

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 6 DECEMBER 2018

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

In attendance:

Erin Prescott
Katia Dilkina
Katie Ryan
Maria Gateley

Robin Grazley
Cindy Luchka
Cyndi Whaley

Nicole Woods
Alison Hamer
Adrienne White

Staff: Ms. Brenna O'Connor, Mrs. Jana Relf, Ms. Maura Busby, Mme Candice Digeso

1. Presentation by Ms. Maura Busby — PAC contributions to Inclusive Learning

- PAC funds allocated toward inclusive education support the purchase of items including alternative seating, learning spaces — beanbags, standing desks, wobble stools, rocking chairs
- question from Katie: do individual teachers purchase specific items for their classrooms? answer: we also apply for enhanced learning grants which go toward items like cushions, carpets for classrooms. We have also applied for a grant under self-regulation — learning to manage stress, energy levels.
- One initiative is stationary bikes — McKenzie & Quadra Elementary both have them — they are purpose-designed to be used by children in classrooms, and are quiet.
 - The best option we've researched so far is a Canadian organization, Run for Life, whose Sparks Fly initiative works to get these bikes into schools (<http://sparks.runforlife.ca/>) — here to plant the seed before the next PAC budget — will PAC consider funding efforts to get some of these bikes in our classrooms?
 - Prices: one bike \$725 each; 3: \$2100; 5: \$3500; 6: \$3990; 10: \$6300, reducing the price in a bulk buy to \$630 each.
 - Maura initially thought perhaps start with a few (3?) in hallways, but putting them into classrooms would be best, although this is a challenge in a school this size. Candice noted that she would try it out in her room.
 - Maura presented a short video from Sparks Fly showing bikes in use in a classroom
 - Brenna suggested the possibility of doing a bulk order with other schools in the district — Maura offered to reach out those who have purchased before.
 - Maura noted that the bikes would allow the funds to benefit as many kids as possible, reaching the biggest population — engaging in multiple spaces in the school. Adrienne wondered about polling teachers re: support; Brenna felt that most would be receptive. Although the investment is significant, these bikes would be better than adjusting a standard (less expensive) stationary bike because they are purpose-designed for classrooms, quiet — warranty/liability considerations as well.
 - Katia asked Maura to let PAC know once she has talked to other schools about possibility of bulk orders.

2. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

Explaining the Physical and Health Education Curriculum

- including outcomes for sexual health education
- Brenna: opportunity to talk about what the new curriculum looks like, arising from questions at last meeting — bringing some of the discussion of curriculum writ large to share with PAC, parent education
- First, an orientation as to how it works, then specifics and how we are supporting this at school — see <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>
 - model: “Know-Do-Understand” — content/competencies/big ideas
 - reference to BC Education curriculum site on Physical & Health Education, <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/physical-health-education> — clickable to see what’s covered — now all on one page, rather than multiple pages
 - Brenna circulated a handout which provides a snapshot of the Physical & Health Education curriculum from K-12 — lets parents know where we are going
 - question from Alison: the listed topics are marked as “could include” — clarification as to what this means in practice? Brenna: “could include” provides flexibility for individual teachers, also ensures that the list is not exhaustive. Katia wondered whether this is a difference between old & new curriculum. Brenna: not necessarily. The focus is on skills/competencies in developing curriculum this time, rather than knowledge pieces — fostering critical thinking and practice.
 - content for K/1 — focus in early years is on abuse prevention. Material tends to be repeated over two years to reinforce messages. Nicole asked whether parents were given advance notice that abuse prevention and/or sexual health topics will be discussed in class. Brenna: yes, more detail to come later in the presentation.
 - Grade 2/3 content — focus on consent, safety
 - Grade 4/5 — puberty, physical changes in the body — also complements the science curriculum on human body — often teachers will plan to work these topics together.
 - middle school — Grade 6 curriculum highlights social/emotional changes, SOGI — note that we do talk about families and different kinds of families throughout the curriculum
 - Grade 7 — STIs
 - Grades 8-10 — healthy decision making, self-protection strategies, as well as emotional/physical/social changes
 - in the past, we have done the Red Cross CARE Kit with K/1. This year, our new counsellor, Jacqueline MacLennan, will be bringing in a program developed in collaboration with Coastal Health, and with which she has lots of experience in Vancouver: Talking about Personal Space (TAPS). This is a co-teaching model with classroom teachers in K/1— parents will be notified so they can support it by talking about it with their kids at home.
 - Grades 2/3 much the same
 - Grades 4/5 — Island Sexual Health will come in to support teachers, present their workshop on maturation. ISH has agreed to come in at different times over the next few months, in order to coordinate with the times that our Grade 4/5 teachers will be covering the human body as part of science curriculum.
 - Jana: my class will be having the workshop next week, as we have been studying the body — the session is scheduled for the afternoon so kids can go home and talk with parents

further. More sessions will be coming in January-February — a real advantage here is the flexibility for teachers in working with a local organization, recognizing that teachers know their own classes and can judge when during the year they think it will be most appropriate/effective. ISH is used widely throughout the district — they also do a parents' night, often before all classes have their workshop, but this year the time for us is likely in January.

- Katia: how best to maximize attendance? Jana: can put date in the notification letter to parents, also provide a reminder for parents whose children might be having the workshop as late as April.

- PAC will be happy to help support this initiative

- Katie: is this an outgrowth of last month's conversation? Katia: this came out of a followup meeting with Brenna & Jana — perhaps difference between something growing organically from our school's circumstances instead of imposing an external solution.

- Cost is \$250 for whole school, and ISH will present the workshop in individual classes (best practice)

- Brenna: offer to teachers of supplementary help works best in our context

- Katie: this is what I was hoping for

- Brenna: we can use our reports at PAC meetings as a way that we can answer questions that parents have about teaching, curriculum, what is happening for development in our school — also highlights areas where we can go deeper, and find the best solution for our school

- Nicole spoke to the value of the big picture snapshot

- Brenna also noted that if parents have questions, this program enables teachers/administration to can refer directly to curriculum to show what children should be learning.

- Katie: will there be a review on ISH at the end of year from teachers? Brenna: it is a choice to embed when it works in their classroom. Jana noted that ISH has changed to meet the new curriculum, has moved with us & Ministry; both she & Darren Companion have worked with them previously and are familiar with their approach and content.

- PAC can help with support for organizing and publicizing the parent info night. Again, cost to school is minimal. Next year, we can try to set up in September so we can book for when it works for teachers. Jana noted that making contact with Jennifer Gibson took time, but the actual scheduling was very simple and effective.

Doncaster Child Care spaces

- Brenna: SD61 put forward a grant proposal for 5 sites, including Doncaster, which had pinch points for child care — this is a great solution moving forward — licensing our school for same amount of spaces. Out-of-School Care (OSC) will be licensed only before & after school in different rooms, opening up in-school spaces like the library and multipurpose room for school use — portables for preschool/daycare. We are not yet completely clear what this will look like — in consultation. Facilities wants to talk to PAC about consultation soon.

- We agreed that PAC would be able to meet with Facilities in January. Usually this would be an exec meeting where we discuss the budget, but as we have chosen to move the AGM from December to possibly May, budget discussions are premature. Brenna reiterated that this initiative is on a tight time frame, with the hope that everything will be done within a year.

- We also need to have community consultation on the sites for portables, for the exclusive use of OSC. The tricky angle for our site is that the OSC provider must work on a non-profit model, and ours is for-profit. However, Carla is interested in exploring moving to a non-profit model, and might need to put together a board. Brenna noted that we have a great

relationship with our existing provider and would like to help them work this out so they can continue. Carla is already part of the consultations that have happened so far.

- Katia proposed that PAC meet with Facilities on **January 10, 2019**.

School Updates

- Brenna: board game café has been operating at lunchtime — huge success, kids loving it. The leadership from grade 5s great — we have recently made name tags for helpers. It will go beyond December — one grade at a time coming in to make space workable.
- Jana: basketball for grade 5s is underway, we have a number of keeners. Jana hopes to work with 4s, possibly 3s and 2s at recess as well through December and January.
- garden update to come ...

3. November 2018 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Cindy Luchka, seconded by Katie Ryan

4. Craft Fair – Katia

- profits: \$7100 after expenses — happy! We are considering raising prices for tables next year, as we had 40 people on the wait list this year — raise \$5 each to \$45 for hallway, \$50 for gym
- volunteers: it was still difficult to get volunteers — in particular, we had fewer people on cleanup than we would have liked. Katie suggested that those set up in the library (free tables for kid crafters) could be responsible for cleanup — the parents are with them. Brenna noted that kids are amazing helpers. Nicole suggested making more effective use of class reps to find volunteers, as people may be less likely to ignore a direct request than a mass email. Robin felt this might backfire and create too much pressure on class reps. Nicole: we don't need to go to extremes, but it can be very easy not to do anything — even a direct email from the class rep might help. Katie: difficulty mobilizing volunteers seems to be a common thread this year. Katia expressed regret that more people don't want to get involved.
- Discussion then turned to the kids' tables — very professional this year, and some very successful in sales. It is possible that the Scholastic Book Fair will be back next year, however — we would like to keep the kids' tables, but don't want to push out the book fair. It might be possible to use the multipurpose room in future, depending on licensing changes.
- Feedback from crafters and customers was overwhelmingly positive
- We also had great community support — \$400 in gift cards from Thrifty's, and we spent just over \$100. Many agreed that we could make better use of the concession. Leftover funds can be put toward server refurbishing, Movie Night. Fujiya contributed gift cards as well, and Starbucks donated coffee.
- Question from Nicole re: parking: has anyone ever approached Cedar Hill Rec about running shuttles between their parking lot and the Craft Fair? A short discussion followed about potential alternatives for parking (e.g. "free shuttle from..."). This may be something to explore for next year.
- Katia: Tina will not be able to do our online advertising next year, so we will need someone to take this on. Vendors could also post their own advertising. Nicole may be willing to learn; we can also post in the newsletter, asking whether a parent who is great with social media might be interested in taking this on.

5. Thank you to the McNally Foundation for financing the “Magic Forest” restoration - Brenna, Robin
- Brenna: more cards, etc., have come in from classes — Robin has written a thank-you letter on behalf of the PAC, and Brenna will write one from the school.
 - We will package this up and send it off to the McNally Foundation before Winter Break.
 - Robin will follow up with Mercedes about scanning hard copies of cleanup photos.

6. Movie Night – Nicole

- Adrienne helped Sam last year in concession, has some ideas
- Nicole will connect with Brenna around the tech
- last year the movie was *Elf*, year before was two short ones — poll? Nicole has a lot of Christmas movies, cartoon shorts which we could play — Katia suggested that a message be sent out to families soon, either with a poll, or with possible titles, to keep it fresh in people’s minds
 - volunteers needed: very little to be done for setup, Brenna will help with tech, but we’ll need a few people at the end of the night to tidy up wrappers, etc. Joy-Marie and her daughter have offered to help with concession. We agreed to use the servery rather than a table in the gym, as it’s dark in the gym — can leave one of double doors open so people will find their way.
 - candy, yay or nay? we still have a box of gummies, chips, can get big bags of popcorn
 - attendance is highly variable — weather dependent, etc.
 - Adrienne noted that short movies are great for little kids, and concession sales

7. Christmas fundraisers

- QSP Magazine Subscriptions
 - Cindy had to go — this is underway
- Purdy’s Chocolates
 - Alexis was sick on the day they arrived, so Cindy offered to take on the sorting — Robin helped, and another parent generously joined us for a few minutes before pickup — Brenna & Jana confirmed that parents have been picking up their orders from the office

8. Sexual Health Education at Doncaster – Katia, Jana

- Island Sexual Health workshops discussed during Principal & Vice-Principal’s Reports

9. Garden Project Update — Erin

- Brenna, Jana, Erin, Abigail Bigam, Marnice from healthy schools, and Marnie from Facilities recently met to discuss the garden project — Marnie was very helpful. Brenna: once we have our contacts, they are great at getting things through. Abigail has an extensive proposal, school-funded request to put up fencing and look at sprinkler system — there are some potential complications with water, but they will let us know.
 - consultation — Facilities were helpful with guidance — we have ordered a sign, invitation for people to let their ideas be known — communications director will help us with the letter
 - Hopefully we can break ground in spring — ideally, SE corner by the playground. Again, we need to consult with the neighbours — due diligence.
 - Brenna: thanks to Erin and Abigail for all their hard work, partnership with LifeCycles

10. Treasurer’s Update – Erin

- copies of updated budget are on the table - Monk’s did very well, thanks to Cindy for her hard work on this

- revisit budgeting in the spring with AGM being delayed

11. Servery Cleanout – Katie

- we have a lot of coffee lids ... these could go to MakerSpace!
- nobody will be offended if we just clean it out — Nicole and Katie to work together, take inventory, see what we want to stock — use leftover Thrifty's cards.
- check with Hilda if not sure about cleaning something out

12. Fun Day 2019 - Katia

- Games2U, who provided the inflatables, has gone out of business — this actually allows us to explore other options, gives teacher stations more play time
- Katia has had an email from a parent with many suggestions for stations, probably some quite similar to what teachers are already doing. Uptake for volunteers in June can be an issue, but if some parents want to do a station, we are open to that. Brenna and Candice confirmed that teachers would welcome that as well. If not, PAC can just do the treat at the end — FREEZIES
- Erin: we have money to support additions to Fun Day, since we have paid for inflatables in the past
- one suggestion (Candice and others) is face painting — also more stations with bubbles?
- Katia: Games2U franchise owner no felt there were not really comparable alternatives to their business in Victoria — Par-T-Perfect? Saanich?
- We agreed to try Fun Day minus the inflatables this year, as we think the kids will have a great time regardless.

13. National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration, 21 June 2019 — Jana

- this came up in the PAC exec/admin meeting — Indigenous Peoples in Canada Day — local nations take part — the event is held at Royal Roads, 10-3 — they may not know yet exactly what it will look like, but has happened last 4 years
- protocol starts at 10, welcome and canoe landing — canoe races on Esquimalt Lagoon, they also have a forest walk, activities to do — Shoreline has a big canoe — also music and entertainment, dancing
- we'd have to bus out — given the size of our school, we might have to choose a few grades to go? Katia: PAC could pay for busing with the inflatable/extra gaming grant money
- if we know we're going, can do some teaching on the protocol so kids who are unfamiliar know what they're seeing
- Jana: we could also take a craft or something for our own kids to do — no problem with parking for buses — should give them a heads up that we are coming — low key event, but very special
- lots of enthusiasm for the idea of sending our kids to the event
- a few people wondered if this would be a good alternative to Beach Day

14. Other Projects

- playground committee for the intermediate side — Cindy brought in handouts with proposed design, costs — getting some ideas about forming a committee, doing a big push to do the replacement
 - Adrienne: what does committee do? Katia: handouts reflect the work already done by the primary committee — biggest part of the work is targeted fundraising — events, approaching businesses, writing letters — potential grants for the playground
 - Katie: where are we? \$30K in GIC, another \$10K undifferentiated — another \$2K at the school
 - we need to pay for structure and installation as well. Brenna: Marigold used volunteers for part of it, we can explore that too — overseen, but District is more open to this than previously.
 - probably we need to raise another \$20K. It's unclear whether we would be able to access grants in partnership with OSC, with the changes currently happening.

- Tonight's discussion is mostly proactive — we will delay asking for volunteers to join the committee until January

Doncaster family sports night - Erin

- possibility of using the gym in the spring — family ultimate, rugby, badminton, but not floor hockey (as damage to floors makes it expensive for maintenance) — PAC can use the gym for free (we think) — we can check with rentals — Friday nights? can book dates
- Katia: early months of spring as dead time — good time to do it
- Erin is willing to organize, but not lead on the night — this can go ahead if others are interested. If not, then ultimate in April.
- Katia thought sports might be good during the end of year picnic as well.
- Erin: another idea is to hold a family Board Game Café in the evening — lots of enthusiasm for this idea. We could set up tables in the gym — end of January?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Next Meeting: Thursday 10 January 2019

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm