

North Glenmore PAC Minutes January 12, 2016

Welcomed by Robynn Robertson

Present:

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

Parents and Guests: Kathryn Rexin, Clara Tonn, Kim Thompson, Diane Westfall, Jody Crumb, Casey Nye, Kristi Holm, Corry Wright, Laura Overland, Kaitlyn Johnston, Patti Ostrickoff

Staff: Jared Birkeland

Robynn motioned to approve the November 2015 minutes, seconded by Clara.

Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank you and general update
 - iPad update - NGE now has a full set of iPads for the primary grades and for the grade 5 modules.
 - Black lights and spotlights have been sourced and purchased - great value, used set for \$100 (vs. \$1,400 new)
 - Adam continues to rock the Fun Lunch - thank you!
2. UCBO ETEP2 Student teachers
 - Kaitlyn Johnston is being sponsored by Mrs. Nye
 - Kristi Holmes is being sponsored by Mrs. Wright
3. Registration is coming up on February 1st for all new Fall 2016 students. Registration will be online as in prior years.
4. NGE Summit update
 - Kindness missions: The most recent mission was "Be Generous." Students continue to submit their stories, which are published on the NGE website.
 - Community / Parent Resource bank: A survey was sent home with students to help NGE learn more about the skills, talents, passions, careers, etc in the parent community that could be used to enhance student learning.
 - Community services: A partnership with Canadian Mental Health is in process. This initiative will assist students and families with accessing CMH's services.
 - Welcoming school environment: Josh Milner has done an amazing job on the Kindness Mission Reflection Tree in the front foyer. The work is nearly complete. Thank you, Josh!
5. Proposed calendar for the 2016/2017 school year
 - Earlier winter vacation
 - Additional implementation (non-instructional) day

6. Grade 4 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

- This is the province-wide standardized testing that is done for grades 4 and 7
- Letters from the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association (COTA) were sent home with Grade 4 students.
 - The letters advised that parents request to withdraw their children from writing the FSA, and included an "opt-out" form.
- The data from the tests is used by the Ministry as well as the Fraser Institute, however, the data is manipulated in different ways and used for different purposes.
 - The Ministry uses the data from those students who complete the exams.
 - A "snapshot" of the province is created from the data.
 - The Fraser Institute uses the data from all students, even if the students have not written the exams.
 - Students who do not participate in the exams for whatever reason are recorded for the Fraser Institute's purposes as "does not meet expectations"
 - The Fraser Institute uses the data to rank BC schools. Due to the practice noted above (assigning a "does not meet" to non-participating students), some feel that the rankings are not an accurate representation of BC schools relative to one another.

Question: Is it true that the Principal has the final say as to whether a student is able to opt-out of the exams at the parent/guardian's request?

Answer: No. The opt-out process goes through the Principal, but the Principal can't override the parent/guardian's decision.

Comment [from a teacher, regarding the letters from COTA]: although the letter from COTA implied that all teachers supported the opt-out, she personally did not have that opinion.

Question: Is the data gathered by the FSA useful to the Ministry and to school Administration?

Answer: Yes and no. The results are not informative for each individual student - but they are not meant to be. The "snapshot" is useful for identifying trends over time and across districts.

7. Kindergarten Early Development Instrument (EDI)

- A questionnaire to help gather data for a study aimed at learning more about children's development when they start school
- Completed by the kindergarten teachers
- Voluntary participation from families (i.e. Opt-out available)
- Being implemented this year at NGE. We have participated in prior years as well, although this is the first time in ~3 years.
- Data is gathered per community - e.g. Glenmore, the Mission, etc.
- The results of the study will affect funding decisions - i.e. where it may be most effective to fund early child development.

8. Safety concerns - the recent weather has made the sidewalks and roads very slippery

9. Home - school conferences, February 4th and 5th.
 - Online registration
 - Early dismissal on the 4th and 5th, 12:30 pm.
10. PAC dollars at work! See #1 above - iPads and equipment
11. Revised curriculum
 - Non-instructional / Implementation days: February 9th and May 24th

Treasurer's Report - Dianne Bondaroff

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

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

- Family Dance (Teresa and Jane)
 - February 18th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
 - DJ SuperDave will return
 - "Sign up genius" (online tool) will be used to organize and gather volunteers - work out the kinks before Spring Fair.
 - Number of volunteers to be estimated
- Spring Fair (Kim)
 - Thursday, May 26th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
 - Sign up genius will be used to organize volunteers
 - Need volunteers - we have lost four key organizers
 - Some initial thoughts on organization
 - Food and candy - Adam will call Sysco
 - Donations
 - DJ - SuperDave - Robynn will call him
 - City of Kelowna, inflatables
 - Sun Rype - juice donations - need a request letter
 - Cupcake walk - Jody
 - Tickets - Diane Westfall
 - Spring Fair Committee meeting - March, date to be determined
- Xmas movie day - special thank you to Jody Crumb for making up the treat bags for the kids!

Fundraising - Nikki Price

- Art Cards: Approximately \$2,200 in profit was generated from this fundraiser. There was a lot of good feedback, It was an excellent product. Mrs. Harms and Mr. Smith's classes did especially well with this fundraiser!
 - Give from the Heart - upcoming.
 - Hanging baskets - good feedback on the quality and margin, suggested for March
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Yearbook Committe - Patti Ostrihoff

- Pricing - \$25 for a softcover and \$35 for a hardcover, volume pricing for multiple orders. UPDATE - AFTER THE PAC MEETING, THE PROVIDER (PICABOO) OFFERED A BETTER PRICING STRUCTURE. THE NEW PRICES ARE \$20 AND \$30 WITH NO VOLUME DISCOUNTS.
- Ordering - online through our Hot Lunch site, March 15th - May 1st
 - Next year, we will try to include payment options for the yearbook in the September fee items.
- Grade 6 discussion
 - Consider a separate yearbook for Grade 6's only? Not this year.
 - The yearbook will contain a section for Grade 6 writeups etc.

Hot Lunch - Adam Romano

- Welcome to Diane Westfall, she will be taking over from Adam next year.
- Kernels popcorn - exciting and popular new addition to the menu. 800 bags have already been ordered. If it is too messy, it will have to go - we are on probation.
- First term financial info - profit of approx. \$1,250
- Seven new volunteers came out as a responses to the e-mail - thank you

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16th, 7:00 pm (pushed back one week due to Family Day holiday)
Meeting adjourned, 8:00 pm