

**DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 1 DECEMBER 2020
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Robin Grazley	Warren Weicker
Erin Prescott	Anne Smith	Cindy Luchka
Elena Schultz	Adrienne White	Mari Imahori
Cyndi Whaley	Jennie Bartosik	Katia Dilkina
Laura Mercer	Jen Grant	Chris Wright
Matthew Barry		

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. November 2020 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Cyndi Whaley, seconded by Erin Prescott. Amendment to October 2020 Minutes (inclusion of Jennie Bartosik [elected June 2020] in list of Members at Large): Warren Weicker, Elena Schultz.

2. Fundraisers:

- Successful! Exciting! Replacement of some of our lost revenue!
- Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser:
 - Nicole: this was our first time with this company, so we were a little unsure what to expect -- very pleasantly surprised with outcome
 - Some learning curves, but for the amount of work that went in, very much worth it -- we got about \$1100 profit for a fundraiser that lasted only 10 days.
 - Everyone seemed pleased with product -- good quality
 - This company does several seasonal fundraisers -- spring (hanging baskets, veggie starts, annual planters) -- very excited for this, could also be successful
 - Thanks to Katia for help with this!
 - Katia: I'm glad that I said let's do it, together! This is a large company with a very streamlined process -- positive feedback.
 - Financially, this could almost replace the Craft Fair revenue if the spring fundraiser is successful.
 - Katia reminded us that we are holding deposits from table rentals against a Craft Fair next year, so let's not cancel anything at this stage.
- Doncaster Wear:
 - Cindy L: we raised almost \$1000, perhaps more -- items are still selling! People have been emailing because they missed the boat on orders. Right now there are still 3 more orders to be picked up -- Erin is probably still getting e-transfers.
 - Luckily the supplier had some extras, and now we have more stock to sell.

- This has been busy -- much more work than the plant fundraiser. The ordering system needs a revamp, but that can be next year's problem ...
- Card Project:
 - Also minimal work -- about \$1500 raised
- Purdy's (Alexis):
 - Cindy L: chocolates will be delivered Friday; this one raised about \$1500 as well
 - Katia: exciting to hear -- I had been worried about Purdy's uptake, but doesn't seem like it hurt this fundraiser to do plants at the same time.
 - Cindy L: one family does a huge purchase for their clients/staff -- bumps us over the edge. This is the 3rd year of purchasing from them. In total, Doncaster had a smaller order than last year, but given the year, not surprising.
 - Cindy L: All these fundraisers raised over \$1000 each -- amazing
 - Nicole offered thanks on behalf of us all to Cindy L, who ran most of these fundraisers herself -- we don't know what we'd do without you. Thank you so much for helping to raise thousands for the school at a time when we really need it!

3. Budget Update

- Erin shared her screen with the updated budget, confirmed she is still receiving e-transfers for Doncaster Wear.
- Hopefully grocery cards will bring in more revenue, with new cards having gone out recently.
 - Revenue: We currently have approximately \$16K in our main account; \$4500 in the gaming acct; and a GIC of about \$20K. The Craft Fair deposits represent about \$3K (money that's not really ours).
 - Expenses: this is a different year for expenses -- so far we have paid out classroom allotments, invoices for library books/supplies, resource room (wiggly stools). Maura did not spend last year's \$1000 for the resource room, and was asking if it was still available -- something to think about. She has ideas if we have money to give. The money spent on the outdoor gazebos will come back. We have spent a little more in banking fees for e-transfers.
- Question from Cyndi W: is there a time limit on the grocery cards? Erin: no -- they are attached to our acct. We have to reapply to Thrifty's each June, but Fairway just goes on. It used to be that the program wasn't year round, but now it is. Cards remain attached to the Doncaster acct, and 5% comes in when you fill the card.
- We have also received a cheque for almost \$300 from Finn & Izzy shoe program.

4. Garden Project

- Erin: 2-minute update -- volunteers put in more work on the garden earlier in November, and things are looking good. We are looking to have a garden shed built for us -- Natalie and Nitasha are looking into this through Lambrick Park -- should hear later this month if we can get on the list.

5. Covered Outdoor Area Project

- Nicole: we have to return the gazebos purchased from Costco because the district will not approve their installation. It is disappointing for all -- back to square one.
- Cindy H: the issue is that no engineer will sign off. The district did come back with a quote for a 10 x 14 bike shed design -- \$10k, and the larger size (10 x 20) is \$20. A building permit is still required, but should be prioritized -- no plumbing/electrical to slow things down. Katia: sizing smaller, costs higher? Cindy H: Yes.
- Cindy H: we discussed with staff -- for \$20K, staff would rather have one shelter on the primary playground, and one in the courtyard, rather than a single big one -- \$10K and \$10K
- Nicole: we could revisit this discussion with the subcommittee in January, now that other quotes have come in. Cindy H noted that we also got a quote for an awning affixed to building -- still up around \$6k, but sounds less durable.
- Katia wondered if these were all the options. Tim: these are options for short-term structure, something we can use quickly -- if we wanted to look more long term, there might be other options, but would take more money and more time.
- We discussed whether this option was worth it. Many present thought so, others were less sure.
- Cindy H noted that the Lambrick Park bike sheds (like the ones district would okay) are nice, and even quite similar to what we originally purchased.
- Erin: next steps? Do you/we have the budget to go ahead?
- Cindy H: I think we do -- \$5K outdoor learning funds from PAC, federal funding, and less money was needed for the Dragon's Den redesign -- we think we can come up with the \$20k from mixed sources. Erin noted that the outdoor learning amount was \$4K, rather than \$5K, but given the success of recent fundraisers we could give more if people agree.
- Nicole spoke in favour of the path of least resistance -- let's go for what's going to go through. The weather is going to get worse, and the kids are outside.
- We agreed that Cindy H will forge ahead with arrangements.

6. Parent Education (White Hatter Presentation)

- Jen Grant: we are booked for 9 am school presentation Monday, January 18, Social Media & Safety -- it would be good to get these dates into the events calendar as soon as possible. The parent ed presentation is booked for Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm, Social Media Safety & Digital Literacy (presentation we've had before at Doncaster) -- total price for both is \$650.
- Jen had an email from Kari-Ann Adler at Rogers, who is interested in sharing the parent ed presentation -- our cost would be reduced to \$500 for both. The maximum number of attendees is 250 people -- any concerns about having enough space for Doncaster parents if we share with Rogers? There were 87 parents at tonight's 6:30 presentation on anxiety.
- Nicole asked Jen to explain the cost adjustment. We're currently paying \$350 for the school presentation, and \$300 for the second presentation (parent ed) -- if we share with Rogers, that \$300 would be cut in half. Only the parent presentation would be shared.
- Katia did not think space would be a concern -- if it is online we might get a better turnout than in person, but we don't expect more than 50 from Doncaster. A short discussion followed about the anxiety presentation, which was full -- Jen noted that it was capped at 100, and there were 87 people there from multiple schools. From two schools, 250 should be loads of space.
- Jen will confirm price with Darren for the shared option, and he will invoice us.

- Discussion turned to publicizing this event. We agreed to get the word out now so people can put this event in their calendars for the new year. The school calendar should be updated; Jen will send info to Adrienne for the newsletter.
- Many thanks to Jen for stepping in to organize this event!!

7. Hot Lunch Program

- Nicole: good news: a couple of parents have been kind enough to step up, and it looks like they will take over hot lunch for the new year -- the kids love it, and it's nice that we can do it! Leanne is communicating with the new volunteers, getting them up to speed still, but likely this is coming up. As soon as we know anything for sure, someone will be in touch with Adrienne and info will be sent out.

8. School Updates

- Cindy H: we wanted to address parent concerns about the recent Covid exposure at Sir James Douglas -- our staff, as well as parents, had questions about processes & protocols. SJD's principal, Murray Harris, has shared what he learned from this experience with other administrators, and we wanted to share that tonight. He felt it was all handled calmly; he felt walked through and looked after during the process by Island Health -- never had to guess the next steps. It was alarming, though. He has been willing to share his experience, knowing that every possible situation will be different.
- Murray Harris was alerted by public health late in the day a few days after the exposure. Island Health sent a letter he could send to families, with instructions about what would happen -- contact tracing will be in touch with those at high risk of exposure that evening. Contact tracing spoke to everyone exposed that night, and anyone who didn't hear could return to school. Only those exposed in the class on that day needed to isolate -- everyone else (outdoors, afterschool care, siblings) could come back.
- No one was overly frantic -- if the isolating class are all clear, they will come back next week.
- As administrators, Cindy H & Tim also learned about this exposure through social media -- specific policies about who could know what when. We have assured our staff we would tell them as soon as we could, and we make the same pledge to our school's families.
- Message from the district is now that if they knew in March what they know now, schools would have stayed open through spring -- where we are at with information.
- Questions? Nicole: comment on last idea -- many parents look at current numbers and question why schools are open, so it's an important and interesting distinction that it's not the same measuring stick -- hindsight & perspective -- reassuring for me as a parent.
- Cindy H: wide spectrum of approaches among parents -- school as odd holding ground. In our building, it feels safe, business as usual with masks -- impressed with kids' and staff ability to roll with all these changes. Contact tracing is very dialed in, handwashing, cohorts, etc. -- not public space, but public school? Functional for the most part.
- Nicole: you guys are all doing an amazing job with conflicting info, varying levels of comfort -- thank you.
- Cindy H: we just need to be flexible -- clear communication, rising to the occasion.

- Katia felt it was not a realistic approach to say “if we knew then ...” -- we needed time to get kids used to the changes -- also differences in public perception? Appreciation for multiple perspectives as part of the learning from this pandemic.
- Jen and Laura started a conversation about how parents can help teachers and staff feel supported. Laura mentioned Island Health’s Covid-19 dashboard, which is updated regularly (including school exposures). Cindy H: Mask-wearing culture efforts welcome -- not forcing it, but certain teachers are more comfortable with kids wearing masks, others teachers comfortable either way.
- Purchasing portable air filters -- some classes have expressed interest in doing this, but Cindy H and Tim thinking about the optics of having some classrooms with added filtration, others without -- looking at budget -- levels of filtration adequate? Most people are feeling okay about the building, and supported by parent population. It is hard for us to say don’t walk your child to their lineup, or play on the playground after school -- some anxiety as numbers grow, but they feel supported by each other and you -- we are okay.
- Chris: any thoughts on the rumours of winter break being extended? Cindy H: we haven't heard anything, but we do have a new Minister of Education -- wait and see
- Nicole: further to Laura’s comment -- I think the communications Cindy H sends out about being respectful of outdoor space are appreciated -- it’s something we can do as parents to help.

9. Other Business

- Please note that the next meeting has been moved to January 12 -- we’ll send out a reminder closer to the time
- Cindy H: if we are going ahead with hot lunch, will that start in January? Nicole: we’ll try, but that’s totally dependent on the new volunteers -- as soon as I know, I will let everyone else know
- Elena asked about the procedure for Kindergarten registration this year. Cindy H confirmed that FRIM will be a lottery as usual, and no anticipated problems with space in English; district says registration will be online, but stay tuned for info from the office.
- Cindy H: shoutout to Chris for PISE visits -- outdoor games with kids and mentoring for teachers over the last 8 weeks -- thank you!! Chris: the equipment we ordered will be delivered soon, and teachers will be able to use it -- kids/parents who loved it could write testimonials to help us get more program funding from the district.
- Katia asked Elena about the news from VCPAC meetings. Elena: it has been quiet -- no quorum in Sept, so decision-making had to be delayed for elections in Oct. Mostly it has been checking in with individual schools, successes, adaptations to being back -- last meeting I was not present.
- Elena did share our question regarding registered society status, and got some answers back. A short discussion followed about our current banking situation and possible solutions. Elena noted that VCPAC does now have a private FB group and she can post there if need be.

- Katia was asking about VCPAC because of current issues: covid protocols, fundraising, hot lunch -- would be good if PACs could share this kind of information. Elena: very slow-moving -- every meeting goes around the same circle right now -- focus right now is on inclusivity in school community. Nicole: thank you for attending when you can.
- Adrienne: newsletter summary stay tuned for hot lunch; White Hatter; fundraisers with thank yous and \$, next meeting Jan 12; West Coast Seeds fundraiser; will be another fundraiser with Growing Smiles -- April/early May? In time for Mother's Day -- too early for that one to be announced

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 12 January 2021, via Zoom

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm