

DPAC Monthly Meeting: December 3, 2024

Laura Mercer called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm

Dan Perrakis gave a territorial acknowledgement

IN ATTENDANCE:

Laura Mercer; Dan Perrakis; Warren Weicker; Sona Nicholas; Alanna Kellar; Olivia Furlong; Anthony Kennedy; Nic Green

Staff: Ingrid Fawcett; Jennifer Cox

Tonight President Chris Wright absent for illness; Laura standing in as Chair with Chris' notes

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of November meeting minutes

a. Warren and [redacted] approved the minutes from November

Doncaster Wear/Grade 5 Hoodies

- a. Grade 5 grad sweatshirt orders continue to be taken through Doncaster Wear website
- b. Sona updates that orders received by this Friday Dec 6 will be delivered to school prior to the Winter break

Growing Smiles Winter Fundraiser

- a. Laura states was not offered this year due to lack of volunteer coordinator. Could consider trying to offer next year.

Purdys Chocolates Winter Fundraiser

- a. Laura updates that most chocolates have arrived. Jodi is sorting. A note re: pick-up will go out this week; planned for next Mon & Tues.
- b. We made a record-breaking \$1,772.14. The cheque arrives to the office in several weeks.

Christmas Craft Fair

- a. Laura relay's Chris' written update that approx. \$8500 revenue made with approx. \$1000 expenses incurred.

- b. Some great reviews again.
- c. Volunteers came for set up and takedown but had no volunteers for admin/marketing prior to the event unfortunately. Dan speculated that attendance from the community appeared lighter this year; group wondered if less advertising combined with another school craft fair on the same weekend made that impact. Brief discussion about the value of sufficient volunteers for all shifts to support the success of this event next year.
- d. Jen & Ingrid debriefed the WiFi access difficulties. Were unable to get the guest WiFi working for craft fair day despite many efforts. While it may have been a vendor complaint they raise that, as a venue, Doncaster does not promise WiFi to vendors. Group discussion about the additional impact of poor cell service on Doncaster property.
- e. Group revisits the question of a remote cellular hub. Nic states that some of the funds raised from Casino Night are earmarked for that. Alanna will have Brendan send an official quote for a 1-2 year corporate contract if possible. This addition would allow pay by card for all DPAC events once established. DPAC already has a Square for use.

Casino Night

- a. Nic updates that Casino Night was a well attended, lively success with 100 tickets sold and \$3000 earned which is earmarked by these donors for tech.
- b. Due to lack of parent support for the event (only 6/100 tickets were sold to Doncaster parents), Odd Fellows will not be offering the fundraising event again to Doncaster.

Fun Lunch

- a. Feedback received that many families not ordering in past years are ordering now because of options available
- b. Concerns about delivering and distributing within classrooms being addressed.
- c. Sona shares that she put out a survey to all teachers for Fun Lunch suggestions and feedback. Suggestions include Jen's: please distribute first to kindergarten and grade 5s ten minutes earlier than before so that lunch buddies get food on time for their classroom duties.
- d. Sona is actively ironing out kinks and expecting the December lunch to be smoother yet.
- e. Over \$1200 revenue so far.

NEW BUSINESS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Laura presented a quick overview of the upcoming anticipated DPAC events for the rest of the school year:

Movie Night - scheduled for Dec 6 but it has not been planned so Laura will draft a “canceled with regrets” email for Stephanie F to send out to the school community. Tentatively rescheduled to Thurs Jan 23rd 6:30 pm, pending a volunteer.

Bingo night – Warren happy to take it on again. Rescheduled from Feb 21st to Friday Feb 28th. Warren needs help collecting new and like-new prizes but will manage the event day-of.

Family Yard Sale - date needed if doing. Laura to ask Chris to connect with last year’s organizers to see if they would be interested in doing it again. If not, revisit at Jan meeting.

Year End BBQ – Laura to defer back to Chris to check date

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – not addressed tonight.

Purdy’s Easter Chocolates – Laura will take this on again. Deliveries prior to Spring Break.

Growing Smiles Spring Plants – Occurs in April if we are doing it again. Ask Stephanie Mills if she would like to take it on again; otherwise revisit at Jan meeting.

PAC Funded Projects Update – Laura reported that

- a. Nature play space has some slight plan modifications & awaiting cost updated.
- b. Bike racks have been moved under the overhang today and will cost ~\$150
- c. Request has come in from admin for DPAC assistance in replacing the full-size laminator which is heavily used for a variety of important and practical purposes but is broken after decades of use. Jen gives specifics on its use including choice boards for inclusive learning purposes.
 - a. Stephanie has found a replacement costing ~ \$4,000.
 - b. Jen Cox offers to put together a summary explaining the ways in which the laminator is used to support education and the school community. Confirms that this is not directly covered by school district funding.
 - c. Decision deferred due to expense greater than \$500 and few members of the executive present. Revisit at Jan mtg.

Budget update – Dan (co-treasurer)

- a. Dan proposes new float policy to address challenges extracting cash floats from DPAC account (i.e. needs two executive members with signing authority present at bank to withdraw cash).
- b. New policy: when float is needed for an event, organizer to give treasurers 1 week's notice. Treasurer will e-transfer (and record the float value) for the organizer to withdraw from their personal account in the denominations needed for the event. Organizer to e-transfer float sum and any earnings back to treasurer following the event.
- c. Reminder: \$200 loonie DPAC float remains in Doncaster safe for use at PAC events.

SCHOOL UPDATES - Ingrid/Jennifer

- a. Learning updates (i.e. report cards) available online on the last day of school before winter break through Parent connect. Parents can request printed copy if needed.
- b. Holiday karaoke singalong scheduled. New music teacher; no concert this year but maybe next.
- c. Grade 5s going to Cinecenta to see Polar Express
- d. District-level literacy support teacher working in our school in English primary – story studio with loose parts to build oral language and create a written product. Will work in intermediate teachers in January
- e. Lunch & Learns or After school sessions for staff: speech and language has come to examine some of the language we use; watching TED talks about education; taking 20 min to do some learning as a community. Ingrid reflects on the strong professional development commitment among Doncaster staff.
- f. Knitting club is enormous and a huge success twice a week.
- g. Chess club is paused right now. Ingrid shares from experience in other schools that there is chess coach that PACs can pay for and chess then became part of the curriculum. An option for tennis too.

Additional suggestions from wrap-up discussion:

Re: communication: Suggestion to embed the pdfs into the body of the emails.

Night of Lights is a good fundraiser that should continue next year whether or not Grade 5s want to take it on.

PAC meeting ended at 7:55pm

Next PAC Meeting: Tuesday Jan 14th at 6:45pm in the library