

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 6 NOVEMBER 2019

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

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Robin Grazley	Katia Dilkina
Alison Hamer	Adrienne White	Elena Schultz
Chelsea Laxton	Andrea Kearney	Cindy Luchka
Marika Glickman	Melissa Miller	Craig Hickie
Erin Prescott	Sandra Robertson	Nicole Normand
Maria Gateley	Natalie Bowes	

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

School Updates

- Cindy H: cross country season recently concluded
- Grade 4/5s had a chance to participate in soccer jamboree
- Many Halloween songs shared at Celebration of Learning assembly -- first for this admin team!

- Tim: staff updates:
 - Mr. Pat Franklin, custodian, is leaving after 20 years to apprentice as an electrician -- we will miss him, but it's a wonderful opportunity and we wish him well. His position has been posted, and we are waiting to hear who will step in. Mr. Franklin's last day is Friday the 12th. He is away this week, but he will be back to say goodbye on Friday.
 - Natalie Urquhart is filling in Tuesdays (Mme Lampard) and Wednesdays (Mme Kremler)
 - Alex Greig (Music) is back again, and will be job sharing with Mrs. Johnson

- Cindy H: Pro-D Day coming up on Nov. 22, and teachers will be participating in some of these learning opportunities (district and in-house):
 - Literacy program K-3
 - Breakout EDU
 - Green screen technology
 - Creating class blog/webpage
 - Nonviolent crisis intervention

- Staff have also been enjoying Lunch and Learn sessions:
 - Google calendars (Sept)
 - Exec Functioning (Pt 1 Oct, Pt 2 Nov) -- presentation to teachers and EAs

- Magic Forest: thanks to those who were there to help with the weed pull today! The weeds have been removed for now, and we can go ahead with native planting next week . Wendy from HAT is very organized. Classes and a few parents are already signed up to help on planting days. Wendy needs a couple of wheelbarrows and metal rakes if you live close by and can lend them. The district will be dropping soil and leaf mulch on site, but bark mulch will need to be ferried. Please bring loaner supplies to the Cage!
- update on the school garden -- we are next in queue for fencing! Work should start in 2 weeks. Work will go on as long as they can despite winter coming -- irrigation should happen soon after (with portables).
- School Budget: Cindy H reviewed Doncaster's budget from SD61.
 - Set accounts get certain percentages of the overall budget; we receive 80% of yearly in August and 20% in November.
 - Allocations: we expect to receive another \$7000, but once office supplies, etc. come out, funds disappear quickly.
 - Areas under consideration:
 - The fish tank costs \$1600/yr, which is a big chunk of our operating budget. However, it is a destination, calming, and also educational. Can we justify the cost?
 - \$1620 for library resources is not really enough anymore either (district \$4 x 420 students)
 - Lunch & learns -- pizza for staff, \$120 per session
 - Currently no money is set aside for Maker Space, FSL, and there is very little in the music account. Mrs. Johnson wants to purchase a comprehensive music program, but it costs \$1900 (partially covered by a grant). There is \$1600 in saved fundraising and \$500 from PAC; however, Mrs. Johnson is worried that if she spends that money, there will not be enough for instruments/instrument repairs. Cindy H and Tim have encouraged her to purchase this program nevertheless.
 - Cindy H noted that they were sharing this information to make PAC aware of how slim the budget is. She raised a question: from this year's budget, is that \$4000 for indoor learning intended to pay for the silent stationary bikes? Answer from Erin: no, that amount is new money — the silent bikes were purchased from last year's budget. The description of this amount for "Indoor Learning" was left open so that it could be used for a variety of purposes.
- PAC also gives to library/Tumblebooks -- not earmarked for books, but could be used for library resources
- Cindy H confirmed that 6 bikes are on order, will be paid for, plus PAC is providing an additional \$4000 to contribute to some of the areas noted above.
- Question from Nicole W: is \$800 a typical music expense? Cindy H: amount is variable, but not atypical -- instruments do need to be repaired, general wear & tear.

- Katia: are the highlighted items in the school budget ones you are considering dropping? Cindy H: no, many of them we cannot drop anyway -- all of our programs need to have a little bit of money they know they can manage.
- Cindy H noted the importance of release time for teachers for benchmarking/assessments, which comes from Inclusive Ed budget (for teachers on call).
- Nicole W: seeing this budget raises a lot of questions, which we could spend much more time discussing. Would it be worthwhile to have a separate session to get a better understanding of budget priorities, spending, etc.? Katia and Elena asked whether administration was asking PAC to provide additional funds at this time. Cindy H: no -- the \$4000 for Indoor Learning will get us through.
- Question from Adrienne: how much is the Tumblebooks subscription? Cindy H: the district has a subscription, so about \$350/yr. Adrienne noted that she asked because Tumblebooks can be accessed through the public library if it's expensive.
- Cindy L: PAC also contributes funds to the Resource Room (Maura) -- ELL uses those as well.
- Cindy H: we are very happy that there is \$4000 from PAC to work with.
- Katia asked for a status update on the bikes. Cindy H confirmed that they have been ordered, and we are waiting for them to arrive.
- Nicole W and Katia both noted the need for more communication on this topic — it is interesting to see how PAC contributes, demystifying process.
- Tim talked about setting goals: where are we going & what do we want to work on over next few years? If PAC and staff align, money goes further. Cindy H and Tim will keep us posted.

2. September 2019 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Nicole Woods, seconded by Cindy Luchka.

3. Walk and Wheel to School Week (Oct 7-11)

- Thanks to Cyndi Whaley for organizing!
- Cindy H: well organized, great participation — we don't know if we won anything, but the kids really enjoyed it.
- Katia: question was raised last month about another bike rack — any development? Cindy H will follow up about possibilities. Erin will follow up with Kate from CRD about other possibilities -- Kate has also mentioned a scooter rack.
- Cindy H: the blender bike was more popular than music ... note for next time that it could have been paired with Friday dance party. This was a big ticket item — perhaps more worth it for smoothies?
- Katia reminded organizers to keep notes for next year. Nicole: we need some historical data so that we don't lose the knowledge base.

4. Thrifty Foods Family Run (Oct 13)

- Adrienne: we had 12 students participating — Campus View, who won the prize, had over 100. Sarah Harrison felt we should make an effort to promote it next year. Adrienne thinks it might be harder to get this run promoted because it's so close to the beginning of the year, but we

could start planning for the TC 10K in April — promote it now, make it Doncaster's event. We will need parent(s) to organize.

- It would be good to have a banner for next time to help Doncaster families find the team. Cindy L thinks we have a Doncaster Banner for track — Cindy H agrees ... would Hilda & Margo know? We can borrow it for next time.

5. Halloween Dance (Thursday, Oct 24)

- Marika: we made just under \$40! but it's a community event ... we had more pizza than we needed this time.
- Marika has notes documented for next year, so next year's organizers have some data to work with.
- The event went well overall -- some lessons learned for concession -- people liked music better this year as well.
- The costume parade was a success, and the prize draw -- is there another way to do it where kids don't have to hold onto tickets?
- Marika: thanks to Katie, she worked so hard to organize everyone.
- Katia and Nicole W, on behalf of all the parents, thanked Marika and Katie for organizing this big event.
- Nicole W: Katie had some good feedback on hallways -- everyone went outside instead of roaming. Would it be better just to chaperone the hallways? Parents generally felt that people will do both ... unsure if the outside time was more pronounced this year.
- Nicole W also suggested that next year, we could put concession in the gym like we do for bingo. This reduces congestion, makes room for lineups -- could be in the opposite corner from music.
- Marika will share info for Nicole W to collate. Robin: will this be on the DPAC Google Drive? Katia and Nicole W: we have been thinking about uploading this kind of info to the website instead so that it's available to everyone. It might even help us get more volunteers if we can give people an idea of whether or not they can take on a particular event -- reduce ambiguity.

6. HAT Partnership and Garry Oak area

- weed clean up (attempt #2) was held today, Nov. 6
- Melissa: thanks to Cindy H for coordinating with the district, and thanks to Erin, Katia, and all other parents who came out. We got the daphne removed -- Wendy is very organized and we're getting everything we need for plantings next week. Teachers are signing up for spots to have classes help.
- Katia: do people realize that the Magic Forest planting is separate from the garden project? Cindy H: good point, might need to clarify in update.
- Natalie Bowes: do you still need cardboard? Cindy H: yes -- contributions welcome! Melissa clarified that the cardboard will be used to cover grass underneath garden beds.
- Cindy H: we do need to do a land acknowledgement -- so far, though, no one is available. Does anyone have contacts? Erin suggested asking Aliko for contacts (Lkwungen/WSANEC).
- Melissa: we would like to have some parent volunteers to help with planting. Wendy likes a 5:1 ratio, can cater to different age groups -- could we send out a message through class reps asking

for volunteers? Cindy H suggested connecting with teachers to find out when they are out there; she will share the signup list with parents so we have the information.

7. School Garden

- See discussion above (School Updates)

8. Doncaster Wear

- Marika circulated pictures of the proposed design for t shirts/hoodies, as well as samples of the base shirts in three different colours (purple, royal blue, navy). Light blue and dark blue are Doncaster's colours for sports events.
- Marika: the next step will be to link to order forms -- how will people look at the samples? Cindy L: previously, we hung samples in the hall so people can browse them, along with a sizing chart, pictures of the logo. Cindy L may be able to lend a garment rack for display.
- Nicole W: what is the turnaround? We should find out the final date for orders for holidays so we know the deadline for orders.
- Parents were happy with the proposed design and possibilities.
- Katia: when we get families' orders, we can decide how many more we order. Marika: we get a preferential price for 72 products, any size/colour -- easy to achieve. We will probably want extras on hand. Cindy L, Marika, and Nicole W conferred about price point — it was agreed that we should compare prices and keep it within the same range, keep markup low. Katia: deadline is the biggest thing for now. Marika will coordinate this week or next week.
- Marika noted that the company can also do a graduating class t-shirt in the spring, with #20, and everybody's signature on the number. There was some interest in this idea, but Cindy L noted that parents have to commit to buy them. More than one parent observed that kids will not wear them in grade 6. Parents agreed that this might be a better idea for next year's grade 5s, early in the school year. Tim agreed that most schools start this in September.

9. Class Reps

- Robin: all but two divisions (11 — Pratt, and 17 — Montgomery) now have class reps
- Robin will follow up again with reps who have not yet circulated class lists
- Natalie noted that she has had low returns for her class — parents agreed that sometimes this happens. Katia stated that we can work with the lists the reps have, even if they aren't complete, and ask Cindy H to send out information as well. Reps shared strategies they have used to get forms returned — Alison had the teacher email out the contact form, and left a signup sheet for meet the teacher night. Reps missing info could try this again with parent-teacher conferences tomorrow.

10. DPAC Donation Letter

- Electronic version of the donation letter has gone out. Erin: \$673 has been donated so far -- we have had challenges before getting responses when we send the letter electronically. Last year we budgeted \$2500 and got around \$2000 -- so far, not a huge response.
- Alison: can we add it to School Cash Online? Erin: this donation goes into a different budget than our budget, so can't really be combined -- would take more balancing to make that happen.

- Katia: we can send out paper version if e-version is not getting response -- experiment to see if it will make a difference.

8 pm — *Presentation: Children's International Summer Villages*

Jessica Schafer & three youth participants, Rio, Isla, and Max

- Jessica: CISV is a non-profit organization which promotes global friendships through international youth camps
- Jessica is a parent & former board member with CISV -- the three participants will share the youth perspective
- building peace through global friendships -- non-profit, non-religious, non-political
- local programs: one meeting every month, up to 3 weekend minicamps per year -- fun activities engaging with various topics on social issues, youth-run and led
- international programs: camps, usually in summer but sometimes winter break (southern hemisphere), 1-4 wks, for kids 11-18 yrs. The camps up to 15 have delegations of 4 youth and 1 volunteer adult leader per country, 9-12 countries represented — specific themes (diversity, human rights, conflict resolution, sustainable development). Participants are engaging in a hands-on way, learning through fun, cultural exchange.
- there are homestays at each camp when they arrive, and partway through camps as well -- sightseeing/tourism as part of homestays.
- as a parent, Jessica has seen kids develop confidence, sense of themselves as global citizens, leadership skills -- suits all different personality types
- Max, Isla, and Rio spoke to the youth experience, having participated in camps in Japan (step-up, where kids plan & run own activities, 14-16); Peru; Canada; village is 30 day camp for 11 yo, where they start
- Jessica: if you want to know more, our AGM is Friday Nov 15 -- more full introduction to last year's events; also when they announce international programs for next summer -- where delegations will be and how many
- cards were handed out with details: <https://cisv.org/>

11. The Card Project

- Alexis has sent out information — order cards!

12. Emergency Supplies

- Katia: the food supplies have been purchased, but not water. Elena checked with VCPAC -- most schools are doing the big bottles with the pump, and keeping that water past the expiry date. Katia explained that Hilda is having reservations about who would move the large jugs in case of an emergency. Cindy L added that we don't have room in our storage for enough large water jugs.
- Hilda really wants walk-in lockers for emergency supplies -- Cindy H checked with the district, and it would cost \$6000 (equipment & installation, concrete pad) to replace our current setup with walk-ins. Katia: Margo thinks they will have to replace our bins when they move them

anyway (to accommodate portables). Cindy H thinks it's unlikely they would replace with walk-ins if they disintegrate -- in-kind. Erin: could PAC offer to cost share? Cindy H will ask Marni.

- Cindy L has been looking into Blue Can Water instead -- it lasts 50 years, but does cost \$40 for a flat of 24 -- pop can size.
- Parents expressed lots of support for this idea, despite the fact that it would cost us \$800 to buy enough for everyone. We agreed to go ahead with this one-time purchase. Cindy L will organize.

13. Treasurer Update

- Erin agreed to postpone until next meeting in the interests of time.

14. Craft Fair (Saturday, Nov 23)

- volunteers needed! The call has gone out, but keep reminding people — Cindy H will send out information as well
- Nicole W: this is Craig's last year on concession -- please give us info! Craig: I put together an Excel sheet last year, shared it with Katia, but the sheet only has volunteers' first names on it. Craig had talked with some of those volunteers about possibly taking on concession organization next year. We will wait for the signup sheet.
- Katia noted that this is also the last year at the school for Deb, who has been running the raffle.
- Nicole W asked Craig to please create a list of tasks which need to be done for concession so that we can transfer that knowledge next year.
- Katia reiterated that right now, the primary task is to find volunteers.

15. Parent Education

- Katia shared information from Fiona, who was not able to be here:
 - Nikki Lineham: The New Math — coming up next Thursday, November 14
 - so far, 47 people have registered -- we could have up to 300
 - please share event if you are on Facebook -- attendance is not restricted to Doncaster
 - Katia will share information with Cindy H, who can send it to other principals
 - Cindy H will confirm whether we have booked the gym for this event
 - Fiona asked that we confirm that PAC is paying Nikki Lineham's fee (yes), and decide whether we want to offer refreshments (not this time).
- Katia: Digital Distraction & the Brain (Dr. Mohapel) -- the parent education grant will go to this one, teaming up with Braefoot -- dates? Mohapel is available in the new year: January 27, 28, 31, or week of February 10. We will check availability for the gym — preference is for Tuesday, January 28, or Tuesday, February 11. We agreed to ask Braefoot to bring the snacks, since we are hosting the event.
- A brief discussion followed re: a talk at Braefoot that Katia had promoted on Facebook (Vision and Learning -- Dr. C. McCrodan, Nov. 21) — a Doncaster parent objected to its content.
- Katia: another presentation we were interested in was Michael Bortolotto, social inclusion. His presentation is to students rather than parents -- Cindy H suggested we could invite parents to sit in with grade groups. Katia will let Fiona know parents are interested in scheduling this presentation, but will have to see what dates he is available in the new year.
- Family Mental Health podcast at school on Monday mornings -- ongoing

16. Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser

- Information has gone out — thank you, Alexis! Order chocolates!

17. Movie Night (December)

- At this point, nobody is organizing this event, and it is coming up quickly -- Nicole W did it last year, but has too much going on to take it on this year. However, she is happy to assist. Katia suggested we put it in the newsletter, let parents know that this event won't happen unless someone steps up to organize it.
- Cindy H: what needs to be done? projector? Nicole W: yes — the main work is concession, choosing movie, food orders — depends what the person wants to take on.
- Katia: we want other families to be participating, so let's give someone else a chance to come forward. Adrienne: let's run the concession in the gym for this event too -- all agreed.
- This is a great job for someone who does not have a lot of other PAC responsibilities.
- We have the gym booked for Friday, December 13.
- Nicole even has an electronic copy of the new Grinch ...
- Worst case: we have no concession?? Note that last year, candy was more popular than popcorn.

18. Fairway / Thrifty's Card Fundraiser

- Erin passed around cards ... we can let class reps tell people they are in the office? If you have a card already, please keep using it.

19. PAC website

- Katia agreed to postpone a fuller discussion of the website until next time.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 4 December 2019

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm