

North Glenmore Elementary PAC



Meeting Minutes from the North Glenmore Elementary Parent Advisory Council April 20, 2021

PAC Executive Present: Jennifer Eberle, Christa Jenn, Becky Furney, Jamie Hudson-Zecchel, Shawna Shoranick, Tana Hammett

Staff Present: Sue Stevenson, Jill Voros

Parents Present: Heather Csikos, Delaine Coppock, Ryan Latendresse

Guest Presenter Present: Dianne Bondaroff

1. Welcome from Jennifer Eberle and an invitation to make additions to the agenda

- a. No additions were made
- b. Becky Furney requested that attending parents type their names in the chat option for the meeting minutes

2. Approval of the April 20, 2021 agenda for the Meeting

- a. Becky Furney made a motion and Jamie Zecchel seconded the motion to approve the April 20, 2021 agenda

3. Approval of Minutes for February 16, 2021 Meeting

- a. Jennifer presented the meeting minutes for reading and review over Zoom
- b. Jamie Zecchel made a motion and Tana Hammett seconded the motion to approve the February 16, 2021 minutes

4. Guest Speaker Dianne Bondaroff – NGE Courtyard and Garden Project

- a. Lunch hour supervisors cleaned up the courtyard and planted flowers
- b. Diane and Esmae Rothfusz (Indigenous Advocate at NGE) have spearheaded this volunteer project for curricular opportunities for students
- c. Esmae is going to add a plant or flower that has meaning to First Nations people
- d. Planting will happen next month
- e. The center island will be called the Three Sisters Garden
 - i. It is 9 feet by 7 feet and will have corn, squash, and beans climbing the corn (traditional indigenous method)
- f. Diane will water the plants through the summer
- g. Plants will be ready for September for the students to observe and learn from
- h. Questions:
 - i. Becky – Would this become a project for students to plant and grow vegetables such as what A.S. Matheson does?



- ii. Diane – The plot space in the courtyard is quite small and would not accommodate such a large project, but kids will be doing some planting and seeding

5. Principal Report from Sue Stevenson

- a. Highlights Since Last PAC meeting
 - i. Construction Site Fire
 - 1. The fire was very impacting on the community
 - 2. People worked together, bonded, and supported each other in the aftermath
 - 3. There was a lot of presence in the school with fire fighters and other emergency personnel, but school continued
 - ii. Staffing updates
 - 1. There will be staffing for 27 divisions next year (there are 26 divisions this year)
 - 2. This means more classroom support staff next year (extra Full-Time Equivalents)
 - 3. There will be over 600 students this year (many more than the 400 when Jill arrived 4 years ago)
 - 4. A new portable will be coming to the school this year
 - iii. Playground / Courtyard / Outdoor Classroom – Jill Voros provided the following update
 - 1. Jill posed a thank you to PAC for their contribution to the playground upgrade – the South playground is spectacular, and it was up and ready to go in a timely fashion
 - 2. There are still some fences around the North playground where there are circles for outdoor learning
 - a. We are waiting for seeding and sod to settle in before taking away the fencing
 - b. It will take little more time before access is granted
 - 3. Jill expressed gratitude to the Operations Department for their extra work in the courtyard where there was continually swampy grass (an irrigation problem)
 - a. They dug it out and filled with backfill and crush which will help; they will let it settle and then come back and stamp it again
 - b. NGE is gathering some ideas from staff for using that space
 - iv. Covid updates
 - 1. Vernon and Surrey are moving forward with vaccinations
 - 2. The school is still following protocols with masks, hand washing and the cohort structure and still working hard to keep things safe
 - 3. Everyone has Covid fatigue, but Sue offered a reminder to parents to do the daily health check; even if the child has a common cold, stay home
 - 4. NGE will be sending a reminder home to parents as this is still important
 - 5. There is a new mandate for grade 4-6 students to wear masks



6. We have not had breakout at NGE for a long time; the staff is working hard, wiping surfaces, etc.; we are doing our part, and thanks to parents for doing their part
- v. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)
 1. Sue shared results of the grade 4 FSA
 - a. Numeracy was stronger than Literacy which was surprising
 - b. Some students with special needs and some strong students whose parents requested exemption did not write
 2. The school will be tracking results over the next few years and observe what we can work on
 3. Jill noted that the FSA is a snapshot and is used for teachers to know where to focus teaching efforts
- vi. Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)
 1. The MDI is a questionnaire given to grade 5's
 2. Assessors noticed generally that mindfulness and growth mindset were strong themes with the students
 3. A high number of students referenced connectedness
- vii. Ministry satisfaction survey – Grade 4
 1. Parents have received the satisfaction survey
 2. NGE staff will talk about the results at the next meeting once they are in
- viii. Recess Rotation Schedule
 1. Based on observations, having 2 separate recess times (Primary and Intermediate) has seemed to be much more manageable
 2. First aid reports are down
 3. This structure was implemented due to COVID but is working well and will likely be continued
- ix. Grade 4-6 Sexual Health lessons this week
 1. Grade 4 students received one lesson, Grade 5 and 6 received two lessons
 2. A team comes in to present and offer quality learning in a safe space
- x. Early Learning for Families (ELFF)
 1. ELFF will be Wednesday, April 21 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 2. Although the presentation is usually in the building, they will set up outside this year, and parents will receive an ELFF bag with a book, indigenous scavenger hunt (plants), magnifying glasses, art tools, etc.
 3. The NGE team put together an 8-minute presentation to explain what the kids can do with the items in the bag
 4. 30 families registered
- xi. Vision and Values
 1. An NGE parent community survey will be sent out to parents who can talk to each other and provide opinions and values for the direction of the school
 2. NGE hopes to begin the conversation about what parents value about teaching and learning for their child
- xii. School Registration

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1. At least 602 students will be attending next year, and the projection is 610 students
 2. If families are moving, NGE asks parents to let office know ASAP; they need to know if families are moving away from the school in order to know how many others they can accept
 3. Cross-boundary students cannot be considered until late August
- xiii. April learning
1. April 22 is Earth Day, and it is also the start of Battle of the Books - Good luck students!
 2. Students are working on and presenting science experiments, etc.
- b. Calendar Approval for next year (provided to attendees)
- i. Days and dates are determined by School District 23
 - ii. They are consulting with teachers and parents on the following proposals
 1. Daily bell system
 2. Conference dates
 - a. The first dates are early because teachers like to use the initial conferences for goal setting (beginning of October)
 - b. The second dates are in February
 - c. Both are on Wednesday and Thursday – feedback from parents was that Fridays are difficult
 3. Report card dates
 - iii. Questions:
 1. Jennifer – When were the conferences previously?
 2. Sue – One week later than this past year
- c. Funding Requests from Staff for 2 Programs
- i. The school is aware of PAC's commitment to pay back the school board for the playground, but teachers are requesting funds for the following 2 programs:
 - ii. Inline skating in the gymnasium (offered to K-6) to teach skills and safety
 - iii. Gymnastix program
 1. Cost is \$3000-\$5000 per program (\$5-8 per child)
 2. The school cannot afford this cost unless PAC could contribute to part of each program or one of the two programs
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Sue – Everyone gets 2-3 lessons with qualified instructors
 - b. Shawna – Fundraising is limited this year and there has been no fun lunch. How soon would NGE need to know? We did not do field trips which would usually be \$10-\$12 per student, and we won't know if children will be able to leave the school by the end of the year. I like the idea of someone coming into the school. We have not formulated a plan for loan payback (we may be able to pay at the end and hope for some forgiveness) and whether or not fun lunch will run again. June may provide insight for September.
 - c. Tana – Some parents' feedback is that they don't care for the fundraisers. Could we offer just straight donations?

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- d. Sue – We could; it has been done before. Or maybe PAC could run a big fundraiser blitz to do most fundraising at once rather than in small donations.
 - e. Heather Csikos – I agree that we can ask for a \$8-\$10 donation and frame it around the benefit of an activity in lieu of field trips. Maybe we could set it up on PAC website.
 - f. Tana – Maybe offer donations through the Hot Lunch website.
 - g. Sue – I will tentatively book the events with caveats that parents will be asked to chip in
- d. Other funding request – Courtyard and North park upgrades
- i. A school account had been earmarked for the courtyard (\$5000.00), but SD23 paid for some of the fixes in the courtyard
 - 1. Where the new crush is, a bench or two would be a nice addition – we have planters and picnic tables
 - 2. Another sand box in the North corner above the soccer fields – with a nice frame
 - 3. Indigenous plants are coming in, but more planting can make it look even more beautiful
 - ii. Shawna – this account was for the courtyard to be used however the school wants
 - iii. Maybe they will use partial amounts from this account for the property and allocate some toward the inline skating and Gymnastix events
 - iv. Heather – Rutland seniors make benches / tables; this could be a project that we can request from them
 - v. Sue – Great idea, but we may not get approval because the product is wood which is burnable
- e. Code of Conduct (provided to attendees)
- i. The Code of Conduct is on the NGE website
 - ii. NGE is asking parents to have an awareness of the dress code: tattoos, violent images, bathing suits, and hats in class are not permitted; appropriate footwear includes running shoes for indoors, and flip flops and sandals are for outdoors only
 - iii. NGE will review and revisit the code of conduct in the Fall since the last version was created in 2019
- f. Clean Air and Safe Routes 4 Schools program (provided to attendees)
- i. More information can be found at: <https://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/air-quality-program/safe-routes-4-schools.aspx>
 - ii. Nancy could come to next PAC meeting if we are interested – she sent information to PAC giving info and there is a website (above)
 - iii. The program is focused on drop off and parking and how we can get everyone doing things that are not frustrating the neighbours (illegal parking, for example)
 - 1. Parking at NGE is a big concern; some people are parking in driveways
 - iv. They send a team to observe drop off and parking and we get funding
 - v. The team can come to PAC and present ideas
 - vi. Dan Glasscock presented this option – do we want Nancy to come and present?
 - 1. PAC agreed to invite Nancy to come to a meeting



- g. Thank you to parents, particularly for helping to fund the playground, participating in other fundraising, and for handling the fire emergency well
- h. Open to questions and comments
 - i. Tana – On the other side of Union (right by Wyndham road), a garbage can is overflowing, and kids are kicking garbage and it is not nice; could we make a call to the city?
 - ii. Sue – I could call
 - iii. Jennifer – I liked the reference to systems and protocols we may want to keep from COVID (cleaning and recess). Will anything else be kept?
 - iv. Jill – People are missing their big buddies and peer monitors
 - v. Sue – We are also missing the whole leadership in student body opportunity because we cannot cross cohorts (gr 4-6)
 - vi. Jill – What we have seen this year is inquiry work in growth mindset and kindness; we are seeing little learners saying “I’ve got this, and I’ve got strategies”
 - 1. Sue and Jill implemented weekly grounds cleanup rotation with classes (each class is going out with tongs and buckets and collaborating with cleaning up together)
 - vii. Sue – Another positive from COVID that teachers identified is growth in use of tech and meeting over Zoom (eg. If a teacher or guest teacher has something to share, now they can Zoom it to other classrooms) giving the ability to reach more people

6. President’s Report from Jennifer Eberle

- a. Thank to NGE and team for all the organization put into getting the playground on site, providing quotes and feedback, choosing the model, removing the North playground, and updating the outdoor classroom – Watson is inquiring about the new playground and where we got it!
- b. Thank you to the NGE community for keeping everyone safe
 - i. Daily health checks, masks, distance, keeping kids home, etc.
 - ii. We have not had exposure since before Christmas break
- c. The community gaming grant application has been sent
 - i. We will find out more around September
 - ii. Funding is typically \$20 per students based on the previous year’s enrollment
- d. Loan from School District 23 repayment plan
 - i. The loan is \$75,000
 - ii. We have 3-5 years to pay it back and it needs to be on the top of our minds every year
 - iii. Hopefully we can do more fundraising in the near future that we used to do pre-COVID
- e. One official PAC meeting left
 - i. This will be in May
 - ii. There is not usually a meeting in June
- f. PAC Executive Team
 - i. President: Jennifer will be leaving the position but will be around and can help the new president



- ii. Vice-President: Christa will stay on PAC but unsure of which role or position
- iii. Secretary: Becky will be leaving the position as she is moving
- iv. Fundraising Coordinator: Tana has settled into a good system and will stay
- v. Treasurer: Shawna will stay
- vi. Fun Lunch: Jamie will be leaving Fun Lunch and would like to put her name forward as president
- g. Jennifer – Can we get the word out for the need for volunteers?
 - i. Sue – The Kindergarten orientation would a good time to introduce the PAC and what it is about; I suggest having one to two members come and introduce PAC
 - ii. Becky – can we send out a notice in the next Newsletter?
 - iii. Sue – The newsletter is nearly ready to be sent but we can add this notice

7. Vice President's Report by Christa Jenn

- a. Thank you to everyone working together and helping students be successful

8. Treasurer's Report by Shawna Shoronick

- a. Shawna's concern is the same as Jennifer's regarding a repayment plan for the loan – see notes above

9. Fun Lunch Report by Jamie Zecchel

- a. No Hot Lunch news

10. Fundraiser Coordinator's Report by Tana Hammett

- a. The Greenery fundraiser raised \$500.00
- b. T-bones had a \$1117.50 profit
- c. The Photography fundraiser was booked within 2 days
 - i. The photographer opened up other spaces to accommodate the demand
- d. Upcoming Dominoes fundraiser
 - i. Dominoes approached PAC with this fundraiser
 - ii. It is a special night meal at home
 - iii. \$5 per order will go to NGE via a cheque
- e. Tana has been looking into True Earth for fundraising
 - i. They offer laundry detergent, disinfectant, snack bags and more
 - ii. 20% per sale goes to the school and products are shipped to homes
 - iii. We could start this fundraiser in mid or end of May
- f. COVID-friendly fundraising
 - i. Heather – could we do more photography fundraiser, maybe 2 times per year?
 - ii. Tana – Peter was the only one she felt was truly trustworthy, but we can talk to him about doing two fundraisers a year after this round

11. Opened the meeting for discussion – no comments or questions

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12. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021 at 7:00

13. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Jamie Zecchel and seconded by Christa Jenn
- b. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm