

PAC MINUTES

November 10, 2015 7:00PM

Present:

Susan Rae (President)
Jeremy Corrigan (DPAC rep)
Valerie Campbell (Emergency Prep)
Tariq Rasheed
Nathania Vishnevsky
Annie Tam
Yvette Hong
Tegan Dahlke
Aubrey Marshall

Regrets:

Mrs. Bawa (Principal)
Beverley Morris (Vice President)
Moni Klassen (Secretary)
Kathy Canales (Treasurer)

A. Opening and Welcome: Susan opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

B. Principal's Report:

Mrs. Bawa sends her regrets for not being able to attend. She provided the following report:

- **Upcoming events and dates posted on the school website:**
Please continue to check in on the website for publications, upcoming events, afterschool program offers and district information that will be posted to keep parents updated on all that is going on in the district and at Meadowbrook.
- **Student Led Conferences:**
If you were unable to attend your child's student led conference please touch base with your child's classroom teacher as this is a major component of Reggio to be a team in your child's learning. Student led conferences allow you, your child and your child's teacher to set goals and objectives for your child's learning.
- **Outdoor Playground and Classroom:**
Sally will have all info for past purchases and what remains to be purchased/paid at the January PAC meeting. Mrs. Bawa has called and emailed Rachelle Tessier at the maintenance shop for timelines/info and has not heard back of yet.
- **On-line Math Program:**

Division 1 has requested help participating in this program again this year. Renewal comes up in December. The cost has increased from \$380.00 to \$465.00 due to exchange rate, for a total of 50 children to participate (27 children in Division 1 and other students can be added).

Group Discussion:

School Website:

There is confusion voiced by new parents tonight about what is on the website, what is coming by email, why there are no notices from the school but they have received one from the PAC and is the PAC's newsletter the same as the school's newsletter? It was clarified that this is a new policy of the school and the district and will help save paper. The PAC continues to send out a newsletter of PAC information and calendar of events via email and confers with the school to include school dates and events. The school also posts PAC dates on the school website for us and the PAC has a facebook page.

- Concerns were voiced that parent participation was much lower at today's Remembrance Day Ceremony than last year. There were only 4 parents today. In previous years, parents were lined up in the hallway to get seating for the Ceremony. It was wondered if parents might not have been aware of the ceremony.

As a PAC we will monitor how well this new policy is working and will keep the Principal informed of any concerns.

Addendum: The PAC also has it's own website and Moni is looking for another parent with a good knowledge of wordpress to help her keep the PAC website up to date.

On-line Math program:

This was a successful program last year and all present agree that we should support this. We would ask that participating students' parents contribute \$10 each, the same as last year, and the PAC will pay for the rest. Vote passed to support payment for the program.

C. President's Report:

- **Interactive Workshop:**

We need to decide and book an Evergreen Cultural Centre Program, Place Des Arts Program or the Hip Hop dance program soon. The Hip Hop Dance program cost a little over \$2000.00.

- **iGirl/iGuy workshop:**

There is interest in hosting an iGirl/iGuy workshop on body image through Saleema Noon. Suggestion that Joelle provides a similar workshop. Nathania will look in to what is available.

D. Fundraising Report:

Aubrey Marshall was introduced and welcomed as a parent who has volunteered to help coordinate the PAC's fundraising efforts this year.

- **Fresh to You veggie fundraiser:**

We have raised over \$700.00 with our sales of bags of vegetables. Ms. Simonson's Kindergarten class won the prize for most orders and had a great pizza party.

Addendum:

- On November 26th, we unloaded, bagged and delivered 85 bags of vegetables to the classrooms.
- An additional \$130.00 was made with extra vegetables provided and sold in the office.
- Thank you to our volunteers. Well done.

- **Thrifty's Smile Cards:**

If you are a Thrifty's shopper please pick up a card from the office, load the card and buy your groceries! 5% of the money you spend on groceries comes back to the school monthly.

- **Hot Lunch:**

Yanina and Patricia will be organizing hot lunch for December.

- **Movie Night:**

We made a record \$200.00 at our last movie night. The baked fresh pizza is really popular and we quickly sold all 5 pizzas.

Discussion:

Tariq offers to try and find a business willing to donate 8 pizzas for our next movie night.

- **After School Treat:**

Aubrey will begin organizing after school treat. She may change to Fridays. Stay tuned.

- **Grade 5 fundraiser Nov 21st at Cobbs:**

There are only 12 grade 5 students this year so in order to hold this fundraiser, Thank you to the Grade 4's for helping them out.

- **Fundscript:** Fundscrip Gift Card sales are due now.

E. Emergency Preparedness Report:

Mrs. Bawa has forwarded our questions to the district. A fellow administrator who is on the District committee presently reviewing the emergency protocols has provided the following:

- **Food:**

- The district spreadsheet suggests we need to have enough food on hand for 50% of the school population for 3 days. It has been clarified that we do not need this much. Supplies of food for 1/3 of the school population are the recommended amount for an elementary school. For a small school like Meadowbrook it is recommended to purchase 1 granola bar per student. The granola bars may be purchased at Costco and sold to parents on Sports Day or Movie night etc.

- The District Emergency Committee from their research has found that 75% of elementary school children are picked up within 24 hours and then local houses and organizations will fill in with food if students remain longer than 48 hours.
- **Water:**
 - Most schools purchase enough water for each student by purchasing water bottles in the fall every year from Costco. In the spring they use the water for sports day and in September they use the remaining water for Terry Fox runs.
- **Comfort Kits:**
 - No schools are preparing comfort kits anymore.
- **Emergency Papers:**
 - For emergency papers, schools are gathering the forms and clipping the forms to the teachers' clip boards and in the event of an emergency, once the teacher has called the contacts on the forms, they are then put in the lanyards for safe keeping and identification long term. The school secretary can copy and have all the forms put on the clipboards and in the orange classroom bags.
- **Other Emergency Equipment and Supplies:**
 - We have the spreadsheet of recommended equipment supplies from the district and as a PAC we can prioritize what monies can go where.

Discussion:

It is helpful to have answers from the District on the minimum requirements of food/water expected to be on hand at Meadowbrook in the event of an emergency. We can now plan to meet this requirement.

We need to choose one of the following for Emergency Food stores:

- Buy granola bars for every staff/student and hand them out for free in June/September at Sports Day or Terry Fox run before expiry.
- Buy food rations to meet the minimum requirement of the District Spreadsheet (higher estimate than Administrator's answer above). Western Safety sells 3 day ration packs at \$10 each. We would need 99. Expire in 5 years and at a cost of \$990 this is roughly \$200.00 per year. This would take up the yearly \$200 emergency prep budget.

Val will shop around and compare food ration prices at different companies. Western Safety is supposed to get back to us with the ingredients and whether the rations are nut-free. We can vote on whether to buy granola bars or food rations at our next meeting.

We need to choose one of the following for Emergency Water stores:

- Buy bottled water, 2 per student and staff every fall, hand out for free in June/Sept at Sports Day and Terry Fox run.
- Purchase a 378 Litre refillable tank (water needs as estimated on the district spreadsheet to be 300 L for 200 students/staff). Cost quote is \$227.00 +tax.

- Camping water storage containers are expensive. Roughly \$40 per 20 L container.
 - Buy blue emergency water storage barrels (200 L each). Cost is approx \$200.00 each.
- Discussion: Purchasing a refillable tank appears to be the most cost effective.

Comfort Kits:

Comfort Kits are not a requirement of the school district. Positives of having comfort kits are the extra food, water and support for students that they provide. Negatives are that not everyone has one and as families leave the school, personal kits are often left behind for us to decide what to do with them. We do have a large suitcase in every classroom for the purpose of transporting the comfort kits in an emergency. It is noted that there are students with individualized needs such as allergies who would benefit from having their own individual comfort kit during an emergency.

Discussion: This year we will continue to have comfort kits but we will not send a second letter home for missing kits. At the end of the year, we will return all the comfort kits sent in.

Emergency Papers:

There is some concern that the teachers won't have the time in an emergency to fold and put emergency papers in lanyards and pin to children's clothing, resulting in a risk that children who are separated from their group, will not have their information with them.

Emergency Prep Volunteers:

Tegan has volunteered to help oversee the emergency prep work with Valerie. We are hoping to start doing inventory checks in November with different groups of volunteers. We can bring volunteers in to replace outdated supplies in January.

F. DPAC Rep Report:

Any parent is welcome to the DPAC meetings. Sign in when you enter the room.

- **New Curriculum:**

The new curriculum is considered an overhaul of everything schools are currently doing. This is a pilot project in our school district and the team is really looking for parent feedback.

- Core aspects of the new curriculum are critical thinking and creative thinking.
- A Key philosophy is the "Educated Citizen". Students are encouraged to think positively of themselves and others and to take ownership of themselves and their environment.
- Parents will be more involved in the class and there will be day to day parent and teacher communication.
- Teachers will have 2 additional Pro D days in 2016 for training in the new curriculum.
- Cory Noble from DPAC would like to arrange a time to present the new curriculum to the Meadowbrook PAC and explain how it impacts parents.
- Cory would like input from teachers, PAC's, counselors, administrators. A good overview can be found at:

https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/Curriculum_Brochure.pdf

and

curriculum.gov.bc.ca

- You can give your input. Parent feedback and involvement is being sought.
- Information is also available on the SD43 website and the DPAC website.
- **DPAC presentation on Autism:**
 - Studies show that having children with Autism in the classroom does not negatively impact learning and in fact provides students with opportunity to develop empathy and respect for others in the community.
- **DPAC sponsored workshop on “Well Ahead”:**

From the website:

- “WellAhead is a philanthropic initiative of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation that aims to improve child and youth mental by integrating wellbeing into school communities.”
- “The initiative focuses on one of a diverse range of complementary approaches to addressing the needs of schools and students: the integration of wellbeing into school culture, practices and environments. Over the next five years, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, WellAhead will work with communities and provinces across Canada to advance how schools can make wellbeing part of their DNA.”
- “In Year 1, WellAhead is focusing its efforts in British Columbia, where we are supporting 6 pilot districts.”
- SD43 is lucky to be one of 6 pilot districts for WellAhead. To learn more and provide feedback go to:

wellahead.ca

Discussion:

The group feels it would be great to have Cory come and speak to the PAC about the new curriculum.

G. Monday Morning Clean-Up Crew:

Parents have been meeting every Monday and picking up weekend garbage on the school grounds. The Custodians are surveying the school grounds and cleaning up garbage the rest of the week. Some concerns expressed around the used condoms, fireworks, broken glass and dog poop being found after the weekends.

- Thanks to Marcell Belanger who has supplied the gloves.

H. New Business:

● **Reggio Program:**

What is a Reggio based program and how is it implemented in a Reggio Emilio inspired school like ours? Concerns raised that we are getting away from a Reggio approach in the school. For example: 2 years ago parents were involved in classroom documentation but no longer.

- Can we reinstate the school’s Reggio Development Committee so that parents and teachers can meet and discuss these concerns?

- Can the PAC go to the school or district to ask what plan is in place to make sure teachers who are new to the school have access and support for Reggio education or training?

Discussion:

Parents want opportunities to learn about Reggio, to discuss Reggio in the school system, to address people's concerns and to bring forward ideas. There is strong support for having a Reggio Development Committee made up of parents and teachers.

- There should be an educational component to the Reggio Committee.
- Everyone in the room is interested in this.

Susan will discuss the group's interest with the Principal and we will get this started.

• Odyssey of the Mind:

- This is an international program (odysseyofthemind.com) that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from Kindergarten on up. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local level and can progress to the provincial level and beyond.
- The whole school registers and teams of interested children are made. They are given a challenge according to their age group. They will compete against 100's of children in SD43 in front of a set of judges.
- It takes a parent to run the program for the school. A teacher needs to sponsor. The parent supervises the activity in a classroom 1xweek. The children have to manifest everything on their own.
- Nathania is willing to put in the time to organize this with interested parents.

Discussion:

Two years ago Meadowbrook participated and it was a positive experience. Other parents in the room are familiar with the competition. Susan has been a judge, Jeremy has participated with a different school, Annie's child participated in a project recently and she has researched this as well. There is a lot of enthusiasm to pursue this.

9:30 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 8th.