

DPAC Monthly Meeting: 6 Feb 2023

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

In attendance: 12 people

Chris Wright	Nicole Woods	Cyndi Whaley	Warren Weicker
Nic Green	Jodi Green	Adrienne White	Gwil Roberts

Staff: Cindy Harte, Jennifer Cox, Lara Kremler, Sarah Harrison

Minutes:

Sarah did the territory acknowledgement and then discussed how the teachers took part in a drum-making workshop with Gordi Bear, and Reggie Charlie and Alana Johnson. The drums were in the library on display for the PAC meeting. Skins were pre-cut and teachers chose theirs. Cedar base of the drum provided at cost by a woodworker up island out of respect for the work being done in the District to continue the Truth and Reconciliation work. A drum circle occurred today, after the customs were taught. Ms. Johnson ran the drumming circle after Helena Ewald presented about the song that Doncaster is allowed to use. Song is recorded to help others at Doncaster to learn in the future, but not allowed outside of the Doncaster school community. Now the drums have awoken and can be used in classrooms. Drums are treated as someone would treat their grandmother. Teachers will clarify when/where/how (non-performative) the children can sing the indigenous songs that they learn in school and at home. The indigenous students at Doncaster worked on making the drum sticks with our Indigenous Family liaison, Ms. Kelly Houlihan. Nicole loves this positive, tangible example of truth and reconciliation in practice at the school.

Warren & Jodi approved the last month's minutes.

Old business:

1. Casino night recap (Nic & Jodi Green): Nicole and everyone thanked Nic & Jodi. 113 tickets sold + 12 at the door. Final numbers not in yet, but expecting a profit of \$2500-3000 funds raised. TV and gift baskets as prizes from corporate partners with Odd Fellows. Kitchen, bar, DJ, etc were all Odd Fellows members. DJ misunderstood that the dancing was supposed to start earlier, but it worked out for those of us who stayed.
2. Parent education session (Nicole): Reminder that it's coming up on Wednesday at Braefoot, 7pm, on "side-stepping the power struggle" by Allison Reese. Next one will be in April on nutrition.
3. Bingo night (Nicole): It doesn't have to be in February (most likely *not* Feb 23rd). Nicole got an overview from the previous organizer on what's involved to organize it, and will share that around to hopefully get another parent volunteer.
4. Doncaster cookbook (Nicole): parents will be able to submit their recipes on a template that we'll provide. Will need more volunteers later when we need to print and bind the books for sale.
5. Garden Update (Abigail Bigum – via Sarah H.): Garden work party on March 4, 10am-noon. Volunteers encouraged, even if just for 30min.

New business:

1. Budget review (Adrienne):

- a. Revenue: From the gaming grant based on how many students are in the school. Restrictions on how that money gets spent. Craft fair made over \$7000, despite being a bit smaller event than before. No parent letter request during the last 3 years due to COVID. Fairway income – if we have more of these cards, we should encourage people to pick them up from the office (to be confirmed) and use them. Soap exchange and Cobs fundraisers should be re-advertised more. Fin and Izzy's is now online only, so we might be able to continue the shoe fundraiser. Russell books should be included on the budget – since if we mention Doncaster there, they will provide money to the school. Mabels Labels was difficult to get the Doncaster donation to work (only on specific items). We need someone (Jennie B.?) to run the Dominos fundraiser. Some of the school events brought in a bit of money. Hot lunch has brought in ~\$1000 so far. New vendors were tried, but the rest of the year will probably be just pizza & Subway. \$24k total brought in so far this year, which is more than expected. Casino night and cookbook not included in it, but occurred/will occur this year.
- b. We have a balance of about \$35k at this time + \$12k + \$400 + \$20k in various accounts. Nicole notes that our fundraisers are front loaded, and the second half of the year will be more spending and less fundraising.
- c. Expenditures: Gr 5 Lunch Monitors are now Lunch Buddies this year, and we should add a pizza lunch for them back into the budget. Art Starts gets paid for via the gaming grant. Cindy H. suggested that we don't provide the gr 5s with first aid training since it may put undue pressure on them, when they are supposed to just go get an adult in the hallway. Suggested that leadership training or "Kids in the Know" (K-5 personal safety ed. program that's teacher-driven) would be better, and we'll keep that budget for enrichment. Sarah suggests a home alone or babysitting course could be offered (e.g., from Saanich). People like the home alone idea. Extra food and supplies money won't be spent this year b/c the school has the affordability fund, but kept for next year. Outdoor learning and playground has \$5000 budgeted, and it could possibly be spent on lowering the basketball hoops, covered bike rack, etc. (gaming grant money can go towards those too). Walk/bike to school money will go towards the walking trains that Laura organizes.

2. Teacher's wish list for budget spending (Nicole): Cindy H. emailed the teachers and got their ideas. Exec discussed and decided to avoid the items that would only benefit one class. Teachers were reminded that some items can be covered via the teacher allocation from the PAC that they get each year anyway. Some items on the list are captured on our existing budget (e.g., chalk board in outdoor learning line item). Sarah would like to add a request for extra outdoor learning items for the inner court yard (like a built in mud kitchen instead of a toy one). Cindy H. will talk to facilities about the chip trail idea (how much and how soon?). Suggested to also look into grants. Rainbow (LGBTQ+) bench for honoring José Melau (former staff member who passed away and has a trans child). Rainbow chimes/xylophone would also be a good interactive option. Rainbow crosswalk in front of the school would be ~\$1000, but would need to be maintained. Maybe a rainbow window.

3. Lowering the basketball hoops outside. We now have quotes for adjustable hoops and they would be >\$10k. Will probably be cheaper to permanently lower them to 8 feet (down from 10 feet – e.g., concrete work will likely be ~\$2500). Wall mounted basketball hoops can't go on the gym side since it's corrugated metal. Rolling basketball hoops for \$600/each could be purchased instead and chained to the existing hoops. Cindy H. going to find out from facilities asap on how quickly and cheaply the permanent lowering option could be, as group discussed that they liked that option the best (assuming it's cheap enough).
4. Discussion that we haven't spent much of our budget the last 3 years, and it's important to spend as soon as possible on both lowering the basketball hoops and addressing the teacher's list. Next year's budget to be approved at the upcoming May meeting.
5. For future budgets we can identify 1-3 big projects to work towards.

Principal and Vice principal reports:

1. School update: the drumming workshop mentioned above

February newsletter – things to include:

- Garden work party (March 4, 10am-noon) – volunteers to contact Abigail directly.
- Fairway cards: parents who shop at Fairway are encouraged to get a re-loadable card from Doncaster office – when families shop at Fairway with the card, 5% goes to Doncaster!
- Soap exchange & Cobs – mention Doncaster when you shop there, and money will be donated to Doncaster PAC.
- Highlight in the newsletter what the PAC pays for at the school (e.g., the gaga ball pit).

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 March 2023, in-person

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.