

Shannon Lake Elementary PAC Meeting

February 4, 2015

Rebecca Ashley (President), Aimee Ward (Treasurer), Sara Cousins (Secretary), Andrea Pal (hot lunch), Rochelle Neels (VP), Lorelei Dournovo, Rebecca Desroers

Guest: Kim Buchanan (Teacher, Grade 3-4)

Call to order: 6:31 pm

Minutes

Adopted: Aimee Ward

Seconded: Andrea Pal

Business Arising

Should we send out the minutes via Parent Ambassador?

Discussion: Yes, will highlight the work/ decisions and maybe encourage other to come to the meetings.

Principal's Report (from Mr. Bruce)

Outdoor classroom – since we no longer have treed area, space taken away when new addition put in too.

Kim has put together proposals (with Sharon Foster and Jane Smith) for outdoor learning spaces (currently fenced). Place to interact with the earth, cross-curricular – math, English, science etc. Learning garden. Unique to our school. Respect for nature, curiosity, all ages and learning style, empower students to be creators of change, community, connect to where food comes from, healthier lifestyle.

Support pollinators, prevent erosion, learn about ethnobotany (First Peoples), alternatives to pesticides (Bylands can support), hands-on etc.

Ideas – composting, growing food, bug hotel, plants as medicine, problem solving, measuring/ documenting, worm farming etc.

Connecting with Whispering Plants (WFN)

Mrs. Foster's class won hydro community champion award (new taps)

The group has applied for several grants to date.

Teaching areas (ie. Not accessible at recess etc.)

1) Bug hotel project in the Forest Garden (by the playground). May also have a compost area. What can we plant here without irrigation needs. Egg shells, coffee grounds- build up nitrogen into the soil.

2) Garden boxes and Pollinator Garden – in area of existing garden boxes, wildflowers etc. cold frame for winter lettuce

3) Interpretive Garden Trail – area on the end/ rear of the school on the hill - focus on First Nations ethnobotany, food and medicine – eg. Saskatoon berry, paper birch if possible - looking at drought resistant varieties. May include some seating for “classroom”.

Mr. McLeod has walked the grounds with district staff to confirm appropriate use/ safety.

Discussion:

Area next to playground – issues for fenced area not affected? (neighbour disturbance, erosion – could put up a retaining wall/ plants for buffer, teacher supervision).

Aimee can get pallets, for example, school community may be able to donate materials.

Kids help build bug hotel, bird houses etc. Community connections.

Art along fence may be a future project

Request: PAC to donate \$2000 for soil, trees, seeds, garden markers, high quality compost, tools to begin the project.

Decision/Action: Bring in egg shells, coffee grounds to class (they will then mix and distribute). Send out via Parent Ambassador – Karla.

Decision/Action: Vote on request for \$2000 start-up funding (see below)

Parent volunteers needed for Harmony Day (Wed. February 18, afternoon – 11:15 on) – request to go out via Parent Ambassador. Kim is looking for parents to help with mixed age group stations- story reading, art, physical education. Art to involve a star (on 5x5 paper) – *We are all under the same stars*. Will put into rotunda. Also a school group project – handprints to form a landscape, SLE soaring eagle. Need perhaps 10-12 parents to help with painting and cleaning up small kids hands etc. Kids to dress in paintable clothes. Painting to be photographed and made into cards.

Principal's Report cont.

Family Day Stat– February 9

Professional Day – February 20

Parent-Teacher February 26/27

School Planning Council –goals to focus on engagement, math and literacy.

Draft District Calendar for next year – see district website

Spring Break and Easter fall together in 2016 - March 14-March 28 (Good Friday is the

25th, Easter Monday is the 28th).

School opens September 8.

Schools close June 29.

Treasurer's Report

Banking information provided.

Aimee will look into a term deposit for savings

Motion: PAC to donate \$2000 to the Learning Garden Committee for materials to start project

Attended via phone (satellite voters, required for quorum):

Jamie Pal

Karla Christian

Andy Ashley

Kaleena Vanderborn

Rochelle Neels

Motion Approved

PAC to review additional donation as project gets going, promote the project.

Can get coffee grounds from Starbucks in large amounts.

Issue: Kiss and Ride

Discussion: parents are able to help out on occasion since some days there is only one person at the bottom. Monday and Tuesday are short right now. More manageable this year, however.

We could remind parents that they can drop off at either location.

Issue: Hot Lunch

Discussion: Dominos cards - \$135 raised by selling to parents via hot lunch site.

Question: any hot lunch days on field trip days - no

Decision/ Action:

We will give two to each teacher for pizza parties etc.

Issue: Book Drive

Discussion: Barry will do a syner-voice to remind parents can drop off, eg. When they are here for parent-teacher conferences. Do book sale in April or so. Portable is available to sort the books, set up.

Decision/ Action: Mr. Bruce will have kids help start moving the books out to the portable.

Issue: Family Photo Day – April 18/19

Discussion: Booked.

Issue: Fun Fair

Discussion: possible date June 5 or 12th. Avoids Girl Guides district camp and dance recitals.

Mr. MacLeod suggested June 5th preferred. Mr. Bruce agrees.

Decision/ Action:

- 1) June 5th for the Fun Fair**
- 2) Parent Ambassador request for volunteer sign-up for organizing committee**

Committee – Leah, Aimee, Andrea, Jamie (bbq), Lorelei – first meeting to be held the week of February 20 (or so)

Put out note in Parent Ambassador – volunteers for organizing committee –sign up by Feb. 16, meeting to be held shortly after

Early Learning for Families – ELF – March 2. Invite 3, 4, 5 year olds coming to kindergarten, evening event, dinner, presentation, introduce school team, kids participate in activities in kindergarten rooms. PAC rep requested to attend.

Note: for kindergarten orientation ensure discuss hot lunch. We may do an orientation in the spring – prepare earlier. Get information on kids earlier too – eg. Preschool, early birthday etc. The ones that register over the summer can still be given tour, information etc. Can do during the day as well.

March 9 – Mary MacDonald – school councilor - parent presentation in evening – topic = Anxiety. Will be advertising. RSVP the office.

Hot lunch winner: Sara Cousins

Meeting adjourned at: 7:40