

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 2020

Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

In attendance:

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|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Nicole Woods | Robin Grazley | Katia Dilkina |
| Adrienne White | Erin Prescott | Fiona Ely |
| Cindy Luchka | Elena Schultz | Alison Hamer |
| Cyndi Whaley | Jen Grant | Kecia Hosein |

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

School Updates

- Cindy H: update on Kindergarten registration for 2020-21:
 - 38 students enrolled in FRIM (cap), with waitlist
 - 36 students registered in English (compared with usual projection of 18 students) -- may include some catchment students who are waitlisted for FRIM. Schools are experiencing a blip in K registration across the board, however.
 - Nice to have a balance between FRIM and English numbers
 - Transfer requests happen next week, which may create changes, but we expect about 38 in FRIM and 34 in English
- Pro-D Day upcoming February 14:
 - Administrators across the district will be getting together with Dr. Leyton Schnellert from UBC, discussing leadership and meeting the learning needs of a diverse population
 - Some of our teachers will be attending Tapestry (tri-district workshop); others will be in working groups at the school
 - EAs will either update their First Aid training or attend a cultural awareness event, visiting locations around the city
- Combined Pink Shirt Day and Celebration of Learning assembly at the end of this month (February 27):
 - Div. 5 will be dancing with the symphony and will share from their performance
 - Parents are welcome to attend.
 - Question from Katia: are Celebration of Learning assemblies new this year?
Answer from Cindy H & Tim: no, this was the model in previous years as well.
Teachers can sign up to share things their classes are working on.
- The NED Show is presenting on February 28:
 - they will have yo-yos for sale around the presentation (pay it forward), so parents have already received a heads up so kids can earn yo-yo money
 - More information will be shared soon

- Poultry in Motion:
 - Chicks and hens will be visiting the school in April
 - Fits in well with curriculum at all levels

- Tim: Staff Updates:
 - Ms. Montgomery broke her wrist and was away for a while -- she is recovering, and returning to work now
 - Mme Skinner's mother has passed away -- Mme Skinner will be off the rest of this week, and next. Our thoughts and support are with her.

- Cindy H: changes going on in the building:
 - In the hall by the drop loop/cage, we are creating a space off the Learning Support room (also accessible from the adjoining washroom) which can accommodate some of our students with diverse needs
 - The crew will also be removing the alcove from the library and returning that space to M. Bremaud's room -- they will also be renovating floors there

- Good news: the school garden has been plotted!
 - Katia provided a recap of the garden project for parents who might be unfamiliar with events so far.
 - Cindy H thanked PAC exec for the letter to Marni at Facilities regarding the delay on this project. Copies of PAC's letter and Marni's response were circulated. Exec noted that our goal was not only to get our project underway, but also to suggest that the district give some thought to improving the process for school gardens in future.
 - Katia and Nicole both raised the drainage issue. Erin clarified that the beds are to be mounded, and separated with gravel paths; we will have time to figure this out. Katia noted that this is more of a problem in the new site than the one we originally proposed.
 - Thank you Erin for your leadership on this project!

- Cindy H passed along a request from the EAs that we discuss fun lunch packaging:
 - Currently, fun lunch is creating some issues for recycling. There is little guidance around what can be composted or recycled, lack of receptacles, etc. -- it feels bad to tell the students to just throw it in the garbage.
 - Erin: would be interested in working with grade 5 lunch monitors to help with this, talk about where school waste goes.
 - Cindy H: we could add to next month's agenda? Our wish within the building is to create less waste in general -- let's think about some ideas and discuss.
 - Discussion turned to the Booster juice cups -- they are labelled "compostable," but may actually create more waste because we lack facilities to deal with them.
 - Nicole: we should probably involve the people who are doing fun lunch if we're making big changes. More practically, let's plan in advance for fun lunch days so we have

appropriate receptacles in the classrooms. Cindy H agreed that we need a process, supported by everyone -- develop a system.

- Fiona agreed that lunch monitors would be a great asset -- we could involve discussion of how to recycle the various fun lunch packaging in their training.
- Cindy H: keep things as they are for now, but look at changes for next year?
- Cindy L noted an additional problem: we are very short on parent helpers again, so that's part of the issue. Parent volunteers don't have time to stay to collect recycling or explain procedures, as they may be delivering lunch to two or three classrooms.
- Actions:
 - Adrienne will make an additional call for volunteers for hot lunch in this month's newsletter
 - Katia will let Leanne know that this concern has been raised
- Fiona: picture boards work really well for instructions -- could have an example of items from each lunch and what to do with them. Parents agreed that it would be ideal if we could place one in each classroom for reference.

- Cindy H: recently, the strategic plan went out electronically to families -- lofty goals, they are asking for consultation from all levels. Please take a copy tonight if you are interested, let Tim and me know what you think, and we'll pass it on.

2. January 2020 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Nicole Woods, seconded by Cindy Luchka

3. Movie Night (January 17)

- Katia: thank you to Cyndi for organizing movie night! Cyndi W: it was fun! Thanks to those who helped -- I would be happy to do it again. There were fewer people than last year -- about 50.
- We even made some money from concession and sales of Doncaster Wear -- good thing to have concession in the gym, especially since the servery hatch window is broken ...
- Katia: what do we want to do next year? January again? Cyndi W: doing it in December (Christmas theme) makes sense, and also makes it easy to select a family-friendly movie -- as long as we can find a date that works. Nicole suggested choosing a date earlier in December to catch more families before they are busy with holiday stuff. The other option is to choose a Thursday, rather than Friday.
- Katia will look at the calendar, and choose a date in December again.

4. School Garden

- See discussion above

5. Intermediate Playground

- Katia gave a quick recap of the intermediate playground replacement project for new parents/those who haven't been at meetings recently (PEP grant; timeline; inclusive changes and the requirement for rubber surfacing)

- rubber surfacing is more expensive than the playground itself -- cost depends on fall height of structures, size. Cindy L has been in dialogue with Swing Time about quotes -- thank you Cindy for all this work!
- we now have quotes for the surface and equipment -- with the PEP grant, PAC money, and possibly other grant money, we hope we can afford the proposed design. We'll also be applying for two grants to offset the cost of rubber surfacing (Tire Stewardship and Kal Tire Replay Fund). The deadline for both of those is the end of February. Thank you to Cyndi, Cindy L, Katie, Robin, and Cindy H for working on this!
- Katia noted that the timelines make it complicated, since we have to apply for the rubber grants before we know about the PEP grant. Now we wait: March for PEP, April for TSG, later still for Kal Tire.
- Katia provided an explanation of the removal of the Apollo spinner we previously had, and why we have chosen to replace it with the much smaller Ocean Wave -- this piece is more accessible, has a lower fall height (so saves money on rubber surfacing) -- emphasis on multiple abilities and collaborative play.
- Discussion turned to Braefoot, who received a PEP grant last year but have not yet installed their playground. They are applying for the TSG this year -- some concern that they may not get it? Katia has been in touch with Donna from their PAC, and it's not clear whether they applied last year. It's worth noting that they have their costs covered, but want to reallocate funds to add another structure if they get the TSG.
- Cindy L provided an update re: TSG application, and Robin re: Kal Tire. We anticipate both grant applications should be ready to submit next week -- will coordinate with Cindy H about submission.
- Thanks again to all who have been working on this project!

6. Bike Rack

- Great news: a new bike rack is coming! Cindy H assumes it's on the way, will follow up (Erin had been in touch through CRD -- delay occurred when contacts changed).
- Elena: where will it go? Cindy H: additional one will be placed near the library.
- We will need to get facilities to install the bike rack ... request in soon?

- Nicole: do we have a timeline on the reopening of the cage and path? Cindy H: the cage is accessible again, but often the fence is still in the way ... they are within the timeline. Parents remarked on the efficiency with which these childcare portables have been installed.

- Those present also noted the new library tables. Cindy H explained that Mme Pereira's husband donated his office furniture when his business when went remote -- many thanks!

7. Bingo Night (Feb. 21)

- Katia passed on a three-point message from Mercedes:
 - food forms will come out soon
 - We still need prizes -- what can we offer?

- Doncaster wear? another thing to put in the newsletter (please donate prizes). Purdy's gift cards may also work. Nicole: at the Craft Fair, we sometimes get a lot of stuff -- we should consider keeping some of it back for things like this. Katia noted that Mercedes was hoping for physical things to give away. Cindy H will put a notice in Friday's update, and Katia will also send out a request through class reps -- could each division give one thing as a prize? Nicole suggested that people may have new regifiable stuff (excess Christmas presents??) -- drop off prize donations in the office (to PAC drawer).
- We could offer Doncaster wear for sale at Bingo Night (even if it is a prize)
- Mercedes will also need volunteers on the day, especially to hand out the food -- likely about 5:30. Katia will check with Mercedes about a poster.
- we do have a caller, but note that we will need one for next year, as Heather is moving away

8. Easter Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser

- Alexis is handling this -- an email will be sent out

9. Spring Fundraiser

- junk-in-your-trunk parking lot garage sale -- Cedar Hill just did a similar one on January 25. They did really well -- Amber (organizer) said they would definitely do it again.
- Cindy L was there all day helping out -- people were excited to get in early (9 am a better start?), but setup took a long time. They made about \$1300 -- \$700 from tables, some from donation table, and then concession. The biggest challenge was the stuff left at the end of the day -- parents had to haul things away to Salvation Army.
- Cindy H: would eliminating donation tables take care of that? Katia and Cindy L: yes, but less \$ earned.
- Katia: we have to decide what we'd do -- Cedar Hill did preregistration, a lot more like the craft fair, but it doesn't seem worth it for \$1000. If people just came with their cars, there's less of a dumping issue also. We could provide tables if necessary, but ...
- Nicole: could we set time limits on moving a vehicle? safety issue. Cindy H: we did it in the parking lot for a set time (4 hours). No one moved, there were tables, \$20/site -- some prebooked (knew how many to expect). It can be done indoors too. Katia and Nicole felt that indoors seemed a lot more work, and the bottleneck for entry is the most stressful part of the craft fair. Parents had a preference to keep things simple, v. self-contained -- what fits in your car, old-fashioned style, rain or shine.
- Katia: preregistration could be signup sheet and drop box in the office
- Cindy H: would it be open to the community? Cindy L: Cedar Hill's was.
- 30 spots in parking lot? 40? N: include picnic blanket area on the grass?
- Cindy L wondered when will the work be done in the parking lot area ... would the parking lot be available? Cindy H: issue would be if they're repaving.
- Nicole suggested we table this discussion until we have more info. We agreed to return to this discussion at the April meeting. Cindy L reminded us that we need to advertise heavily (Used Vic, Facebook, etc.) so people know to come.

10. Fun Day

- Nicole looked into other providers for inflatables, and it is not cheap. There is potential, but it will be pricey. Larger structures are rentals by the day, \$325-450 for a single structure -- we would need to book the staff (incl liability), or use parent volunteers. This raised a question: Fun Day is a teacher-run event, rather than a PAC event ... Nicole & Katia talked about doing an inflatable at the back to school BBQ instead so the spotlight for Fun Day is on the teachers' stations. Katia also pointed out that flow is better at the BBQ (i.e. not everyone is there at the same time, and less people). Adrienne reminded us that it often rains the night of the BBQ. Nicole did find that a number of the inflatables are rain-friendly, however.
- Parents agreed that we will let the teachers handle Fun Day, and discuss in June the possibility of providing inflatables at the BBQ instead. We may also have to think about this in light of the playground budget. Cindy H raised the possibility of selling tickets for the inflatable. Katia: would be great to provide it if we can.

11. PAC website

- Katia talked with Tina -- she doesn't want to take it on herself, but suggested approaching a Camosun student -- too complex? Tina thinks it would cost more than \$1000, and Cindy L confirmed that. Jen offered some confirmation re: students -- her work had a project which involved Camosun students in app development -- positive. Jen will share her contacts with Katia. Katia reiterated that the website doesn't need to be elaborate, but does need an overhaul.
- Tina also raised issue of graphics, copyright -- the more we provide, the less the cost will be
- if it's a big expense, we may wish to wait until after we know what's going on with the playground

12. Craft Fair

- We are sticking with 3rd Sat of November (21st) regardless of school calendar -- even if it's a school day, we are on
- Katia & Nicole have been working on streamlining processes -- registration will now always open March 1
- no more extra spaces -- those who would like more room can book an additional table
- clear cancellation policy, with refund dates -- putting it in writing

13. Other Business

- next month's meeting (March 4) will be in the staff room, as the Book Fair will be in the library
- Fiona: parent ed check in -- Mohapel presentation, Feb. 12 6:30-8:30 pm. Not that many have registered yet, about 32 people -- it's time to share widely. Donna at Braefoot says that their parent support/engagement is impacted this year by the temporary move to Richmond -- they are willing to provide refreshments, though. She's asking for numbers -- we hope they might be higher.

- Notice could be sent out again to our community, and Cindy H will share with other elementary schools as well. Fiona noted that Mohapel didn't have a poster -- Cindy H offered to try to create something as well.
- Donna will be sending a cheque for half the fee. Erin has deposited our share (district grant) -- full fee has been quoted to Donna (\$500+) so she can calculate their half.
- We decided to wait for the budget meeting until after the playground decisions come down -- April/May? We could still hold our AGM in April, and can vote on the budget in May or June (historically, quorum has been set at 10 parents).

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 4 March 2020, in the staff room

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm