

Mundy Road PAC Minutes

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Wednesday February 11, 2015 7:00 pm

Present: Sarah MacDonald, Gurj Parmar, Ursula Elliott, Tamara Sherdahl, Nicole Schenato, Christine Friend, Michaela Kelly, Janice Doege, Suzanne LaFleur, Rob Wright, Elizabeth Hrynew, Jeannene Crosby, Ryan Robinson

Regrets: Marcy Baverstock, Teri Towner, Wendy Dhillon, Jennifer McKinnon.

7:00 pm

Accept Minutes of January 14, 2014 PAC Meeting First – Ryan Robinson, Seconded by Christine Friend.

Chairperson's Report – Gurj Parmar

Nothing to report

Principal's Report – Rob Wright

The Basketball team has been practicing 4 days per week. There are some games setup. It's all going well.

Applications for a Leadership program have gone out to Grade 5s. There seems to be lots of interest from the kids.

Kindergarten registration has happened. So far 19 kids are registered. That number will change. Some parents don't register until the last minute.

Spring Break is coming up March 9. Report cards go out March 5.

The school calendar online is updated frequently.

We are planning to move forward with bringing the Artist to teach the kids in April and a Tennis program in June to spend the Cultural Events and Sports Skills line items in the budget. The artist and tennis will be subsidized by the PAC and parents will be asked to pay a little bit for it.

Hip hop may be possible for next year. Still looking into the drumming program which may be provided by the District.

Organic waste disposal – classroom bins will come soon and process for common areas will be reviewed with kids and staff. Custodians will also play a role in the program.

School satisfaction survey will happen soon. This is a survey that goes out from the government and is the opportunity for students and parents to provide input into many aspects of school

life. Grade fours also work with Rob Wright and complete it with him. Will be done by April. Results are held at the Ministry level and are fed back to the school level. It's an anonymous survey. It helps inform planning at the school and at the district level.

Smartboards are moved in except for the new one which is on the Teacher's Wishlist to be voted on today. Kids and staff are very excited about this. The installer remarked that he had never seen an elementary school with a Smart Board in every classroom. Kudos to the Mundy Road PAC for making it happen.

Convex mirror has been installed at the front door for increased security so Bonny Gibson can see who is coming in the front door. Thanks to the PAC for that. Hand Sanitizer has been given out to all classrooms thanks to the PAC.

Lifetouch (photo company) asked if we wanted to do spring photos and/or family photos. The latter is usually organized by someone on the PAC. Is there any feedback to Lifetouch? Some PAC members felt service was poor – it took a month to get the photos and calls/emails were not returned promptly. The digital version was a disk, not a download like last year. Packages were confusing to find what you wanted. Softer more natural poses would be better. There is no interest among the attending PAC members for spring photos or family photos.

Breakfast Program – see update in Breakfast program below.

In lieu of the Breakfast program, the school, with the PAC's support, is meeting the nutritional needs of kids at school by providing an expansion to food available from the office in the mornings, at recess and at lunch. So far, kids are enjoying this. Rob and Bonny are monitoring usage to establish a baseline understanding of how much quantity is required week to week. For lunch, we have cheese strings, granola bars, pizza pockets and are looking for other food items that are substantial but easy to deal with. Muffins may be a good option. There is also yogurt available. Perishables leftovers at the end of the week will be forwarded to families in our school community who need it. The kids are loving it.

To make the activity more manageable over the long term we could look at companies that deliver fruit and vegetables. We will also look to PAC members to help out with the shopping once we have a baseline order established. We will consider establishing a future position on the PAC to be a Nutritional Liaison to assist with this.

Treasurer's Report – Ursula Elliot

Chequing account has \$23,517.42 of which \$20,696.18 is available.

Parent Donations are \$1125 currently held in trust by the school.

Gaming account has \$4350.58

Technology Savings is \$7251.99

Rainy Day is \$4750.77

So far we've raised \$7310.10 this year.

In our chequing account we have a cushion to cover the unfunded portion of the budget for this year. Our intent is not to carry a large balance forward year to year as the funds raised are to be spent on the kids.

School Planning Council

Nothing to report.

District PAC

Teri Towner sent regrets and provided the following notes:

DPAC Meeting January 28, 2015

Superintendent's Report

- 2014/2015 budget was designed to be a balanced budget and it is
- No anticipated needs for mid-year cuts
- No job reductions beyond those announced in April 2014

What to expect for 2015/2016:

- Preference for a status quo budget
- Stability within schools and for our teams
- Continued debt repayment so that monies can be restored into the system

This is all good news!

- We are in good shape; in a very positive situation moving forward
- Misconceptions can be alleviated
- There will be frequent communications re: SD43 budget situation

Safe Schools Presentation – Cindi Seddon, Julie Pearce

Policies and Procedures

- Policy 17 – District Code of conduct for students
- Policy 18 – violence, intimidation and possession of weapons
- AP 355 Suspension of students
- School codes of conduct – intent, development, proactive, progressive and reflective
- Suspension Data – vast improvement over time

The school act states once a kid is 16, you can kick them out. SD43 doesn't do that. Looks for restorative practices; setting the course of a different direction. Kicking kids out for a time or forever doesn't work. Alternates to suspension are always looked for.

Ministry of Education

- ERASE Reports
 - ERASE Training
- Only 21 reports of 30,000 students since these programs initiated 3 years ago

Not enough services/resources for students struggling with mental health challenges

Safe Schools Framework

- Steering committee and framework origins/ development
- Schools and SEL focus
- Alignment with “Learning Without Boundaries” – speaks to and supports all pillars but in particular Pillar 1: “Creating a culture of care and shared responsibility where every learner matters”

Communications Co-ordinator

Jennifer McKinnon not present. No report.

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Marcy Baverstock sent regrets. No report

Fundraising – Michaela Kelly

SHARE sent us a letter and thanked us for our donation.

Movie Night - Friday Feb 27th is confirmed as movie night. Movie choice includes Box Trolls, Big Hero 6 and Book of Life. The kids will decide which one they want.

There are two options for format. First, we could keep it similar to last year where the whole family comes. Food can pre-ordered and eaten before the movie.

The second option is to make it a Drop Off/Date Night for Parents where school aged kids could be dropped off. Chaperones would be available. Food would be pre-ordered for before the movie. Pickup by 9 pm. This is a PAC event in the school, not a school event so criminal record checks would not be a requirement. If this option is chosen, it’s important to let parents know who is chaperoning and how it’s working.

The PAC members present debated which model would be preferable. Some members expressed that it’s nice for the parents to mix it up by being included in the event as we don’t do that very often. It’s a nice community building activity. There were definitely pros and cons to both formats as lots of parents would enjoy a date night where childcare is affordable and fun for the kids.

A vote was held and the majority of members present prefer to have a family movie night, rather than a drop off so that’s what we’ll go with. We discussed cost and arrived at a tentative

entry fee of \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Food purchases will be in addition to this and are optional.

Hot Lunch – Nikki Schenato

Spaghetti was a big hit for hot lunch this month. We made \$647 on that one. Sushi this Friday. Orders going well so far. Hot Dogs on Feb 27.

Grade 5 Fundraising committee has advised that they do not need to do a hot lunch. They will leave the \$500 intact for next year as has been the custom for several years.

Emergency Preparedness

Wendy Dhillon was not present but provided the following update.

Emergency prep inventory is done. Will have list to Rob and emergency team soon. Our next step is to review outstanding items for emergency supplies list.

Safety - Convex mirror and hand sanitizers for classrooms are with Rob. Rob has submitted work order to have mirror installed (Note: it's installed now). Rob will give me the bill when ready.

Constitution Review – Sarah MacDonald

Reminder that the scope of this review as to do with the absence of any mention of digital media in terms of PAC communications and notifications. It is not a complete review of the entire constitution. Sarah has started working on a draft and will send it to the committee for comments in the next few weeks.

Old Business

Mad Science – Elizabeth Hrynew

Started Jan 30th. There will only be 5 sessions instead of 6 due to the Pro D day. Anyone registered will get a credit in cash for that missed session. 11 kids registered. Kids are loving it.

Elizabeth Hrynew will look into having another session in the spring.

New Business

Teacher's Wishlist

Vote on teacher's wishlist as detailed in the PAC Agenda.

All in Favour. None opposed. Wishlist is approved.

Discussion happened about the rug that needs replacing. The School District does not have any standing order agreements for classroom rugs. Schools can do it on their own. Christine Friend has some quotes on appropriate rugs between \$345 and \$550. Nikki Schenato also has catalogues with suitable rugs and age appropriate themes. Varying shapes, colours at similar price points.

ACTION: Nikki Schenato will take care of getting the rug.

March 25th PAC meeting is cancelled.

The PAC meeting currently scheduled for March 25th will be cancelled due to conflict with the DPAC meeting. If a special meeting is required we can hold one.

Secretary fill in for April 7 and 8th meetings

Sarah MacDonald will not be here for April 7th pre-budget meeting by Executive or April 8th PAC meeting where the draft budget for next year will be presented. Someone else will need to take on duties of Secretary for that meeting. Note: The PAC budget for next year gets voted on at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Breakfast Program Update

Rob Wright contacted Breakfast for Learning about the gift cards we had received but not used. He explained what has transpired and that we have expanded our nutrition program in the school instead of moving forward with a breakfast program. Breakfast for Learning said we could keep the grant money and continue to use them for meeting the nutritional needs of kids at school. They asked that when we apply next year, we note the changes to our program. This represents \$1100 this year.

In addition, we received a dairy grant for \$500 from Presidents Choice Children's Charity which Teri Towner had applied for. Rob Wright will follow up on this Dairy grant and ensure it can be used for our adjusted nutrition program before spending them. There are no further grants outstanding.

ACTION: Rob will follow up on the dairy grant.

Communications Issues

One of the members of our PAC published information publicly on social media about the cancellation of a local Breakfast program that the member was involved in. Within hours, the post garnered quite a bit of negative feedback by its readers and was picked up by a local education blogger who identified the school as Mundy Road and published her own article on the issue. Unfortunately, the blogger published her article with information from only one member of the PAC and so it was not factually accurate. Another member of our PAC Executive provided the blogger with a clearer account of what happened with the Mundy Breakfast program, substantiated by the PAC minutes. The blogger was apologetic and immediately removed the article and offered to publish an article that focuses on the positive work the Mundy PAC has done over time.

The members of the PAC Executive and all the parent members of the PAC who help out from time to time when they can, do so for one reason – to give the kids of Mundy Road a great school experience in their community. We are all volunteers so the negativity reflected on our PAC and our school through this unfortunate incident was particularly upsetting.

The PAC member who posted the original social media post also removed it and sent her apologies to the PAC Executive for causing bad feelings.

The Chair and the Principal will write a communication to Parents about the nutrition program that this school has always provided and will continue to provide as well as the many other great activities and initiatives this PAC has made happen. The Mundy Road PAC has been and continues to be a very active and engaged group of volunteers who put the students of this school first.

Adjourned 9:50 pm.