for grade 4 & 5s. Darrin is Youth Coordinator with Victoria Ultimate Society, and this is a joint initiative -- also doing it at middle school level. Erin: thanks to Jana for support!
- Brenna: track City Finals held recently -- Doncaster kids did very well. Again, great sportsmanship was displayed, and some excellent placements as well -- well done everyone!
- Jana: thank you for buses for Aboriginal Day -- lots of classes are looking forward to attending. They will have a great time and I am looking forward to hearing what they thought of it!
  - Grade 4s, 3s, and some 2s are going.
  - Katia explained this event briefly for the new parents present.
  - Question from Adrienne: did the teachers choose whether they would go? Answer: yes -- classes are doing lots of field trips this month, and this event is the day after Beach Day -- some teachers may have felt the need for their classes to regroup. Grade 5s will be at Camp Thunderbird.
- Brenna: as part of leadership piece for grade 4-5s, students have been helping out with Board Game Club, assemblies, and acting as lunch managers.
  - Jana: grade 4s are currently learning the ropes and getting ready for transition for next year -- Mme Harrison has been helping as well. Soon, we'll let the grade 5s have lunch in the courtyard and let the 4s take over for the last week. Brenna: grade 4 helpers did a great job at the Welcome to Kindergarten event -- very keen.

- For the new parents, there was a brief explanation of the lunch system for Kindergarten students, a lunch monitor at each table to help. Nicole W. and others spoke about how the kids get to know one another, form bonds across grades, and develop leadership.
- Jana: we will celebrate grade 5s with a pizza lunch on the 17th
- Brenna: celebration for some of our teachers last week -- enhancing learning grants. These grants invite teams to work together, collaborate on learning ideas; then, there is an end of year celebration of projects happening in our school district. One was led by Maura Busby (NB: classroom bikes have been ordered) -- supporting alternate places for sitting, ways to learn; also FRIMM grade 1 and Kindergarten teachers developing stories in oral language.
- Brenna: quick update on the school garden project -- we are still waiting for soil samples. Marni says they should be in tomorrow or Monday. Katie: where is the final location? Brenna: behind primary playground, as our neighbours raised concerns at the consultation about the original planned location. We are hoping we can start on irrigation soon.
- Brenna: we are also busy with transition to the new leadership team, Cindy Harte (Principal) and Tim McCreesh (Vice Principal) -- they came for Jump Rope for Heart, but had to send their regrets tonight as they both have commitments with their current schools. We will be meeting with them to help support transition soon -- is there anything PAC would like us to bring to them? Katia: I met Cindy at the boundary review consultation -- there is nothing that can't wait until September.
- thank you from Brenna and Jana for PAC support in building Doncaster community -- a huge thank you from both of us as we transition. Katia: working with you both has been a pleasure for us as well, and we have made great progress working together -- we hope it continues that way. Our PAC has undergone a revitalization over the last couple of years -- importance of community relationships. Brenna: the people coming in will do great work too (both leadership and new parents) -- the foundation already there.

2. May 2019 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Adrienne White, seconded by Elena Schultz.

### 3. SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

- Cindy is unable to be here tonight. Robin briefly explained the proposal to reassign English-stream students from Doncaster catchment to Mt. Doug and our PAC's opposition to this recommendation.
- Robin: parents lobbied for and received a school-specific consultation on May 14, and were able to share some of our concerns directly with District staff and trustees. We also presented our concerns to the trustees at their meeting on May 27. June 3 was the last day to submit feedback; we sent in a letter from the PAC executive, and Cedar Hill did as well. The Boundary Review Team will present their revised recommendations to the Board of Education on June 19 (7 pm), and the trustees will meet to make their decisions June 25 (7 pm). We are not sure whether the outcome will change, but we have done the best we can to urge the Board to keep all Doncaster/Cedar Hill students in the Reynolds family.

- Brenna: city growth and the Supreme Court ruling changing class sizes has shifted what can be accommodated -- overcrowding at some schools led to domino factor, and we need to be watching projections carefully
- Katia explained that our analysis of the district's publicly available numbers does not support this recommendation, and in fact indicates there's no pressing need to make changes at Reynolds. Moreover, the redirection of all Quadra catchment students to Vic High should make more than enough space for all Cedar Hill students at Reynolds.
- Elena spoke briefly about the consultation; she perceived an unwillingness on the Boundary Review Team's part to explore alternatives to this proposal
- Robin and Katia noted that, for the reasons Brenna mentioned, the district's overall issues dwarf ours, and some schools are in dire situations with overcrowding. That said, the effects on the small group of Doncaster students who will be affected are severe, and this recommendation could be changed without knocking over a whole series of dominos. We remain hopeful.

#### 4. VCPAC Meeting

- Elena: this meeting was the year-end awards ceremony -- teachers nominated by their parent groups and given awards.
- VCPAC elected members of the board as well
- The meeting was held at Mt Doug, same night as Battle of the Bands
- Elena praised Brenna's approach as principal, her efforts to get to know kids -- meaningful
- Doncaster is a voting school at VCPAC -- we haven't sent a representative until recently, but it is important that we attend

#### 5. Active Transport to School/Bike to School Week

- Erin: worked with Cyndi and Brenna to plan the events -- we had good participation. Thank you to Jana's class for going around to the classrooms and doing the survey on how kids got to school each day!
- The blender bike came to school -- again, very popular
- big thanks to Chantelle for arranging her travel in order to making it back here in time for Bling Your Bike!
- Brenna: Principal's Walk to school was held on Wednesday (June 5) -- thanks to Elena and Katie for offering to getting the fruit trays
- Mercedes raised the question of awarding the Golden Shoe -- it's an award for the class who had the most non-driving kids during Bike to School Week -- maybe we should award it -- write stories about it ...
- thank you to Erin, Cyndi, and Brenna for organizing!

#### 6. Intermediate Playground

- Brenna: lengthy update:

- as we have discussed in previous months, the government has made a commitment to money for playgrounds. Based on inclusive learning, supporting kids, our school and Northridge will be submitted for consideration for a capital grant of \$100 000 to purchase a new playground. However, the decision will not be made until March.
- Right now it's a matter of determining whether we are first or second -- criteria include the age of oldest play structure, which means we'd win with the wooden structure.
- The names would be put forward in March -- but if PAC decides to go ahead with purchasing a new playground, as planned, Doncaster goes to the bottom of the list.
- we can wait, add money PAC has saved to that \$100 000, and add any other funds raised on top of that if it goes through -- they approve it, but PAC decides what they want.
- they do have a selection recommended by occupational and physical therapists, but at the end of the day it is up to the PAC and school community what structures they want to choose for their playground.
- Katie: are there limitations of meaning re: inclusive playground? Brenna: benefits from sensory experiences for a variety of children -- not necessarily an accessible playground -- climbing pieces are not off the table.
- Cyndi: how long does the decision take? Brenna: unsure, we would have to follow up.
- Brenna: any new structures purchased will need to have rubber flooring, as they no longer want to do woodchips. That represents a \$50 000 cost in addition to the play structure and installation. A grant opens in January for \$30 000 toward the cost of rubber flooring -- they organize it if we wait and get the big playground grant, but if PAC chooses otherwise, we should wait until January and apply for the flooring grant.
- Katia: clarification -- if we get it, does the budget include the rubber flooring? Brenna: yes -- but PAC money goes into whatever we want on top. The legwork would be done by the school district if we get this piece. Parents agreed that we have to apply for the grant, if we have to have the rubber flooring. **Brenna will ask Marni for clarification on who organizes the rubber flooring.**
- Brenna: Marni says the [Crab Trap by Habitat](#) is very cool.
- Brenna shared answers from Marni to questions posed last month:
  - PST can be applied for but is not a guarantee -- we have to budget as though it is not.
  - volunteers: the price does not go down if you have volunteers to help with installation, as supervision still costs money. It may be better to just let Facilities handle installation.
- Brenna: apparently Eagle View just put in a new playground, and View Royal paid for part of it -- it might be that PAC wants to keep fundraising so there's even more money, and structures could be added.
- Elena: would this grant move us up in the installation queue? Brenna & Jana: most likely yes.
- Mercedes: how long do we have with our existing playground? Brenna: it is unclear, Marni just says we wouldn't want to have an unsafe one. Some structures have already been removed due to safety concerns. We will know next week if we're #1 or #2 -- there is a good chance we will get this one, and March is not that long away. If we are #2 on the list, we will still likely get one -- will have to see what the government rolls out.
- Finally, question re: plaques for sponsors -- Marni will bring that question to the superintendent, as several PACs have been asking.

- Katia: if we had leftover money, could we replace the woodchips on the primary playground with rubber flooring? Brenna: that would be more complicated, as the structures would have to be removed and reinstalled.
- Katie: in future, can we contact Marni directly with questions, or should we continue go through the principal? Brenna: it is better to go through the principal. Cindy Harte is familiar with this process, as Torquay recently won a playground from BCAA -- she will be able to help this along.
- Elizabeth: summary: Brenna will ask Marni who applies for the rubber grant; then we hold until March and see what happens. In the meantime, we continue fundraising. Katie noted that we have only raised \$300 so far. She observed that we would really have to justify going to families for financial support if this playground grant is a possibility.

#### 7. Monk Office school supplies

- Katia for Cindy -- the order deadline was extended to Monday for June delivery. If people missed that deadline, they can still order for delivery in September or pickup at a store. We have 145 orders in so far -- a nice fundraiser for us.

#### 8. End of Year Activities

- End of year picnic:
  - thank you to Mercedes for organizing -- June 14, 5 pm, bring your food -- we will need volunteers to hand out popsicles 6ish -- Nicole, Katia, Maria, Nicole, Robin
- Aboriginal Day -- buses going out June 21
- Fun Day, June 24 -- there will be popsicles (not freezies)
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, June 28:
  - Jenn Bateman to organize -- Erin will coordinate with her for reimbursement
  - Brenna suggested shifting the start time to 9 am
- books for those leaving has been taken care of -- thank you, Cindy!
- Also, Hilda asked if PAC could do an end of year gift for Peter from Men in Kilts, who updates our sign -- yes, and something for his dog as well. We should also do a gift for Carlos, the crossing guard. Katia: Carlos coaches soccer, maybe something sporty? Mercedes offered to take charge of purchasing -- \$50 each.
- Elizabeth suggested we could recognize Carlos, maybe also janitors, at the last school assembly. Brenna: could invite him to attend.
- Back to School BBQ, September 19 -- the gym is booked as well that night in case of rain. We had talked about trying again for a grill truck -- Erin called Red Barn, they will be available for select dates only but she was unable to make contact with the right person. We might want to think of another backup plan.
- food truck(s)? Mercedes: Camosun students have their own -- will look into it this week. Parents noted that preordering food is tough at the beginning of school. If we got some food trucks to come, would they give us a cut of profits? They would deal with the money. Some suggested we

could just ask a couple of food trucks to come, and not have it be a fundraiser but a community event (might even draw in neighbours).

- Brenna: Sir James Douglas did this before with multiple food trucks -- someone organized it for them. It does take some time, but it's an event in itself -- doesn't hurt to try.
- Erin will look into food trucks as well
- Katie: backup plan? pizza and sushi -- we will connect before Sept to make sure we have this even planned.
- Jana: the Optimist Club has a hot dog trailer -- it is fast, but they only do so many events per year -- we could buy supplies, they would cook and dish them out. Erin will get a name from Jana and look into it, Mercedes will help. Jana: more likely to help out schools they know.
- Could we have a band? have discussed this many times before, it is difficult in Sept

**Thanks, everyone, for a great year!!**

***Next Meeting: Thursday 5 September 2019***

*Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm*