

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 1 JUNE 2021

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

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Chris Wright	Robin Grazley
Erin Prescott	Elena Schultz	Adrienne White
Jennie Bartosik	Jonah Rankin	Cyndi Whaley
Warren Weicker	Amy Verdun	Katia Dilkina
Gillian Moxham	Mari Imahori	Laura Mercer
Elizabeth Corry	Cindy Luchka	

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. May 2021 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Jennie Bartosik, seconded by Adrienne White.

2. Pizza Night

- Joel not here tonight -- Nicole waiting to hear from him about whether the Pizza Night fundraiser will happen this month. If so, email will go out through Margo.

3. Monk's School Supplies

- Laura: deadline to order is June 13, with kits arriving last week of school; families also have the option to order late and pick up in store over the summer, or at the school in September
- Email to go out through Margo tomorrow -- as there is no advantage to us to have parents order in June, information about orders placed after the June 13 deadline will be added to the reminder email.
- Thank you, Laura, for spearheading this fundraiser!

4. Garden Update

- Erin: we have a shed coming from Lambrick Park sometime soon -- a notice went out last week looking for volunteers on Friday (June 4) to spread gravel and prepare the site -- after school on Friday can be a challenging time, but we are still looking for more hands to help

5. Strings Update

- Robin: on Friday night, the trustees voted to look closely at the budget options on Monday, with the option to postpone for further consultation if they did not agree -- that meeting was then postponed to tomorrow night (Wednesday, June 2) in respect of the recent discovery in Kamloops. Eight possible configurations for a balanced budget have been presented, with varying amounts of direct impact on students, music programs. VCPAC and AMIS have suggested two additional possibilities -- if the trustees choose to postpone for further consultation with the community, those options may give them some ideas?

- Question from Cyndi W: is there a good option? What happens if they postpone? Robin: word in the FB group is that option 1 may be the one most trustees are leaning toward. Katia offered a quick synopsis of that option. The community is hoping the trustees will seek further consultation, but if not, that they will opt for the least impact on students/teachers/classrooms.

6. School Updates

- Welcome back, Cindy H, and thank you to Tim for all that you have been doing!
- Cindy H: thank you Tim -- nice to see all of you, and the kids -- we are in the home stretch!
- Cindy H spoke briefly about the territorial acknowledgement -- shared the wording used in assemblies
- Tim: adjusted timetable for next year:
 - this year, with Covid, there have been 57 different schedules throughout the district -- need to align to let TTOCs move between schools, for one thing
 - Two options (screen shared) -- option chosen is 8:53-2:45, 5 minutes less at lunch and recess to allow for correct number of instructional minutes during the year
 - Questions from parents: will all schools use this schedule? Yes; 5 minutes has been moved from lunch, 5 minutes from recess due to need for instructional minutes; may also be a benefit, as last 5 min of lunch recess are often where problems start -- some teachers may start eating time early to allow for more time, especially with younger kids
 - Outdoor supervision will come back 15 minutes before and after school next year (are two supervisors now)
- Tim: Proficiency scale -- Ministry of Education:
 - We will be using this scale when reporting on student progress for Grade 4 and 5 starting next year, instead of letter grades. Our goal is to have students proficient in all areas -- we have been using something similar in primary for a number of years, but will all go to this language moving forward. Cindy H: putting words to 4 point scale -- sliding scale -- true to life, more flexible -- happy to see letter grades go.
 - Tim: some districts are turning this to kid-friendly language, helping kids self-assess, figure out where they need to go to become proficient -- staff are excited about this opportunity
 - Parents were positive about this change -- Nicole felt it set a powerful precedent. Question from Chris: I have been using 100pt scale with movement (in quarters) -- is this a similar analysis? Tim noted that it was similar, but numbers are primarily there to help if, for example, a family wants to know what their child's letter grade would be -- the teacher must be able to provide that or equivalency.
- Cindy H: Staffing:
 - postings coming out soon, hopefully filled by end of June. We have posted a 3 days/wk counselling position -- Ms. Benson, Tim, and now Franco Celli have all filled in this role during the year. It has been wonderful having Franco here due to the Cedar Hill Middle School connection, but since he already has a 0.6 at Cedar Hill, he cannot be 0.6 at Doncaster as well.
 - We also have a temporary posting for J. Malo, FRIM 3/4. K. Walker is currently there, and we would love to have her back if possible; FRIM prep teacher for PE, 1 morning a week;

almost 2 days inclusive ed/ELL -- K. Atherton there temporarily, and we hoping she will be the successful applicant and can carry on next year. There are also some temporary EAs we hope to retain, but they must also reapply -- no retirements that we know of.

- CW: is Mme Walker's position the whole year? CH: yes. Katia: who will be teaching Gr 3 FRIM next year? Tim: the temporary position is one, also Mme DiGesò
- Tim: Nicole asked us to talk about changes for next year with pandemic -- clarifications. Ministry/SD61 have asked us to plan for full return -- no more staggered starts/recesses/dismissal. Behind the scenes, there may be another plan in case we cannot move to a normal return. Nicole had asked if parents would be able to come in the building, for example -- we are planning for things to be back to normal as much as possible, which would allow for that. Tim and Cindy H opened the floor for questions, specific things people were wondering about?
 - Nicole: feeling a part of the school will be very important -- coming back in -- might take time to undo the habit of not coming in?? Anxiety around the return to normal will vary. I am hoping that in the new year we can stay in touch ... as a parent, hoping for clear communication on what is acceptable in the fall, what's okay and what isn't okay -- clear messaging that teachers are on board with -- don't want to step on toes or make people uncomfortable.
 - Cindy H: we will take guidance from authorities, checking in with staff -- some students/families may want to continue wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, etc. Tim: important to be mindful of varying levels of comfort, inclusive, when we are planning events, things at the school -- events that people can still be a part of if they are not comfortable with in-person activities.
 - Warren observed that as a Kindergarten parent, there is no reference point for what's normal -- will things like Zoom meetings, Google classroom continue? Allows for flexibility for parent-teacher or PAC meeting attendance, for example. Cindy H: we have a list of "Covid keepers" in the staff room -- things we would like to hang onto, like reaching parents where they are. We have been chatting with district about Zoom licensing -- might be a different platform, but it's a possibility -- could be an option if it's okay with the teacher -- can't guarantee it, though. Katia noted that for meetings, doesn't seem like it's that big a deal to have an in-person meeting that is also streamed on Zoom.
 - In response to a question in the chat, Tim clarified that next year's schedule may be consistent across the elementary level only -- possibly different times for middle/high schools.
- Cindy H: parent appreciation:
 - due to the pandemic, we haven't been able to do the coffee/snack morning -- did photo collage last year. Staff have been talking about possibilities after June 15 -- if we did coffee/snack with Covid protocols, are people comfortable? Or are people not ready?
 - Response from parents was mixed -- some people comfortable, others feel like it's too soon. Nicole observed that we need to start somewhere. Laura reminded us that we are still very much in a day-by-day situation with this pandemic, and it might be wise to hold

off a little longer if this event doesn't require a lot of advance planning. Tim: we could brainstorm something else ...

- Laura asked about the parameters for sharing images of what's happening around the school with families, i.e. not just your own children's classes? This would be a heartwarming, great appreciation gift. Cindy H: the Grade 5 song will be shared with the school -- we would have to check against the do-not-share list to circulate more widely. For the year-end slide show, we're asking teachers to send in pics from their classes -- could possibly share that with the parent community? Nicole agreed with Laura, and suggested we could ask teachers to share those pictures with the class parents, perhaps through the class rep.
- Katia: what about teacher appreciation? Nicole: this is on agenda for later ... talk about it now?
 - Options? Last year we did catered individual breakfasts -- very well received -- but it doesn't have to be that big either.
 - Nicole asked Cindy H and Tim about comfort levels at the school -- do we need separate packaging, or is there flexibility? Cindy H: some staff are not ready for that yet -- purchased, individualized things is where the comfort level is right now. Last year was amazing, but we don't necessarily want to set the bar there -- we will be gathering on June 25 in the courtyard to do farewells, and whatever PAC would like to contribute would be much appreciated.
 - We have budgeted for teacher appreciation, but will have to check amounts. Erin pointed out that this was what we needed to do last year. Exec will discuss further.
- Elizabeth: back to parent appreciation -- what about offering coffee/snacks cohort by cohort? Smaller gathering, or even in the field? Nicole noted that this is in line with what's been happening with cohorts ...

7. Hot Lunch Program

- Nicole: Fun lunch was late in this year -- Leanne was kind enough to take it on again as coordinator this year, although she cannot really continue. This year we had two other parents who helped, but are not interested in doing it long term. We need one or two people to take responsibility to relieve Leanne after all she has put into this program. This will be going out to the school, but sharing here first -- if anyone can take this on, please do -- you can make changes or not, and Leanne will support and mentor.
- Mari is willing to take on some of the responsibility for things from home -- has done hot lunch before at another school, but will not be able to be at the school. Thank you, Mari!
- Nicole: I can say for sure that there are components (important) that are organizing, administrative, and not so much being at the school -- there are almost always enough people to volunteer to be at the school, but what we need now is that high-level organization. Mari confirmed that she is in for website, orders, etc.
- Nicole asked Cindy H and Tim whether parents will be able to take on distribution again next year. Cindy H: this came up at staff committee meeting today -- a few staff members have asked that we consult them first before making a firm decision on whether we're doing fun lunch again. If we know we are going ahead, we need to let them know next week and see what the buy-in is from staff. There have been a few issues around distribution, also recycling. Nicole

pointed out that some of the difficulties this year were a result of Covid protocols -- we are going ahead with this when we can. A parent rep is normally there for each class. Some teachers have been finding it a bit much this year, have to do what's best for all -- if we are allowed to have parents in to help, I hope that will alleviate teacher concerns.

- Amy raised some issues around this year's version of the program, including the distinction between "hot lunch" (historically, nutritionally balanced, access for kids who might not have that otherwise) and "fun lunch" -- issue with popcorn and smoothies being under the umbrella of "lunch." Concern is doing a few things at once: a) fundraising b) enjoyment c) lunch -- and this is not advancing nutrition -- that component disappearing in a way that's troubling some parents. Thoughts about communication/clarity?
- Erin: curious what teachers' concerns are ... waste etc. as an area of concern -- there are solutions there. Erin also pointed out that fun lunch is not actually that significant as a fundraiser -- what are the challenges/solutions? Cindy H: providers that had less waste pre-Covid -- then had to change. The offerings were more of a lunch previously, but we went with one item at a time this year for simplicity. [Previously, there was no popcorn day, and smoothies were served with pizza.]
- Cindy H: One issue is that this year, kids have been eating during instructional minutes -- also pressure of handing out the food -- a bit much to be doing that and teaching at the same time -- if we can go back to having parents help with that, or even lunch monitors/grade 5s, that might help. At some schools, K families have opted out to try to avoid problems around whose families ordered, or didn't -- then also the recycling piece, added pressure on custodians.
- Nicole: it really is fun lunch now -- but this past year cannot be taken as representative of anything. We had to keep it as simple as possible, look at what businesses could do it in a Covid-friendly way. We made a conscious decision to make sacrifices when bringing back fun lunch -- and made some sacrifices to bring something fun and familiar back to kids. This last year does not define it. With respect to healthier options, anyone who wants to invest some time into researching options, we'd embrace that -- comes down to parents' time to explore different options -- additions?
- Katia: Amy brought up some great points about priorities, values -- in my mind, fundraising isn't number one priority -- the waste part for me is high on the priority list -- maybe a subcommittee meeting to sort out priorities, what's acceptable? Nutrition as well -- I don't think distribution will be a problem, as parents will be enthusiastic about coming back into the school to help.
- Nicole asked Mari what she thought -- separate group to discuss? Mari: yes -- I am in favour of inclusion (like for children with allergies) -- more options, also guidelines for what can be offered nutritionally -- we can prioritize values, can choose vendors from there. I would be happy to have people who want to talk about values/priorities share. Thank you, Mari! Erin also offered to look into reusable packaging options, since her work is in this area.
- Katia reminded Nicole to include Leanne in these discussions -- she has input, knowledge, expertise.

8. Doncaster Wear

- For the fall ... Cindy L: we'll try to get the template for the number 22 early on in September for Grade 5s to sign, and we'll do Grade 5 hoodies again as they were very popular. Then, another

order of Doncaster Wear for K and new families -- the timeline last fall worked well to have it in before Christmas.

9. Card Project

- Nicole: We would also like to have this in place for fall -- have been working with The Card Project in recent years -- however, we got an email from Created By Kids, which has other products as well, options (mugs, puzzles). They give 30% back to the school -- would parents be interested in this? More options might generate additional sales.
- Parents raised a few questions about the differences between the two companies. Cindy L confirmed that The Card Project gives back 20%. Nicole confirmed that Created By Kids is also semi-local to us (Lower Mainland; TCP is in Vancouver). Timelines are similar, but CBK might be more flexible? Turnaround time from beginning to end is 8 weeks. The price point may be higher, but also more options offered.
- We need to apply to CBK soon if we would like to change, as their participation fills up quickly.
- Based on the success of some of our other new fundraisers this year (e.g. Growing Smiles), parents decided to try something new this year, with the knowledge that we can go back to TCP if this does not work out.
- Cindy L is willing to keep working on this with new company, with help from Nicole and Laura. Thank you all!

10. Territorial Acknowledgement

- We need to do this. Nicole and Jennie have been chatting about this behind the scenes -- for due process, real thought, our initial thought was to put it on people's radars -- reached out to Tim and Cindy H to find out what words they use.
- Jennie pointed out that dialogue as a PAC is an important part of reconciliation -- we need to go beyond copy and paste, find out what school is doing re: reconciliation, and how we can support that -- not just words.
- Tim shared experience from staff book club, each asking ourselves to write a meaningful acknowledgement.
- Elizabeth spoke about the importance of making that acknowledgement personal, meaningful, respectful.
- Jonah shared that his partner Tina is a professor of Indigenous Studies, and could help as a consultant.
- Amy suggested that we reach out to communities where we are, and speak to the Nations on whose land we are situated. Elizabeth shared that she has heard from community elders that they are getting overextended trying to help those who don't know -- importance of non-Indigenous people taking responsibility for their learning.
- Perhaps Jonah's partner would be willing to offer a parent ed talk?? Jennie has passed on her info to Jonah
- Nicole: let's explore this in the new school year -- this is the direction we'd like to take it

11. PAC Calendar

- Nicole: Margo brought this up -- Cindy H & Tim, are we able to book in-person events? Cindy H: let's plan and book, go from there if we need to adjust
- With the support of all present, Cindy H and Nicole will go through the calendar and choose dates based on 2019-20. Everyone prefers Friday for evening events like the Halloween Dance, unless the next day is a Pro-D day.

12. End of Year Items

- Teacher appreciation brunch touched on earlier
- Lists of parents who have contributed lots of time to PAC who are leaving this year? Erin: in the past we have just IDd families who have contributed. Robin remembered that we missed someone last year [and with Cindy L's help, later IDd them.] Cindy H: can check with Hilda & Margo as well to see which families are leaving.

Thank you, everyone, for an amazing year!

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 14 September 2021, via Zoom

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm