

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 5 APRIL 2018

Robin Grazley called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Glenn Wagner	Mercedes Schmidt
Robin Grazley	Fiona Ely	Katie Ryan
Adrienne White	Marika Glickman	

Staff: Ms. Brenna O'Connor, Mme Josée Paris

1. March 2018 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Erin Prescott, seconded by Glenn Wagner

Katia Dilkina sends her regards, and apologies for missing tonight's meeting -- she just got back from a trip, encountered some delays on the way home, and is not feeling well on top of that, so she is getting some (well-deserved!) rest tonight.

2. Fundraisers -- Erin, Robin for Katia

- Purdy's Chocolates (Easter)
 - Erin passed on the news from Alexis that the Purdy's fundraiser made about \$300.
- Thrifty Foods Smile Cards
 - Erin has renewed our application. The program now runs year-round, instead of Sept-June only, so those with cards can continue to use them. Thrifty's will donate up to \$1500 in earnings -- \$664 so far.
 - Last year we sent out a notice with reminder about cards. Fairways also gives us 5%, and we have earned about \$300 through them.
 - There are always cards in the office if anyone would like to get another one.
 - It was agreed that we can publicize this program more. Mercedes suggested putting a notice on the big bulletin board to catch parents' eyes.
 - Katie asked about Kindergarten orientation, and suggested putting cards and information about fundraising there if the PAC has a table. Brenna confirmed that orientation will happen in May. Josée suggested placing information about the Monk's school supply order there as well. Erin felt that was a good reminder to touch base with Monk's about the order in the near future. Mercedes asked about the possibility of a mid-year order; Erin suggested following up with the Monk's order coordinators (same as last year, or they have found other parents to take it on). All agreed that this was great information for incoming Kindergarten families to have. Brenna will coordinate with PAC so all the same information goes out.
- World Cup of Soccer - Robin for Katia

- unfortunately we did not win the schools' challenge — Marigold did, with 30 students registered (Doncaster had 15), but hopefully the kids who signed up had fun!

3. Garden Update -- Erin

- West Coast Seeds fundraiser
 - thank you to those who ordered! We raised \$465, and they were easy to work with. Seeds can be picked up tonight if you placed an order. They can also be picked up from the office. An email has gone to those who purchased.
- Whole Foods grant
 - Abigail Bigam applied to Whole Foods for support for the garden project and was approved: \$2000. Erin has not touched base with her yet about next steps. Brenna: the next step in the process will be starting to seek approvals from the District. She will meet with Matthew from LifeCycles soon. The most effective path is to set up the educational piece first and go to Facilities from there. Erin: it will be interesting to hear how much it costs from a District perspective -- estimate of \$8000 to start.

4. TC 10K Thrifty Foods Family Run – Katie

- This event is coming up quickly, on April 29, so we need to push -- so far we have 6 people registered.
- Cross-country is starting up, so we can coordinate with that.
- Josée spoke about cross-country, noting that we don't always do it, but we have good coaching this year -- 5 teachers. The meets are always on Mondays, probably starting April 16 -- 3 meets, no final. Katie suggested we attach information about the TC10K specifically to students involved in cross-country; Brenna agreed we could send it along with the cross-country note that goes home. Katie will send a blurb to Brenna or Josée.
- Question from Marika about ages involved: grades 3-5 for cross-country, all ages are eligible for the Fun Run.
- Question from Fiona: are kids signing up? Brenna noted we had 75 in the fall, not sure of spring numbers yet. Tomorrow (Friday) is first practice. It is great to see so much interest with the teachers -- lots of keen runners, and we have even talked about trying a half-golf course with the school.

5. Walk & Wheel Wednesdays -- Erin

- Cedar Hill and Derby intersection - Natalie, Erin
 - A few weeks ago, Natalie (not present tonight) had passed on the information she learned from her contact at Saanich, and offered to draft a letter from the PAC asking for action on this intersection. Robin spoke briefly with Natalie this morning; she's still willing to do that, but wasn't sure if the PAC felt it was necessary in light of the email Erin got from Saanich. Consensus was that it was a good idea, and Erin will touch base with Natalie and figure it out.

- Erin contacted Kate Bernier at CRD, and shortly after, heard back from Saanich. They let her know that this intersection is considered high priority, and that improvements are about 24 months out -- still worth following up with them.
- Mercedes talked with an officer last year about moving the sign, speed trap -- did this have an effect? Brenna noted that in one campaign, kids drew pictures and officers gave them to drivers instead of tickets -- effective. Erin noted that moving the sign was a quick fix that could be done -- came up as part of the walk with Kate and Troy, the Saanich engineer (6 months later -- "fast" time frame).
- Brenna was also talking with Kate recently, and reported that Sir James Douglas did the CRD Safe Schools program as well and has a committee continuing the work. We could establish a link between that committee and interested parents here, connect with them to think through ways to further safety around the school.
- Question from Mercedes: could police or CRD give us signs to put on neighbours' lawns? Fiona seconded this, noting that signs would be especially effective near the rec centre -- it can be hard to see the school zone coming if you're not familiar with the area. Josée agreed. Adrienne observed that many of the signs she has seen came from ICBC, Erin also mentioned Megson Fitzpatrick. Glenn has seen similar signs in Vancouver, indicating a school within a certain distance. Mercedes felt signs would send the message that it's a community issue for everyone, not just parents at the school -- indicate a bigger problem than just speeding directly inside the school zone.
- Marika noted that speed on Derby leading into the golf course is a problem outside of school hours as well. Her neighbour has written to Saanich requesting that they put in speed bumps, and other neighbours may write in support as well.
- Josée: what about the display signs showing what speed you are going? Brenna: they did that at the beginning of the year, and not many people were actually speeding. Mercedes reiterated that speed is more of an issue just beyond the posted school zone.
- Discussion returned to Walk & Wheel Wednesday events. Erin asked for suggestions for continuing activities or ways to encourage alternate transportation. We have lots of prizes to give out if people have ideas about incentives, different ways to have the conversation. Bike to Work Week is coming up at the end of May -- do we want to do Bling Your Bike again? Poster contests? Josée suggested pairing this up with Bike Rodeo.
- Brenna and Josée observed that the kids really enjoyed the geocaches. Katie and Mercedes echoed this, noting that Erin has done a great job -- thank you from all of us! Consensus was that geocaches could be brought back later in the year -- keep the enthusiasm high by taking them away for a bit.

6. Welcome Pole -- update

- Brenna: George Jay just had an opening for a new pole -- we could reach out and start finding out about costs.
- Erin briefly reviewed Leticia & Alik's proposal for those who weren't at the meeting last month.

- We have interest, but it's a matter of figuring out next steps to do it right, and considerable fundraising. Brenna will talk with George Jay & Quadra to get ideas -- network first, then get an idea of costs.
- Mercedes: Aliko says she is working on follow up.
- Brenna stated that the school has also been in contact with district officer re: training in First Peoples principles of learning for teachers.

7. Parent Education opportunity – Fiona

- Power Up workshop (sexual health) by Kerri Isham or Tegan Ringham;
- <http://powerupworkshops.ca>
- <https://youtu.be/RR0-ShFWsok>
- fee \$500 (+ commute from Nanaimo for Kerri)
- Kerri Isham is a certified sexual health educator -- Fiona heard about her from a friend who highly recommended the education Kerri has provided at her children's schools up-Island, and has looked into bringing it into our school.
- Kerri does workshops for parents and students, but her program is primarily for students -- K-12, age-appropriate. She has suggested offering a parent workshop first, to get support and see if everyone is on board.
- Her fee is fairly high -- this is a one-evening presentation. Tegan is on her team in town, and would come in to teach the children if we proceeded. Glenn clarified that there would be an additional fee for students' learning -- Fiona thinks so.
- Mercedes, as a former public health nurse, offered some background about how sexual health education has been offered in schools, and recent changes (from a contact still in public health). Funding is no longer there for school teams, so each school is left to make its own decisions.
- Fiona directed everyone's attention to the links above for parents to learn more -- Kerri talks about abuse prevention, acceptance of peers, anti-bullying.
- Question from Mercedes: would there be money from the school to fund this kind of program, considering that it used to be a public health responsibility? Brenna: we could look at providing school funding. We do offer a few pieces: the Care Kit for Grade 1s, and with the recent curriculum changes, PE does incorporate physical and health education. The focus on promoting gender inclusivity also makes it a good time to have those conversations.
- Robin recommended Jennifer Gibson at Island Sexual Health; however, as Mercedes pointed out, she is excellent, her honorarium is low, and she is super-busy. Brenna reiterated that there is money to support a program like Kerri Isham's. Fiona: suggestion is 2 60-minute or 4-30 minutes sessions per year for students.
- Question from Glenn: is this included in the curriculum now? Brenna and Josée: somewhat -- teachers appreciate support in this area.
- Mercedes: looking back at doing this kind of education with public health, there is real importance to someone sitting down with kids and talking directly with them about what's happening, providing hands-on education with feminine hygiene products, for example.
- Fiona noted that the earlier you start, more scientific it is -- facts, respect.
- Question from Marika: when does the Care Kit happen, so parents can be prepared for conversations? Is information available to support parents in determining what's age-appropriate? Brenna and Josée confirmed that a letter goes home to parents

before they start. Mercedes and Robin mentioned resources available from Island Sexual Health. Fiona added that Kerri Isham has written two books; *Body Smart: Right From the Start* would be especially helpful.

- Fiona wondered if part of the budget for internet safety talk could be redirected toward Kerri Isham's parent workshop, since it covers some of the same territory. Erin stated that so far, we have raised \$29 000, and we have money available that has not been allocated. From a budgetary standpoint, we can afford to do this without reallocating funds if people think it's worthwhile. Katie queried whether the same grant that funded Allison Rees's talk in the fall might be available. Fiona: that was only \$250, and would be for next year (annual).
- Next steps? Katie: if we started in the spring to get parents on board (and possibly held the parent workshop), we could move toward student presentations for next year. There was support for this idea. Fiona will get in touch with Kerri Isham and find out about next steps.

8. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

- Garry Oak Meadow Restoration Update
 - Brenna: today we received a cheque for \$10395.00 from the Patrick J. McNally Charitable Foundation, so work can proceed on the restoration. Thank you to Katia & Erin for sourcing quotes from arborists to support the application. I have contacted Facilities, and they have already issued the purchase order and contacted Bartlett. The work needed to open the meadows will be done once Bartlett has availability.
 - Discussion followed about having a reopening ceremony, perhaps tied in with litter and ivy removal. One next step could be to organize a parent/community cleanup (adults) -- Mercedes would be happy to organize a COMMUNITY cleanup, involving our neighbours. Erin noted that Melissa is also interested in organizing. Brenna will talk to Facilities to make sure that our cleanup respecting the union.
 - Katie & Mercedes both spoke to the helpfulness of the community around our school -- "shining star" -- if we contact the newspaper, we should mention that.
- Josée: MakerSpace -- Dayna Mottishaw, our MakerSpace teacher, has organized a two-day special event with Science Venture at UVic -- all day in the library, stations, problem-solving.
- spoke about cross-country briefly already -- practices will be held Wednesdays & Fridays starting tomorrow, meets are typically on Monday after school -- usually 3 meets, no final
- Track is coming up as well -- the meet will be held on May 28 at UVic -- also for grades 3-5
- tennis lessons are starting next week in the gym for all grades 3-4 students -- bilingual instructor
- Grade 4 students will have an Emergency Preparedness workshop on April 28 in the afternoon -- covering earthquake, floods, how to be safe at home. This is a positive and age-appropriate presentation!
- Brenna: learning updates -- we have done some work with math & math manipulatives, and have also looked carefully at literacy resources. We just did a huge order for older kids' books in particular. We will be developing some literature circles with intermediate teachers, using some of the new books that delve into real issues for discussion, working on higher level thinking skills -- cross-collaboration on best practices with reading. The teachers very excited. Purchasing happened in English and French -- thousands of dollars' worth.

- Our librarian also just bought a set of books exploring traditional territories all around the province, showing what they are really like -- animals, culture -- great books for kids to see, and it's nice to see teachers so excited about these as well.
- Our speech & language therapist, Melanie Houston, has been really passionate about early intervention with literacy: how do we best help kids to become fluent readers, develop phonological awareness? She recently did a Jolly Phonics workshop. These methods have been shown to work, push kids into developing the awareness they need to be strong readers quickly. Primary depts are working on that, and some of our teachers already quite familiar with these methods, putting them to work. Exciting work coming up lately on literacy!

9. Other Business/Questions

- Mercedes: how do we set a community message for our school starting in September? Bingo Night as a lovely way of coming together ... What can we do in September to really cement the transfer of values around community, make everyone school-proud right away?
 - Discussion ensued about ideas. These included holding a parent meeting in September, where families get to ask questions about what happens in the school year, what to expect, what's coming up, and also let people know with what & when we need volunteer support -- Town Hall. Linking this to the welcome BBQ/Meet the Teacher is one possibility, although a few people noted the logistical difficulties in bringing together such a large community. One idea was to hold stations, where parents could circulate through and get a chance to meet representatives from the PAC, administration, etc. Many people remember James Hansen (past principal) speaking to the whole school on the field with a megaphone, showing the power of a single gesture. It would be good to find a way we can reach the pockets of people who aren't being reached by PAC meetings, really launch the school goals and community code of conduct, and mobilize practical support. Last June's year-end picnic was a great example of the school community really coming together -- let's promote this.
 - Katie suggested putting this topic on next month's agenda so we can continue to brainstorm ideas and find some solutions.
- Mercedes noted that we also need to plan the year-end picnic -- can be discussed at our next meeting. We will need freezies ... Erin also reminded the group that we had discussed having music, possibly Cindy's husband's band? Since the event is on school property, we likely don't need a permit.
- Year-end beach days and Fun Day have been planned out: Monday June 25 for Beach Days (Gyro), and Fun Day is Weds 27th in the afternoon. June 28 is last day of school & grade 5 BBQ. Table date decision until next month? Josée suggested June 21? solstice and National Aboriginal Day.
- Katie also raised the need to plan for any recognition of teacher retirements and parents leaving the PAC. Cindy looked after this last year, but we recall it felt rushed and would like to avoid that. Joy-Marie and Wendy will be leaving us this year -- we must find someone to take on hot lunch, otherwise it won't happen.
- Fiona: back to community-building -- maybe something on the website? E.g. a video of someone speaking about current things, with more info below or links? That would reach out to a lot of families, and is also accessible for Kindergarten or new families who are overwhelmed in September and might want to catch up later.
- Discussion turned to Kindergarten registration, configurations, and the best way to disseminate information about diversity in learning throughout the school. Early information about

configurations may be shared next month. Brenna reminded the group that catchment boundary decisions (upcoming) are made at the Board level, and are public if people are interested in making their opinions known.

Next Meeting: Thursday 3 May 2018

Robin Grazley adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm