

## DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 10 JANUARY 2019

*Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.*

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In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Robin Grazley	Elizabeth Corry
Katia Dilkina	Cindy Luchka	Alison Hamer
Natalie Buchmann	Marika Glickman	William Russell
Seann Wagner	Rob Rand	Elena Schultz
Maria Gateley	Cathie Daugenet	Nicole Normand
Mercedes Schmidt	Katie Ryan	Rebecca Goostrey
Jill Nichol	Alicia Rippington	Heather Stanley
Penelope Barillaro	Adrienne White	

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

Guests: Chuck Morris, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Angie Hentze (School District 61); Carla Helim (Doncaster After School Care)

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

#### *Doncaster Child Care: School District consultation*

- Brenna introduced guests from School District 61: Angie Hentze, Trustee; Chuck Morris, Director of Facilities, and Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Manager of Capital Planning and Implementation
- Chuck: Marni has been working in consultation with daycare, heavy need for childcare — glad to be partners with govt, schools
- Marni began her presentation, urging parents to please speak up with questions; the more feedback we get, the better
- Childcare Space Overview
  - application was made 6 months ago; Doncaster is one of six District elementary schools which will participate in this project (others are Vic West, Frank Hobbs, Tillicum, Willows, and Macaulay)
  - allocation is for 2 childcare units on Doncaster site
  - current stage is community consultation — then building permits, finalizing the internal layout, looking at schedule of build. Building will commence in February 2019, with each unit taking approximately two months to build. Doncaster will be the last build, with occupancy projected for early 2020.

- The application was granted for \$818 750 in funding from the Ministry, to cover building of 2 childcare units; a fully fenced-off area for those units; parking for 8 vehicles; and a dividing curtain for the gym in order to maintain current childcare spaces on site. If Island Health licensing approves the dividing curtain, the group which currently meets in the library room will be transferred to the gym, freeing up library space for school use.
  - Two models are possible. The current model (i.e. that approved on the application) allows for:
    - 8 spaces for infants/toddlers, hours 7:30 am-2:30 pm
    - 8 spaces for children aged 30 mos. to school-aged, hours 7:30 am-2:30 pm
    - 50 before and after school spaces (saves 25 current spaces)
  - Alternate model arising from consultation, demand for full-day spaces (must be suggested to & approved by the Ministry):
    - 8 spaces for infants/toddlers/3-5 yrs of age, hours 7 am-5:30 pm
    - 20 spaces for children aged 30 mos. to school-aged (Preschool), hours 9 am-noon
    - 25 before and after school care spaces
  - Unit 1 at Doncaster is scheduled to be built November 2019, Unit 2 December 2019, with occupancy scheduled for early 2020.
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- The proposed location [map] is in the field near the staff parking lot, opposite “The Cage.” In this model, the parking lot boundaries and current path would be pushed back to accommodate 8 more vehicle spaces. The fenced off area (licensing requires 6 sq m per child, which must be fenced for infants/toddlers) would be adjacent to the buildings, with the preschool children using the other building and outdoor area. In this location, the buildings would not be close to the Garry Oak meadow, neighbouring homes, or in the middle of the field. Proximity to the road means easier and less expensive connection to water and sewer as well. A proposed location in the lower area of the school grounds, close to the Garry Oak meadow, was deemed less favourable because it might interfere with access.
  - Parent question (PQ): would there still be room in the field to accommodate the running track in the spring? Answer from Marni (A): we think so — it would also be possible to change the shape of the fenced off area so it does not encroach on the track. \*\* clarification from Marni, 11/01/19: “This location will accommodate the track and field. The soccer posts will need to be moved to accommodate soccer, but once moved soccer can be continued in this field as well.” \*\*
  - PQ: where is the new parking, and who is it for? A: in the current staff parking lot, with the existing path moved back, and spaces reconfigured so cars are not at awkward angles. Six of the 8 spots are for staff, with designated hours. Parents raised concerns around worsening congestion at dropoff and pickup time, particularly for teachers and staff arriving at work in the morning. Marni suggested the possibility of adding designated daycare dropoff spaces to the existing loop instead.

- PQ: in the lower site, would there be road access from the other direction? A: yes, but we didn't bring the map with this plan as it was not preferred (meadow access, also encroaching on neighbours). Several parents remarked on the issues with parking on Rowan and Thistle for neighbours. Katia observed that closeness to the meadow, which we have just had restored, is an issue.
- Marni reiterated that it is most cost-effective to keep the buildings close to the road for sewer and water.
- A few parents spoke to the parking issue, noting that congestion will depend mostly on where the visitor, rather than staff, spots are. Dropoff, especially before 8 am, is not really an issue for congestion, and neither is pickup after 4 pm.
- PQ: will families who already have children enrolled at Doncaster have preferred access to daycare spots (for children who are not yet school-aged)? A: this has not been figured out yet. Our feeling is that it should be Doncaster community, preferably school families, to create community and progression. Definitely this is a discussion to have with the proponent.
- Some parents felt it would be useful to see the proposal for the lower field area. Marni agreed that more information on this option should be included in the next consultation. A letter will go out to school families and neighbours who will be affected with another meeting time.
- Marni noted that this project is a 15-year commitment. We can shuffle the numbers, but these are permanent structures, and the spaces must be maintained for 15 years. People can see the new learning studios at Quadra and Willows to get a feel for what we'll be building.
- Parents expressed two diverging views on the proposed site. Some were in favour as long as it doesn't encroach on the track, noting that putting the buildings in proximity to the school makes them more part of the community. Others, particularly if they picked their children up from "The Cage" (English K & 1 most strongly affected), were less certain, citing concerns about line of sight for EAs doing supervision during recess, as well as loss of the current community gathering area for parents/preschool siblings at pickup. Marni raised the possibility of flipping the buildings to the other end of the site instead, shuffling them down so EAs can better see children between the primary playground and the Cage. There was support for exploring this possibility. Carla also noted that one advantage to this site (near the Cage) over the lower area is less trekking back and forth for staff, and better proximity for supply sharing. She felt that one fenced area for infant/toddler would be sufficient, as the preschool-aged children can share the larger space. \*\* clarification from Marni 11/01/19: "The units are not able to shift over to accommodate extra room near the school (where the Kindie parents pick up). The reason is due to the fact that the units are not able to straddle a lot line and they have to be so many meters away from this lot line. So we are down to two options. The one presented last night and the one near the Garry Oak meadows." \*\*
- Chuck spoke briefly about the process involved in the design — team of 4-5 people, thinking about neighbours, what's underground, parking (major problem at all the schools).

- Marni: these units are built in-house by CUPE staff, the crew is on from start to finish, and they are themselves part of the community, as workers and parents. Building is done mostly off site, electrical and ramps will be on site.
- PQ: could any savings on this project be reallocated to replacing the play structures on the intermediate playground? A: we could pitch it, but it is unlikely to be approved. The funding did not include supplies for the daycare (plates, etc.), so can be used to kit it out. There's no extra allocated for landscaping either — tight budget.
- Marni: before the next consultation meeting we'll put out a summary with the three (\*\*two\*\*) options and 2D plan, as well as the two options for configuring the childcare spaces. Then, at the next meeting with whole community, we can bash out the number one option, submit the building permit, and get it done.
- Katia mentioned the online surveys used by Saanich for redesign of playgrounds. There are approximately 20 people present tonight, which is a small percentage of the Doncaster community — could we offer an online survey to try to get opinions from as many people as possible? Marni will ask, but noted that the person who does online surveying is currently overwhelmed with the boundary review process.
- PQ: can you talk about the childcare programming that will be going into these buildings? A: for these first 6 projects, we have asked the current providers to carry on, as long as they are non-profit. Doncaster After School Care is currently in a for-profit model, but Carla is looking at going to non-profit; we will partner with her if all goes well. We do have a multi-stream line for other schools — RFQ — but for these first 6 we are sticking with the current provider. In March we will announce the proponents, and they can provide information about waitlists. Generally Doncaster students would have priority until a certain date, then open it up; in practice, all the spaces will be filled by the Doncaster community. However, the school district is not involved with this part of the process.
- PQ: just to clarify, one building is to be used for OSC/preschool, and the other for infants? A: the current proposal is for one building to house preschool, then OSC, and the other building to have infant/toddler spaces, then OSC. But we are looking at going back to the Ministry and asking for option 2, which is 25 OSC spaces and preschool in unit 1, then 8 total full-day spaces in the other. We what should seek is also based on staffing — we need a program that will be easier to get staff for. If we open up x number of spots, we need to maintain those moving forward. There are a lot of preschools out there, so those spots may not be filled, while f/t care can have those kids grow through Doncaster.
- The parents present agreed that what people think is the best option will likely depend on what their family needs. Some felt that these spaces should be configured to serve as many families' needs as possible. Some questioned whether option 2, with one building offering 8 full day spaces, was as effective as potentially having 50 OSC spaces; others noted that roughly the same number of children would be served in either model. Marni

reiterated that staffing is a major concern. Parents, Marni, and Carla briefly discussed the options for adding OSC to preschool to piece together full-day care for those who need it. Marni observed that the decision will come down to what the community wants, but the application needs to go to Ministry by the end of this month.

- Carla was asked for her opinion on the two options. She noted that 7:30 am-2:30 pm for infant/toddler care is not a great fit. To care for infants and toddlers, you need designated nap space, different furniture and toys, etc. (licensing), and then there is only 20 minutes for staff to switch over before school-aged children use the space. The transition from preschool to OSC is less of an issue, especially if K/1s are using the same room as preschoolers. If the other room would be a full-day daycare, that space can stay dedicated to their needs.
- Marni: what if instead of infant care, both were preschool/preschool-age daycare? Carla: I would have to check into licensing regulations. PQ: do the operating hours for the daycare have to be approved by the end of the month? A: it's more about spaces, ages than hours. Carla noted that people have been asking her about f/t daycare for younger kids, infants and preschoolers.
- A parent spoke briefly about specialized equipment needs for small kids vs. preschoolers. Carla & Marni quickly discussed ratio of children to caregivers and maximum numbers. Parents noted that there are currently very few licensed daycare options available in the vicinity of the school.
- Katia observed that the 15-year commitment puts this decision beyond the needs of the current group. Given that historically there has been the need for daycare for all ages, there probably will always be a wait list. Practically, given that this is a school, where do we focus for community building?
- A number of those present indicated that they favoured allocating spaces to the 3-5 age group, but Marni reminded that the ministry may not allow this change. Natalie stated that whatever happens, these spaces will take some of the pressure off —we need to focus on what's going to work best, what will be utilized, and then let the other things fall in.
- A few parents spoke again about the need for full-day care for preschool-aged children. PQ: why 7 hours (i.e. 7:30-2:30)? A: this was a recommendation from childcare providers to maximize hours of operation.
- Chuck: thank you for your comments and questions, we will get back to you with the date for the next consultation.
- PQ: are people currently in OSC affected? A: the only issue is if Island Health won't allow the dividing curtain — then it would mean shuffling those children outside and no new spots. Brenna: our staff & Carla have worked really hard to make this situation work — we would like to see this continue. Our goal is to have OSC not be in the library unless the gym is not available.
- PQ: does moving OSC from the library provide options for Science Venture or similar afterschool programming? Might this change how people feel about offering fewer OSC spaces (option 2)? Answer from Brenna: we need to preserve the library as a teaching space, and it does need to be available to teachers as much as possible. Space may

open up, but it will depend on what teachers have to say. Housing OSC in the library was a short-term solution so we didn't have to pull those spaces. I don't foresee that this space would be used by others — our community needs more space to run things.

- PQ: does construction continue with or without the gym [dividing curtain]? Marni: yes — it is in the application that we preserve 25 spaces, and can add 25 more. We will have to look at costs. Carla has written this all up in an extensive proposal, and the indications from Island Health thus far are positive.
- Marni reiterated that she will draft options, check on the possibility of a survey, and come back. She will be asking about which age groups (consultation complete) by the end of the month.
- The dividing curtain hopefully will be installed in the summer if it is approved.
- The provider will set the rates for individual programs — they rent the space from this partnership.
- Katie asked Carla what changes she expects in changing to a non-profit model. Carla: not sure at this stage, as this is all new. We are on par with some of non-profits for pricing, and will probably stay in similar place. I am looking for collaboration with parents as we move into this new era. Ideally, I will get a group of parents involved in applying to be a non-profit society, and we will have to be relicensed through Island Health -- it will be treated as a new business. Marni: once the units are built, we have 60 days to submit everything to the Ministry, documentation of spending, who we're licensing to, etc. Carla noted that this means the existing program may need to run separately [in parallel] for a short time, in which case she would need an interim manager. Angie noted that help is out there from the cooperative preschool community. A few parents offered assistance as well.

### *School Updates*

- Brenna: last meeting, we gave a presentation on sexual health education. Katia & I thought it might be good to have other presentations on what's going on in the school. If there is anything people would like to see addressed, please let us or the PAC exec know. Mercedes suggested curriculum; Brenna also offered to discuss assessment. This can also be a forum to share some of teachers' learning from professional development as well -- we can send out topics which might be of interest.
- Basketball jamborees and Board Game Club are ongoing this month. Jana: grade 2s and 4s going to the symphony in February. We also have professional development opportunities coming up on applied skills/design — Science Venture, work on incorporating design thinking into curriculum — also nature education, inspired by Garry Oak meadow.
- PQ: Are any other supplies needed for MakerSpace? A: Lisa Taylor will be doing cardboard projects inspired by Caine's Arcade with students soon — call for donations -- and the yarn is being enjoyed.

2. December 2018 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Katia Dilkina, seconded by Alison Hamer.

### 3. Movie Night – Katia for Nicole

- Movie Night was held in December — many thanks to Nicole for taking this on, it was her first time organizing an event, and she did it well. Message from Nicole: “it was a great learning curve for me and I took away lots of great info for next time.” She offers many thanks to Joy-Marie for all her help with organizing the concession, and also to all the parents who helped clean up afterwards.

### 4. Christmas Fundraisers

- QSP Magazines and Purdy’s Chocolates
- Thanks to Cindy and Alexis for organizing
- Erin: cheques just came in — \$1400 from Purdy’s; about \$100 for magazines with more to come
- Purdy’s has been doing well the past few times -- please continue to spread the word. Workplace Christmas orders have been especially helpful — we earn 25% of total sales.
- The Easter buy should be going ahead, provided that Alexis is willing to organize it.

### 5. Parent Education

- The White Hatter: grade 4+5 presentation and parent presentation (both on Feb 5th) on internet safety. We’ll send out info closer to the time. The parent presentation will be held 6-8 pm in the gym, and is open to all parents. Thank you to Fiona for organizing this session!
- Island Sexual Health: grade 4+5 workshops (ongoing) and parent presentation (date TBD). Each grade 4/5 class will receive education from Mariah Drabkin, and Jennifer Gibson will do the parents’ session. The classroom sessions are tied to when systems are being covered in curriculum. Thank you to Jana for organizing these sessions!
- Katia: booking the gym for the ISH parent presentation is an issue — it is only available a few nights. Right now we are considering the Thursday the 24th or 31st. All parents are welcome to attend, and Mercedes noted that Jennifer Gibson is a very engaging speaker.
- We agreed that the presentation will be held on **Thursday, January 24 at 7 pm, in the library** instead of the gym -- the acoustics are better in the library anyway, and we should be able to make room for all those who attend. Brenna will send out an email tomorrow with details.
- PAC is very supportive of parent ed and we have money for speakers, so if people have suggestions, please come forward!

### 6. Servery Cleanout

- Thanks to Katie & Nicole for organizing and taking this on!
- Katie: the many coffee lids went to MakerSpace, but we need to go back for Phase 2 and reorganize each sub-group’s section — Fun Lunch, PAC — will check in with Leanne and Joy-Marie
- Erin: Nicole did buy supplies in stocking up for Movie Night

### 7. Aboriginal Day 21 June 2019

- Jana: we have been discussing taking the school to the Aboriginal Day celebrations at Royal Roads, or have something here for tie-in

- no news at this time — keep it on the agenda for next time

#### 8. Board Game Night – Katia

- since board games have been so popular during school, I thought this would be a fun family event as well ... but it's not so easy to book the gym. However, still keen on doing it — next year, as we book our events, we should book in at least a few extra nights even without a specific events planned — Fridays, Thursdays before pro-d day
- I will try to book a regular Thursday, earliest date would be March — people can show up with their families and play some board games!

#### 9. Bingo Night – Mercedes

- Colleen and Katie are on this already — letter to get prize donations from local businesses — word to go out through class reps to call for donations
- I will be putting out a call for computer-savvy people — we need to put the games up on the big screen again, as it gets confusing for families if they can't see the game pattern. Brenna offered to help with A/V. Someone out there is likely to have the know-how to do this easily -- ask to go out soon.
- We also need 2 volunteers soon: one to contact Fujiya, one to contact Pizza Hut. Then, we'll just need volunteers for serving food, setup and cleanup is very easy.
- Erin and Mercedes have been discussing the need for better green bin/recycling options for this year — too much waste in previous years — need to get that organized in advance.
- Heather will be calling again this year
- Marika volunteered to contact both of the food vendors — thank you!
- Bingo Night will be held **February 22nd, dinner at 5:30, Bingo at 6** -- need to check in with Carla about start time
- This is less a fundraiser than a community builder
- Katia: gift cards from Purdy's that come with the big order could be used them for prizes — the more prizes, the better!

#### 10. Other Projects

- playground committee for the intermediate side
  - replacement has been done on the primary side, and now we need to replace the intermediate side, as the wooden structures are nearing the end of their service life. We have been saving money toward this annually. The spinner is gone, and the wooden structures could be declared unsafe at any time, so it would be good to get people to start planning. We already have a layout designed by Cindy and the previous committee — really just about getting a requote, and deciding how the fundraising is going to go.
  - Some parents raised the question about waiting for government funding to replace the structures. Robin noted that the concern discussed in previous months is that we might wait a long time (low on priority list/funding priorities could change), and the structures could be declared unsafe anytime, leaving us without intermediate equipment, so it might be best to be proactive. Brenna offered to ask about where we are in priority. Alison: could this trigger added scrutiny about the playground? Brenna will frame her

questions around playground funding and how that works -- she is aware that in some cases funding did not necessarily materialize as presented.

- Natalie offered to be involved with the playground committee.
- Doncaster family sports night - Erin
  - Still at the ideas stage
- another movie night (fundraiser) - Katia
  - Hilda recently passed on some information about a program for streaming movies from the school at no charge — Doncaster has a subscription, so we can stream a large selection of movies for free.
  - idea for a fundraiser — we could choose a movie, then sell tickets with food bundle — think about it for next year? (again, issue for this year is bookings) — advance tickets takes the guesswork out of concession as well, creating an almost 100% profit fundraiser.
  - Parents expressed support for this idea for next year — we could book maybe 3 extra days next year to allow for more PAC events. April may be a good month.
- tickets to school concerts? -- Katia
  - Katia received an email from a parent following the December Celebration of Learning Assembly, noting the difficulty of finding seats and that a few parents were saving large numbers of seats near the front. The parent suggested perhaps raffling off front-row tickets as a PAC fundraiser, which apparently some other schools have done, for those who want the priority seating.
  - Brenna: so far we have mostly had informal assemblies, rather than concerts, because our music teacher has been on leave and her replacements have been on contracts that don't really allow for taking on a big concert. We want to keep those assemblies low-key because that's why teachers want to contribute to them — it gives them a chance to share what their classes are learning, it can be unpolished, and it creates community building on an informal basis. Selling tickets for celebrations of learning would be a problematic idea and could perhaps discourage participation. It would be great to grow into some concerts, but celebrations of learning are a different thing and need to remain that way.
  - A short discussion of solutions to the frustration with saving seats followed. Attendance at assemblies is often spontaneous for families, and the majority of those present were cooperative in making sure that family members could see their children's performance. Heather noted class differential as a concern -- entering a raffle for preferred seats may be out of reach for some families, so first come, first served might be just as fair. It was agreed that we will not consider this idea for assemblies, but could revisit the discussion in future re: formal concerts.

#### 11. EA Shortage in SD 61

- Natalie raised a question about how the district EA shortage will affect Doncaster, particularly in terms of recess/lunchtime supervision.
- Brenna: Doncaster numbers have not changed. Currently we have 8 EAs, 1 district-based — we have one position posted out, which is not typical for us. We certainly have a district shortage,

and this may impact our school when needing substitute EAs — when people are sick it is difficult to fill their positions. If you know any EAs, tell them to apply to the district!

- There is a morning check-in, and Brenna & Jana step in as needed if someone is away and we are short of supervisors — we have enough people that we can shift around if need be — EAs are very aware of sight lines, and priorities for safety are addressed on a daily basis.

*Next Meeting: Thursday 7 February 2019*

*Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm*