

## DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 8 JANUARY 2020

*Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.*

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In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Robin Grazley	Katia Dilkina
Adrienne White	Erin Prescott	Fiona Ely
Cindy Luchka	Katie Ryan	

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

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### 1. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

#### *School Updates*

- Cindy H: a group of Grade 4s recently came forward, wanting to do a fundraiser to help Australian animals. I suggested they do some research, and they have decided to organize a bake sale for Friday, January 17 -- it will be announced tomorrow. They will be asking all Grade 4 students to get on board, help with donations. Funds raised will go to benefit the Red Cross. Anyway leftovers can be sold at Movie Night as well. Adrienne will include this info in the newsletter as well.
- Kindergarten registration for FRIM is taking place this week -- many thanks to Margo and Hilda for all their work to support the families registering! Our cap is set at 38 this year, as full classes are 20 (space left for designations, and can add a couple if space remains) -- we are there already and a waitlist has been generated. Many of those registering are returning families.
- In February, we'll be taking part in a district-wide Lights Out challenge -- our usage was tracked during February last year, and they want us to try to lower it this year. Prize: a pizza party for whole school who does the best compared to their own last year's energy usage.
- District grant applications are ongoing (from last month).

### 2. December 2019 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Nicole Woods, seconded by Erin Prescott.

- Robin confirmed that people have been receiving the minutes.

### 3. Parent Education

- Michael Bortolotto: Social Inclusion
  - presentations for students during school hours on Jan 22
- Paul Mohapel: Technology and the Developing Brain - parent presentation on Feb 12
- Not much more to discuss with these presentations -- the information just needs to go in the newsletter.
- Fiona will set up EventBrite for Mohapel, hopefully within the next week -- we can open registration beyond Doncaster and Braefoot if there is space.

- Katia raised the proposed meeting/talk with Jacqueline, the school counsellor -- following up from December. Cindy H confirmed that Jacqueline is interested in doing a session with parents, perhaps in April -- talk about anxiety? Parents agreed it is not too late in the year. Cindy H will chat with Jacqueline on Friday.
- Question from Erin: is Island Sexual Health coming this year, and will they do a parent presentation? Answer: yes, they are coming in May. Katia observed that it would be good to have them do the parent presentation again if they are willing -- parents agreed that those who are unfamiliar might have questions, plus last year's presentation was mostly geared to Grade 4 content.
- Katie: Brenna went through the curriculum with parents last year -- note that not everyone gets everything every year.
- Cindy H will check in with Island Sexual Health -- confirmed that they will focus on body science for primaries, and maturation for 4-5s. We could ask them to gear the parent presentation for primary, then shift to intermediate.

#### 4. School Garden

- no news -- "we are next in the queue"
- Erin: note that our main contact with LifeCycles (Matthew) is no longer there -- the partnerships we have created for this project are slipping because the process has been so drawn out, and we're starting from scratch -- are LifeCycles even still supporting school gardens?
- Our thought had been to get fencing up and get the site ready before spring. Since we are not waiting for underground irrigation -- the district will be installing a tap -- the beds could be built, and responsibility for building the beds was ours anyway. There is no clear reason for this delay.
- Cindy H offered to follow up with Marni again, let her know Matthew has moved on, and again convey PAC's frustration with the delays. She also suggested PAC could compose a letter to the district. Parents agreed that we need to make contact, inquire about going a different route if delays persist -- they have our money, including funds we received as grants, and we feel the continued delays are disrespectful toward the parents and teachers who have put in so much work on this project.
- Erin will take the lead in drafting a letter to Marni and to Angie Hentze, Trustee, with invitation to February meeting to discuss further.

#### 5. Doncaster Wear

- made \$800 -- sold over 100 items, we as a PAC purchased almost \$400 in extras
- Cindy L: we could sell these extras next year, and/or use as prizes -- they are mostly children's sizes
- Cindy H: the "retro" wear is selling well -- we could put availability of extras out over email -- have a week where we display and sell again? We could have rack on display at Movie Night.

- Katia: let's include this info in the newsletter as well so families know they can purchase at Movie Night. Cindy L: let's specify that it's youth wear.
- Nicole: clarification for Cyndi W: we will not be taking orders, and sales of what's there will be cash only. Katia will confirm with Cyndi W that she's okay with this being added to the concession for Movie Night. Cindy L felt there may not be high demand -- most people who were interested seem to have ordered in December -- but that may change after Spirit Day this Friday.
- We could also have a dedicated volunteer handling t-shirt sales to make things more straightforward. Robin offered to take that on and help with concession as needed. T-shirts and concession will have a shared float.
- Grade 5-specific t-shirts or hoodies for next year? Cindy L suggested bringing it up at the first meeting in Sept, and asking a Grade 5 parent to take it on.

## 6. Intermediate Playground

- recap: we are on the waiting list for a \$105 000 govt grant for an inclusive playground, and will hear results in March. One wrinkle: we would be required to install a rubber surface -- based on the information we discussed with Brenna last year, we thought the surface would cost us approximately \$50 000, and we have a quote now for \$80 000 (tiles) or \$119 000 (poured in)
- we need clarification on where the \$105 000 goes -- Cindy L did some research on other Victoria area schools who had playgrounds installed recently/through this grant. Cindy doesn't think district (SD 61 vs. 62 or 63) matters, but Quadra is most recent and they do have a rubber surface. We had planned to apply for the Tire Stewardship Grant, but that is a maximum of \$30 000 in matching funds.
- Nicole and Erin suggested that we contact Quadra to find out more about their experience, costs.
- Katia: last year we were told that the district would pay the difference for the rubber surface ... have they realized they can't afford it? CL: we are no longer the guinea pigs -- Quadra, Hillcrest now have the rubber surfacing. Braefoot is getting a new playground as well. Katia will reach out to the PACs and find out some specifics.
- Cindy L talked to someone at Savory -- apparently the PAC there did not have much to do with the playground because it was govt funding.
- All present agreed that we need more information. Cindy H offered to set up a meeting with Marni and members of the PAC exec and playground committee.
- We confirmed that the Tire Stewardship Grant application does require quotes for all components; however, the Swingtime plan may not meet the requirements for the inclusive playground.
- Cindy L raised the question of whether investing in the rubber surface (and applying for the TSG) is it worth it if we don't get the \$105 000 grant. The timing is awkward -- we are first in line for that grant, but there is some question about whether Marni thinks we should apply for the TSG.
- We need to talk with Marni. Cindy H put in a meeting request, and a meeting was tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Monday the 13th. Katia, Nicole, and Cindy L can attend; Katie and Marika cannot, but will see if Cyndi W can.
- Katia will check with Cyndi W and let her know we may need to pause work on the TSG application.

- Gaga Ball court (cost, timeline for installation) -- on hold for now

#### 7. Bike Rack

- we are supposed to be getting a bike rack in the new year -- Erin will wait until the end of January, as CRD are putting in an order for a few different schools -- will ask again if we haven't heard by next meeting

#### 8. Primary Playground Maintenance

- Katia: Marika had a concern about some rebar sticking out at the perimeter (?) -- CH says the wood split, but has been repaired.
- Cindy H: we have requested more woodchips to counteract the flooding on the primary playground -- we need to aerate it, apparently
- all areas opened for play in the meantime

#### 9. Movie Night (Jan 17)

- Erin will give Nicole a cheque for the float
- Helpers for the concession stand:
  - call for volunteers in newsletter -- starts at 6, concession will be in the gym -- email DPAC account
- Setting up the projector and DVD or blu-ray player:
  - Cyndi W has the movie in both formats, but needs to know which. We think DVD?
  - Cindy H or Tim will be there to set it up.
  - Nicole recommends a diagnostic beforehand to make sure it will work -- Cindy H/Tim will take care of this.

#### 10. Bingo Night (Feb. 21)

- Mercedes is organizing, date is confirmed, and it is now in the school calendar on the correct date

#### 11. Easter Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser

- no results yet for Christmas fundraiser, but cheque should be coming soon

#### 12. Vancouver Island Parent Conference (Feb 29, 8:30am - 4pm, at Belmont Secondary)

- Katia attended last year, good conference -- themes, returning speakers (including Jennifer Gibson from Island Sexual Health)
- this year's theme: The Balancing Act
- need to register before Feb. 10 to be considered for VCPAC reimbursement. The fee is \$75 -- whole day, lunch, choose which stream you want to go to -- highly recommended if people can spare the day to do that -- highly likely that VCPAC can subsidize more than one person
- Question from Nicole: how well attended is it? Katia: quite -- at least 300 people last year
- let Katia know if you plan to register -- she has a code to share, submits a list to VCPAC, and they reimburse you at the conference

- Adrienne will include the conference info in the newsletter -- not necessarily advertising the subsidy, but will let parents know that it's there, and if they would like to be considered for it they can contact DPAC.

### 13. Possibilities for Spring fundraisers

- junk-in-your-trunk parking lot garage sale - Cedar Hill is doing one on Jan 25 ...
  - Katia can talk with Amber Layton and see how it went
  - Cedar Hill's is inside the gym; you can rent a table and bring your stuff, or you can just donate stuff and they will sell it
  - we could still do something like this in the spring -- May? We will keep it in mind, see how Cedar Hill's goes.
- Easter basket raffle
  - Hilda's suggestion -- a lot like the bake sale raffle, only nobody needs to bake -- just buy tickets.
  - easy thing to do as a fundraiser, but someone needs to organize it, and when do we sell the tickets? would have to be a quick push after spring break, and without an event where we could sell tickets
  - Erin raised the idea of Grade 5s raising money and organizing -- Nicole and others voiced approval for getting kids involved. Cindy H and Tim on board as well -- Tim agreed that they can take that on.

### 14. Fun Day

- Will we have inflatables again?
- recap: Games2U, who we used to book for Fun Day, closed down, and to our knowledge there was not another company in Victoria with the right staff & liability insurance that we could hire.
- Nicole volunteered to look into liability insurance. Cindy L reminded us that there needs to be staff -- at any public event, parents are there, so a different insurance is required than at a school event.
- Tim offered to look into who ran a similar event at Macaulay.

### 15. PAC website

- Over the past three months, Nicole and Katia, and PAC exec, have been discussing the need to reorganize the PAC website -- to make volunteering more accessible, especially
- When we met in November, exec agreed to approach a couple of people to see if they would volunteer or take on a small contract to get the site rebuilt -- are we okay spending a little money on this?
- Nicole: the website is massively underutilized because it is outdated, difficult to navigate -- it could be so much more -- resource for parents, etc. -- a little bit of investment of time and money would have a long-term benefit
- parents discussed who might be able to take this on -- Katia will talk to her contact first and get some figures, ideas, thoughts

### 16. Other Business

- Adrienne: is anyone planning to organize a Doncaster team for the TC 10K Fun Run?
  - Katie will do that -- it's the last Sunday in April (26th).
  - Adrienne will start advertising in the newsletter soon to get people to sign up -- can we make April our own (since Campus View dominates the Thanksgiving one)?
  - Nicole: could we get a dinosaur to come?
  - Adrienne: we also would like to have the banner as a meeting point -- Cindy H will check on the banner. Also, someone will need to wrangle the banner after everyone starts to run (Cindy L?).

**Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 5 February 2020**

*Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm*