

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 2 MAY 2019

The Budget Meeting for 2019-20 was held at 6 pm.

Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm (immediately following the budget meeting).

In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Robin Grazley	Katie Ryan
Katia Dilkina	Marika Glickman	Rebecca Goostrey
Cyndi Whaley	Cindy Luchka	Elena Schultz
Maria Gateley	Nicole Normand	Elizabeth Corry

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

1. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

Presentation: Math Curriculum

- Brenna introduced the new math curriculum with reference to the Ministry of Education's [website](#): core competencies, curricular competencies, and content -- multiple strategies to build understanding number sense
- problem-solving, communicating learning in key ways
- Brenna shared FSA question examples -- expectation is that these questions cannot be solved by rote: again, multiple ways of solving problems
- We have been able to draw on two experts, Nikki Lineham and also Carol Fullerton, who have worked with a lot of our teachers
- Jana introduced the parents to two quick exercises involving number lines. Classes also work with shapes as math manipulatives.
- shift toward showing mathematical thinking rather than simply providing the correct answer to a question
- Parents then tried an exercise involving 4 ways to represent a multiplication question: estimation; solve numerically; solve visually; write in-context problem/solution
- Question from Elena on testing: how would this exercise be marked? Brenna: an exercise like this is more of an assessment tool, showing what students understand and where they need to deepen their understand -- maybe easier for kids than for adults, since we have been less exposed to these methods of teaching. To meet expectations, students need to show they can do the visualization -- if they are not able to, teachers spend more time working on it.
- Katia noted that this way of teaching math lets it appeal to those beyond the abstract thinkers -- showing multiple applications makes math more relevant to a variety of people.

- The presentation on First Peoples Principles of Learning was postponed due to lack of time.

School Updates

- Brenna: first off, changes in leadership at the school for next year: Brenna will be taking the role of Principal at École Willows Elementary, and Jana will become Principal at Eagle View Elementary. The extent of these changes, throughout the district, were somewhat unexpected -- thank you for your emails, I have enjoyed working here and being part of the community. Doncaster's new Principal, Cindy Harte (Torquay), will be invited to the next PAC meeting. The incoming Vice Principal, Tim McCreesh, has been VP at Macaulay, where he has been working with our past VP, Josée Paris.
- Congratulations to Jana!
- parent question: what is the reason for all the shuffling this year? Brenna: there were a number of retirements this year, which led to district leadership teams talking, making decisions, and new deployments. There will be continuity -- connections among the leadership teams. It is not typical to have people switch so quickly, but at the district level, looking at good fits for the various schools. Jana pointed out that 3-5 year terms are often typical for principals and vice principals, whether moves are requested or not, and administrators know that going in.
- Parent question: is Doncaster the only school with changes to the entire team (i.e. principal and VP changing)? Answer: yes -- but Doncaster is thriving and can handle the change.
- Brenna reiterated that she and Jana will do lots to support the transition, make it smooth. Brenna has been talking with Cindy -- she is a very experienced principal, approachable, and the new team is a good fit for Doncaster.
- Brenna offered a preview of division assignments for new year (subject to change). Staffing is in progress -- currently at mobility rounds.
- parent question re: how classes are shaped, why final decisions are not made until September -- Brenna and Jana discussed the possible changes which can occur between May and the first weeks of school. Having students return to their previous classes for the first week while numbers are finalized ultimately causes less disruption.
- Discussion turned briefly to new catchment boundaries -- a year of transition before any changes approved would take effect.
- ultimate frisbee -- Darren has been coming into gr 4/5 classes -- mini-jamboree at Rogers upcoming, kids are excited to have a new sport -- lunchtime clubs starting next week
- track is on for grades 3-5 -- meet coming up on the 24th -- so many teachers volunteering -- first meeting has happened for kids already, practices start next week at lunch
- question from Cindy/Katie: will there still be space for the track with the new childcare units? It would be disappointing to lose space for it. Brenna & Jana are also planning to check to make sure there will be space for the school garden in that area as well. Jana: new configurations might be required -- the track might be laid out on an angle instead. They say they have

measured it. Brenna added that this is why we want to paint the garden in now. Results of the consultation meeting with our neighbours mean we'll need to shift the garden space toward the primary playground, sandpit from the original proposed site. However, it will actually be cheaper for water if we move it.

- Other events coming up this month: Art Starts performances, Jump Rope for Heart, author visits, also Welcome to Kindergarten -- Katia has flyer for Brenna to send out to new families.
- date for the end of year picnic: June 20 is Beach Day, and June 21 all grade 5s are at Camp Thunderbird -- last day of school is June 27. **Proposed dates are Weds. June 19 or Fri. June 14** -- Mercedes has offered to organize if given a date.
- reunification drill coming up on May 9
- oranges for Jump Rope for Heart -- assembly May 27, they jump on the 30th. Katia has contacted Save-On re: donating the oranges. We will need volunteers to help cut oranges in the morning on the 30th -- Rebecca volunteered to help.

2. April 2019 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Elena Schultz, seconded by Erin Prescott.

3. Boardgame Night -- April 11

- 10 families came, people had a good time -- not crowded, very low-key. Some parents reported that their kids expected something busier -- perhaps more like other evening events, or Board Game Club at lunch? Erin noted that this may just have been the effects of a low turnout. Katia is happy to organize again. We agreed that it may be more popular as a bad-weather event, although proximity to Easter weekend and extended cold/flu season may also have lowered the turnout. We will choose a date for next year, and have it in the calendar.

4. VCPAC Meeting

- Elena attended the meeting on April 23 as Doncaster's rep -- a little overwhelming as a first-timer to join all the veteran PACers, but Doncaster's voice was heard.
- Discussions included prep for the AGM and election of new leadership, also the provincial meeting -- one divisive issue on the table is BC adding driver's ed as a classroom option

5. Intermediate Playground

- We are still waiting for information from the district on the final quote, and on what forms of recognition we might be able to offer corporate donors. Brenna has been in communication with Marni at Facilities about these matters, and will follow up again -- Marni has been very helpful and supportive, but is very busy right now with the childcare builds and other initiatives happening in the district. Our patience is appreciated.
- Following discussions during the budget meeting, the decision was made to proceed with requests for corporate donations, working with an estimated cost of \$60 000 for equipment and installation.

- Marika and Katie will start distributing ask letters directly to businesses, and to parents asking about connections with businesses or other organizations which might be interested in sponsoring this purchase. PAC plans to contribute \$45 000 from our current funds, but will need to raise an additional \$15 000. Katie will send the letter for parents to Margo to be distributed.
- Katia will give Marika access to the DPAC fundraising gmail account.
- We also need a google doc spreadsheet to track donation requests -- Cyndi will fill that in.
- Marika noted that Coast Capital Insurance (Western Financial) reached out to us about a \$5000 grant -- they want to help with our fundraising efforts. It is a lottery, but we have answered their questions and we are in the running. Their decision will not be made until November, though.
- **We plan to vote to approve the intermediate playground expenditure at the June PAC meeting, provided we have the estimate from the district.**

6. Aboriginal Day

- Jana has checked website, but all information is still from last year. However, word is that the events will be happening again this year. Jana has also left messages at Songhees Wellness Centre but hasn't heard back, so unclear what's happening.
- We had discussed PAC sponsoring buses so that the whole school could attend. We probably need to book buses soon -- best to book, then cancel if need be? check with Margo. The grade 5s will be gone to Camp Thunderbird, but K-4s could go. However, it is the day after Beach Day.
- Jana suggests asking teachers if they are interested, presenting it as an option. We would have to leave here when the bell goes to be there for protocols, landing. The staff committee seemed keen when this idea was proposed -- a laid-back day, but lots of learning -- field games.
- Brenna & Jana will consult with teachers, then Margo, and let Katia know.
- Hopefully some parent volunteers would go as well.
- Parent question: where is Beach Day held? Cadboro Bay -- we'll be using parent drivers this year instead of buses.

7. Active Transport to School/Bike to School Week

- Cyndi, Erin and Brenna met recently to plan out the schedule: bike blender; Principal's Walk to be held June 5 (the first Weds in June); May 15, MEC doing bike tuneups -- prizes, tallies during the week for classes
- We will confirm a schedule to send out to families -- this committee will ask Cobs for donations for food -- we do already have a donation from them for parent appreciation day (June 12) -- can ask Thrifty's again for fruit platters

8. Welcome to Kindergarten

- May 22: 9-10:30 am and 1-2:30 pm -- split into two sessions again, as this was successful last year

- PAC will have a table where we can greet and talk to people in both sessions, share information, and invite new families to attend June meeting and end of year picnic -- Katia and Robin volunteered, anyone else who wants to join us is welcome

9. Craft Fair

- Craft Fair registration opened today, and already several vendors have registered -- price per table is up this year to \$45. We have new vendors wanting to participate as well.
- this year, Katia's goal is to have all the tables assigned before September. As discussed in previous months, Nicole Woods will hopefully be able to help out -- Katia and Nicole will meet on this soon. Katie wondered if we needed to request an additional team member. Katia felt there was still time to see whether this felt manageable with Nicole's help and some delegation. Nicole is still committed to be PAC VP, although she has not been able to attend the last couple of meetings.

10. Monk Office school supplies

- Cindy has sent Monk our lists (which Margo prepared early -- thank you!). Monk will send it back and Cindy will vet it, then we can set days and send out info for ordering. Brenna will make sure all the new families get the notice.
- We hope to have order information ready for Welcome to Kindergarten, although this will depend on Monk.

11. End of Year Activities

- Teacher's appreciation breakfast:
 - Michelle helped with this last year and may be willing to do it again -- Katia will check
 - Cook's Day Off has closed down. Hilda will have info from the company who did the Christmas Breakfast: they supply hot things and leadership can get extras from grocery store. The breakfast doesn't have to be held at 8 am either.
 - Maria may be able to help Michelle -- also Jen Bateman.
- books for teachers, parents who have been active in PAC:
 - Cindy volunteered to do this again, has a list started.
- End of year picnic:
 - Mercedes has offered to organize once we have a date -- again, Weds the 19th or Fri the 14th (the latter is preferable)
- Fun Day:
 - donations/buying -- freezies? Very popular with the kids, but it seems like there is always freezie drama: problems with storage, making sure they are all frozen, etc. Popsicles would be easier.
 - We should also make sure we have a gluten free option.

- Cindy will get POPSICLES for Fun Day -- will Mercedes need to select a different option for the picnic? A brief discussion followed. Some parents liked the idea of ice cream, others preferred we stick to a single offering that is also dairy and gluten free.

12. 2019/20 Calendar

- Proposed dates for bookings:
 - September:
 - 5 PAC meeting & social -- Katia, Cyndi, Katie to organize (June newsletter)
 - 19 BBQ/picnic -- gym to be booked in case of rain -- pending meet the teacher
 - October:
 - 24 -- Halloween Dance -- Halloween on Thursday
 - November:
 - 15 Board Game Night
 - 23 Craft Fair
 - December:
 - 13 Movie Night
 - January:
 - 24 Board Game Night OR Movie Night
 - February:
 - 21 Bingo Night
 - March:
 - spring break
 - April:
 - TBA -- gym not as busy in April
 - May:
 - TBA
 - June:
 - end of year BBQ -- doesn't require booking

Next Meeting: Thursday 6 June 2019

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm