

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 4 DECEMBER 2019

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Robin Grazley	Elena Schultz
Chelsea Laxton	Andrea Kearney	Erin Prescott
Sandra Robertson	Fiona Ely	Cyndi Whaley

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

School Updates

- Cindy H: this is a short update at this very busy time of year -- report cards will go home next week, and we are busy reviewing them
- As a result of the SD63 strike, we took on 3 practicum students so they would be able to finish their coursework. The placements will last for 5 weeks total, until we break for winter. These student teachers have been very flexible -- excellent skill for future teachers! We have one EA practicum student with us as well.
- A new custodian has been hired into Mr. Franklin's position, but she is on medical leave right now. Brittney will stay with us until the new custodian starts. We are looking forward to working with her!
- Tim: we have been working on district grant applications: two applications for Enhancing Learning Grant, most likely we will get one (\$1000 each). One application focuses on improving use of our courtyard space, things we can do to make it a more meaningful learning space for youngest primary students in particular; the other focuses on intermediate reading resources, getting books and materials into classes.
- Also, MakerSpace grant -- Cindy H: we have been working with Pathways (career ed) -- grant applications every year of up to \$2000. Funds go toward bolstering MakerSpace with non-consumable stuff. We'll be finding out the results soon.
- Tim: our basketball team is now up and running -- we have a parent who has been coaching the last two years -- Coach Raoul has joined us, and two teachers also. We currently have 37 kids on the team. Jamborees start in February, and practices will run through January.
- Question from Elena: which grades play basketball? Answer from Tim: just grade 5s play, to allow for so many kids to participate. All teams are gender inclusive.

2. November 2019 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Elena Schultz, seconded by Erin Prescott.

3. Craft Fair (Saturday, Nov 23)

- Nicole: This year's Craft Fair was a great success! Thank you to Cindy H for sending out the urgent call for volunteers. I'll try to remember for next year that people do always come through at the last minute!
- Revenue from this event was approximately \$7900
- We had great feedback from vendors: hands-down, they felt this craft fair was amazing. Several vendors commented on the fun atmosphere, helpful people -- nice to know everyone's efforts are appreciated and successful.
- Thank you to all the volunteers!!
- Question from Fiona: how did the bake sale do? Nicole: the bake sale brought in about \$1800. Every single aspect for revenue exceeded last year. Erin: the bake sale made \$1600 last year, as compared to \$900 previously. Nicole noted that there were some leftovers at the end, but we sold them off in a 2 for 1, summoning swarms of children.
- Nicole: as first year co-organizer, there was a learning curve, but the way everyone stepped in at the end was excellent -- lots of people helped with setup, ideas for parking, streamlining for next year

4. Parent Education

- Fiona: recent and upcoming parent education events:
 - Nikki Lineham: The New Math - November 14
 - This was a successful event -- parents afterwards said it was well received, appreciated. About 100 people were in attendance -- good turnout, Nikki was impressed.
 - Question from Erin: were the attendees mainly Doncaster parents? Fiona: we extended the invitation a few days before to all community schools as well, so likely some were parents from other schools.
 - Question from Nicole: what were the impressions from those who attended? Elena noted that she went in skeptical, but learned a lot about the open mindset, how to approach child's learning -- ultimately, beneficial. Her husband would have liked to see more concrete math examples (much of the time was devoted to rationale). Fiona noted that Nikki has two different presentations; this was her first/basic one, and we chose this for our first time. The subsequent one has more practical applications, so might be worth booking that in future. Sandra noted that Nikki shared links to her website, where there might be more examples, as well as links for math games, other things to do online. Sandra: this was an amazing workshop, inspiration to think about math in everyday life. Our brains learn visually, so making examples concrete helps us understand how math works -- creating comfort, changing mindset. Nikki was passionate about the topic, which built enthusiasm.
 - Question from Nicole: does this talk apply to all ages? Answer: yes. Nikki does have a TED talk as well. Cindy H: as educators, we have access to Nikki's Educate

Now as well -- meant for adults rather than kids (manipulatives). Nikki presented to the staff two years ago, and that learning is being embedded into their practice, but perhaps it might be time for a refresher for staff too.

- Fiona: other schools have had her present as well -- keep an eye out for presentations at other schools which might be extended to other parents as well.
- Cindy H: thanks to Fiona for organizing.

- Paul Mohapel: Technology and the Developing Brain - Feb 12
 - we received the district parent ed grant for \$250, and partnered with Braefoot (as we have done in the past), who will bring in their \$250 grant -- these funds cover most of his fee. The presentation is booked for Feb 12.
 - It will be here in the gym -- Fiona will set up an EventBrite page, and see what the numbers look like closer to the date. We will ask Braefoot to bring the snacks -- they are grateful for us hosting every year, so Fiona will check with them.

- Michael Bortolotto: Social Inclusions (presentations for students) - January 22
 - Fiona has connected Michael with Cindy H, and they have settled on a date of January 22.
 - Cindy H: we'll be breaking the presentation into 3 grade groups, and teachers will do pre-teaching beforehand to provide context. Michael has CP, so he can be a little difficult to understand at first -- the kids need to be prepared, but will be able to follow along quickly. We looking forward to it!
 - We confirmed that PAC is funding this presentation.

- Fiona: the school counsellor has expressed interest in possibly doing more parent sessions, bringing something to the parent group. She has been doing podcasts on Mondays, but attendance has dwindled in recent weeks -- haven't acutally spoken with her yet about what she'd like to do. Cindy H: she would likely be open to an evening session -- anxiety might be one topic of interest. Nicole suggested we could start by talking with her, see what kinds of topics she'd be interested in speaking about. Fiona: not sure why the podcasts dwindled? Cindy H: the timing (Monday mornings) was not great -- access to podcasts after, though.

5. HAT Partnership and Garry Oak area

- Melissa was not able to be here tonight, but Erin passed on the message that Melissa did not have anything new to add.
- Cindy H: Wendy was back today, did some planting with Mme Harrison's class -- kids thrilled, big success

6. School Garden

- Cindy H: when I last spoke with Marni (SD61 Facilities), she acknowledged that the project is behind, but it is in the queue. We are still waiting for fencing and irrigation, which was supposed to be completed in November.
- Erin asked that the district acknowledge our frustration -- realistic time frames would be appreciated. We understand that the support for this project is there, but given delays of over a year, it doesn't feel like it.
- Nicole wondered if there was anything we could do to facilitate this project. Cindy H: it may be considered illogical to start because they haven't finished portables -- tie-in with irrigation. We could get the beds ready, because we don't have to water until spring -- put a request back in?
- Consensus from those present was that we'd like to let the district know (through Cindy H) that they need to manage our expectations, and provide realistic time frames, please. Especially since they have received money from us for this project some time ago, they do need to show some accountability. We are open to and would like them to consider other ways of completing this project (e.g. contracting out) if delays will continue to be lengthy.

7. Doncaster Wear

- 140+ orders were submitted, and a few extras have been ordered to top up for discounts/stock on hand
- Elena noted that the clothing rack was a good marketing tactic
- Orders are supposed to arrive Dec. 18

8. Card Project/Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser

- Erin: cheques are in -- no numbers yet as to revenue

9. Treasurer Update

- Erin circulated copies of our 2018-19 budget, and 2019-20 snapshot of where we are this year so far -- invoice for spin bikes finally came in -- not much else new
- Revenue from the parent donation request is currently at \$1200 -- we have had more in previous years, but it is ongoing -- depends on how many times we want to remind people about it
- we do generally make more than we spend
- Fiona: are we doing QSP [magazine fundraiser] this year? Nicole was able to put this question by text to Cindy L, who was not able to attend the meeting. (Thank you, Cindy!) Cindy L replied that QSP is no longer in operation.
- Nicole thanked Erin for preparing and sharing this information. Erin reminded parents that she welcomes any ideas about ways to make PAC finances transparent.
- Cindy H: thank you for all the extras we are able to do because of PAC funds!

10. Movie Night (postponed till Jan 17)

- Many thanks to Cyndi W for volunteering to organize this event!
- Cyndi W: two questions for the group:

- in the past, this event was in December and had holiday movies -- what do we do in January?
 - Nicole: you can choose to organize this event however you want! One option is to can send something through class reps and ask kids to vote, build excitement/engagement.
 - Cyndi: if anyone has any ideas, let me know
 - Nicole noted that in the past, appropriateness for all ages has been a question with choosing movies. However, we can decide to gear it for older kids, or younger ones. Cindy H: can have two venues, one for older kids, one younger -- like for last day of school movie afternoon.
- Cyndi W: second question is about concession -- I liked the idea to hold it inside the gym, but not sure how many volunteers we'll need, float, etc.
 - Nicole offered to discuss with Cyndi more fully -- a lot of choices.
 - Erin: there is a cash box/float, and PAC will reimburse you for supply purchases -- email a scanned receipt to dpac.payments, or you can bring in a hard copy.
- Cyndi W: how to ask for volunteers? Answer: we can put a notice in the newsletter, Cindy H can send out info through the office, and notice can also go out through class reps. Nicole advised waiting until the movie is chosen to decide volunteer numbers -- the call can go out a couple of weeks beforehand.
- thanks again to Cyndi for volunteering to organize this event!!

11. Possibilities for Spring Fundraisers

- junk-in-your-trunk parking lot garage sale?
 - Cindy H: people bring their vehicle, we charge \$25/parking spot, they set up on hard top and people can do an on-site garage sale/flea market type thing. We can open it up to the community. The only thing is that people cannot leave the stuff that doesn't sell at the school -- might need volunteers to take anything left over to be donated/disposed of.
 - Nicole: plant this seed now, and we can discuss further in January -- start small? Katia has said she might be willing to organize this event.
- Easter basket raffle?
 - This one is Hilda's idea -- we are interested, but let's table the discussion until Katia is here to tell us about the idea.

12. Bike Rack

- Erin: no updates -- but we do need more bike rack space
- Cindy H was going to ask if there were any spares kicking around the district, but has not yet had time
- we don't know who won the prize one from CRD -- Erin's contact at CRD is no longer there, so she will look into it further
- Cindy H: we had also talked about a scooter rack. Erin: we have it in writing that CRD was supposed to give us one.
- Erin will follow up with CRD; Cindy H will follow up with district.

13. Other Business

- Bingo night: is on for February, with Mercedes organizing again. Cindy H will check dates with Margo, but we think the gym has been booked.

- Cindy H: staff has been asking about the possibility of a gaga ball court.
 - We did discuss it re: the intermediate playground in the spring, but it wasn't in the plans.
 - A reminder that we need to look into who must apply in January for the grant for the rubber surface for the new playground -- Robin will put it on the January agenda.
 - Back to gaga ball -- the court doesn't have to be with the playground. Basically, it's confined dodgeball, but you have to smack the ball. Cedar Hill Middle School has one.
 - Cindy H: they cost about \$5000 -- if we're thinking about a donation push, could have this be one of the extra items to fundraise for
 - Cyndi W: this could be something we could purchase if we get the grant and have extra money. Erin noted that it doesn't necessarily have to wait for the playground replacement.
 - Cindy H and others observed that gaga ball would provide another option when the fields are closed and we have limited space on grounds.
 - Cindy H offered to find out from Marni about parameters, cost, and time frame, and let PAC know.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 8 January 2020

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm