

## North Glenmore PAC Minutes February 16, 2016

Welcomed by Robynn Robertson

### Present:

PAC Executive: Robynn Robertson, Rhonda Langford, Simone Wittenberg, Adam Romano, Kathryn Chin, Nikki Price, Jane Hardy, Teresa Caldwell.

Parents and Guests: Kathryn Rexin, Kim Thompson, Diane Westfall, Jody Crumb, Laura Overland, Rose Alexis, Lara Davies

Staff: Jared Birkeland

Kathryn Rexin motioned to approve the January 2016 minutes, seconded by Rhonda Langford.

### Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank you and general update
  - Projector and document camera funded by PAC are now in operation in the Library. Reminder - the library space has been reconfigured to accommodate the Information and Technology Literacy (ITL) project, which focuses on teaching digital literacy skills.
2. Harmony Day T-shirt confusion - apologies, the District's sale of blue Harmony Day shirts happened without the school's knowledge. NGE's rainbow shirt plan was in place for our school, and the online offering of the other shirts was not expected. The shirts can still be worn on Harmony Day, however, each class is still asked to wear their specific assigned colour so that a rainbow picture can be taken at the assembly.
3. Enrolment - 2016/2017 registration opened online on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The online registration is working very well for both parents and staff, saving hours of work.
  - So far, 71 new kindergarten students have registered, and 4 students in other grades
  - 82 students will be leaving NGE this year on completion of Grade 6
  - 3 new families will be transferring to NGE this term
4. Mrs. Manduca will be sponsoring Holly Sperling, a student from UVic who is beginning her practicum at the beginning of April.
  - Note that our two student teachers, Kaitlyn Johnson and Kristi Holmes, are volunteering at our Family Dance! Thank you, Kaitlyn and Kristi!
5. Revised Curriculum
  - In addition to the other changes that have been discussed at previous meetings, the revised curriculum will incorporate First Peoples Principles of Learning throughout all subject areas. As with the other changes, the adoption of these principles does not necessarily indicate a change in educational content; they are an additional way for educators to teach the subject matter using methods, perspective, and awareness that recognize and incorporate First Nations principles.
  - Example: one of the Principles states that "Learning requires exploration of one's identity." To incorporate this principle in practice, a teacher could acknowledge and celebrate the cultural identities of all students represented in the class.

### First Nations Cultural Event - funding support request - special guest, Rose Alexis

Rose Alexis is NGE's Aboriginal Student Advocate. She shares her time between NGE and Glenmore Elementary. We are extremely lucky to have her at NGE, as she is one of only two representatives of the local Okanagan nation working in SD23 (there are other advocates, of course - however, their backgrounds are not local to our area).

Rose presented the idea of having a Pow-Wow at NGE. This would be a fun, positive event that would involve and enrich the whole school. Last year, Glenmore Elementary held its first Pow-Wow. This would be NGE's first Pow-Wow. As such, basic concepts of Pow-Wow would be introduced. For example, the idea of basic "regalia," or elements of appropriate dress for a Pow-Wow, would be discussed and perhaps made available to students. This concept is in contrast to the (inappropriate) ideas of costuming- i.e. inappropriately "dressing up." As well, the discussion and provision of regalia would allow each student to participate in the Pow-Wow. For the students, this participation serves the important purpose of shifting the cultural appreciation of the event from the point of view of being observers to being participants. From the point of view of the performers, the focus is shifted from (perhaps) being perceived incorrectly as "entertainment" to being seen as empowered sharers and holders of culture.

Mr. Birkeland shared his experience at one of his former schools. Annual Pow-Wows were held, and experienced as powerful celebrations of culture.

A tentative budget was presented, showing a range of costs for elements such as: Drummers, Dancers, Master of Ceremonies, Fried Bread & Bannock, Activity booths, Presenters, traditional dance lessons, and classroom supplies to make/provide regalia for students. Mr. Birkeland noted that the school would cover one-third of the cost, the Aboriginal Education Program would cover one-third, and the remaining third would be requested from the PAC. The total cost, including all of the elements, was estimated to be \$2,130 - making the PAC funding request \$710. Rose noted that we could choose to leave elements out if funding were not available; we could still have a Pow-Wow but it wouldn't be as rich in experience. The low end was estimated to be \$1,200 to \$1,500 - PAC funding request of \$400 to \$500.

Discussion ensued - it was overwhelmingly positive and in support of the event.

Motion to put forth a budget of \$700 towards the Pow-Wow by Diane Westfall, seconded by Jody Crumb. None dissenting, and a round of applause for Rose Alexis!

### Treasurer's Report - Rhonda Langford

Monthly spreadsheets were circulated and presented by Rhonda; no unusual items to note.

### Internet Safety - upcoming event

This event is a collaboration between Dr. Knox Middle School and the "feeder" schools whose Grade 6 students will be attending Dr. Knox in the fall. NGE's share of the cost was ~\$500 for the Grade 6 students to attend. The speaker will address internet safety and participation in social media.

Attendance by Grade 6 students was suggested after feedback from KLO Middle School and Dr. Knox that dealing with the increased social media expectations were a significant issue for incoming students.

### Special Events Report - Teresa Caldwell, Jane Hardy, Kim Thompson

- Family Dance (Teresa and Jane)
  - Thursday February 19th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
  - Well in hand
- Spring Fair (Kim)
  - Special meeting to follow this meeting
  - Spring Fair Committe meeting - March, date to be determined

### Fundraising - Nikki Price

- Give from the Heart - upcoming.
- Hanging baskets - upcoming, after Spring Break

### Yearbook Committe - Kathy Chin and Kathryn Rexin

- Memory sticks were purchased and distributed to teachers.
- Recap on pricing:
  - Due to a revised quote from Picaboo, the price has dropped to \$20 for a softcover and \$30 for a hardcover book (no volume discounts)

### Fun Lunch - Adam Romano

- Wok Box - new provider - very popular
- Volunteers - numbers are up and down
  - New procedure that may help - next term, option to volunteer for spots online.
  - Diane Westfall is transitioning in, thank you Diane!
- The next ordering period will open Feb 24/25 and run to March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Fun Lunch and Gr. 6 pizza fundraisers will run to the end of May.
  - Pizza - two Fridays in April and two in May

### Special request - Grade 6 funding - Lara Davies

- Grade 6 students are treated to a very special final year at NGE, with several activities and trips that are designed to build community and create memories of NGE. Teachers, staff, students, and parents all work hard to make these things happen.
- The PAC has been supporting these activities by allocating \$10/student - however, although the contributions are appreciated, the amount has not increased in at least 12 years.
- Lara provided a wish list of activities that the Grade 6's would like to participate in - including some that have been dropped in recent years due to cost.

Motion to increase the funding level to \$20 per student was made by Nikki Price, seconded by Robynn Robertson. None dissenting.

Next meeting: April - no meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned, 8:00 pm