

North Glenmore PAC Minutes September 20, 2016

Welcomed by Dianne Bondaroff

Present:

PAC Executive: Rhonda Langford, Simone Wittenberg, Nikki Price, Kathryn Chin, Dianne Bondaroff, Diane Westfall

Parents: Patti Ostrikkoff, Adrianna Wright, Teri Loney, Kathryn Rexin, Jennifer Eberle, Heathers Csikos, Sue Hayes, Kim Thompson, Laura Overland, Terry Farquhar

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Jill Voros

Diane Westfall motioned to approve the June 2016 minutes, seconded by Rhonda Langford.

Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank you to the PAC for contributing to a great start to the year. The treats on the first day of school were appreciated.
2. Enrolment - as projected at the end of last year, we are at 20 divisions.
 - 499 students, capacity for ~15 more overall
 - What will our configuration look like next year?
 - 87 Grade 6 students will move on to middle school. This is a comparatively large cohort compared to the others, and the current Grade 5 enrolment is smaller than average, at 55.
 - It's possible that we could move back down to 19 divisions, however, we are the only school in our area that still has capacity. Glenmore Elementary and Watson are full, and so is Bankhead.
 - Other schools in our area are considering Modular classrooms (like our Grade 5 classrooms to the East of the main school).
 - We are one of the 3-4 school districts in BC that grew last year - most are declining. "A good problem to have" re: resource allocation.
3. Staffing
 - New teacher to our school - Mrs. Alice Semancik, coming to us from Burnaby, BC. At NGE her class is a Grade 1/2 split. Interesting fact - in her 17 years of teaching experience, she has taught only 4 "straight" classes, all of the others have been split classes.
 - New EA, Mrs. A. Brown
 - Returning from maternity leave, Mrs. Jennifer Moffatt (Grade 6).
4. School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - Reminder - the "School Planning Committee," which was run for a number of years, was discontinued before the 2015/2016 year.
 - 2015 / 2016: In October 2015, NGE hosted an Appreciative Inquiry Summit that helped us re-focus and determine our goals and values.
 - Cultivate a whole-school culture of kindness
 - Grow the school into an integrated hub of resources and supports

- 2016/2017:
 - Focus on implementation of the redesigned curriculum
 - Realistically, this will be a 3-5 year rollout
 - “think big, act small” - in other words, no radical changes. We have a new framework / paradigm, but our everyday actions and procedures may not be too different than before.
 - FreshGrade
 - This is a new software platform that facilitates communication and documentation of work done (like an online portfolio) and also provides self-assessment tools.
 - Results / goals include improved achievement and improved communication of achievements (to both parents and educators).
 - Mrs. Davies, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Nye all beta-tested FreshGrade last year.
 - A funding request is in the process to provide FreshGrade to more NGE classes.
 - Assessment practices
 - “Report Reader” is changing - i.e. the groupings of some subjects may change (health, career education, PE) for report cards.
 - Student self-assessment - there will be a component on the final report cards
 - Soft skills - no letter grades will be assigned, however, there will be some sort of assessment
5. Parent - Teacher Conferences - October 4, 5, 6
- As in the past, we will use online sign-up
 - This process saves significant time for our staff!
 - There will be a mixture of one-on-one and student-led meetings.
6. Celebration Assemblies
- Every two weeks, Friday, 12:05 - 12:30pm
 - Parents are welcome to attend
 - Galloping Gators - moved to the classrooms
7. Parking Lot Safety / Drop-offs: although it has improved dramatically over the years, parking lot safety is still a big issue.
- Parking lots:
 - Please note that the two parking lots - upper AND lower - are reserved for buses and staff parking ONLY.
 - Mr. Birkeland to request signage from District.
 - Traffic and parking:
 - The stretch along Snowsell just north of Union is the biggest problem. This is the curb area in front of the kindergarten classrooms. We have put out traffic cones, however, they can't be left out or they “disappear.”
 - Mr. Birkeland has been in contact with the City of Kelowna and with the School District.

- Note that the idea of permanent pillars has been floated in the past - this is a double-edged request, as the pillars are normally associated with bike safety. If we apply to have these put in, due to bike safety standards we could lose the street parking along Snowsell altogether.
- Kiss & Ride:
 - The volunteers are from Dr. Knox - lots of ex-Gators!
 - Props to Nikki Price (our current fundraising guru), who started the current kiss & drop four years ago. If you go to the NGE website and look at the Kiss & Ride video, that's Nikki's work (with help from NGE students)!

Nominees for the PAC executive

At the end of last year, we were in a tight spot - we had a shortage of nominees / volunteers for the PAC executive positions. At the close of June's meeting, we did not have a President or Vice-President. As a result, we were at risk of losing our 2016/2017 grant (~\$10,000) and the accumulated gaming funds from prior years.

We also needed a Spring Fair Coordinator to take over from Kim Thompson. This position is not an executive position, however, it is an important position that requires more commitment and involvement than a casual volunteer position and ideally is determined in advance.

The following appointments were made at this meeting:

- ❖ Special events - Tessa Russell-Hopkinson (co-position with Simone Wittenberg)
- ❖ Treasurer - Rhonda Langford (already a co-treasurer, confirmed her position)
- ❖ Treasurer - Jen Eberle
- ❖ Vice-President - Sue Hayes
- ❖ President - Dianne Bondaroff (resigned as co-treasurer)

Kim Thompson has organized the Spring Fair fundraising event in past years - she will (may?) be available this year but will definitely have to move on next year.

For completeness - the other members of the PAC executive, nominated and appointed in May/June 2016, are: Nikki Price (Fundraising), Simone Wittenberg (Special Events), Diane Westfall (Hot Lunch), Kathy Chin (Secretary).

Positions still open: co-Fundraiser, Spring Fair coordinator (successor for Kim Thompson)

Treasurer's Report - Dianne Bondaroff

No financials this month, no action in July or August.

We will have approx. \$28K in our gaming account after we receive our grant. Although we have been making significant purchases each year, the balance has been building. Normally we have a specific goal - for example, several years ago we raised and accumulated funds to build the North Playground. After that, our goal was funding Technology in classrooms, and our efforts went toward that goal for about six years. Last year, we didn't have a specific goal - and we have not come up with a specific goal to date. Our closing thoughts last year were that there is some uncertainty now as to how best to support the school with the challenge of the new curriculum, so it might be best to see what the needs are once the implementation starts.

Requests for funding / items on our radar

- ❖ Technology - Grade 4 and Grade 6 requests - letters have been received from the teachers.
- ❖ Technology to support the ELP / Screener process
 - Kindergarten - Grade 3 assessment framework
 - This is an onerous and expensive process, as it requires Teachers to assess students one-on-one. If each Teacher had a hand-held device, it would enable the Teacher to do the assessments in class. An iPad, at least 64GB, would be ideal (~\$500-\$600)
- ❖ FreshGrade - SD23 is an early adopter
 - We will invite to next meeting
- ❖ Increase to Field Trip allocation per student; currently \$10, consider increasing to \$15 per student.
- ❖ Do we need to upgrade infrastructure? What if we have new tech, but our servers/routers are outpaced?
 - Will assess, but should be OK
 - School assessment re: technology - Graham Johnson, Jordan Kleckner

Fun Lunch update - Diane Westfall

- ❖ The first Fun Lunch will be on October 12.
- ❖ Dozo has been added (replacing Yamato)
- ❖ Boston Pizza is on the radar
 - Contact - Jamie Banner?
 - BP offers a donation program when students from a sponsored school eat at a BP location. A percentage of the bill is donated to the school.
- ❖ Extreme Pita is on the radar as well.
- ❖ Projected profit for the year is ~\$2,200-\$2,500
- ❖ An issue last year was Field trips scheduled on Fun Lunch days - i.e. kids would miss out on the lunches and would have to be assigned credits to their accounts. This year we should make every effort to notify Diane Westfall if a field trip is going to be scheduled for a Fun Lunch day.

BC fruit and vegetable program

Mr. Birkeland noted that our grant for the BC fruit and vegetable program was not approved this year (this is sponsored by the school, not by the PAC). Breakfast Club will continue despite not having the grant.

Special Events

- ❖ Pizza Night -
 - September 29, two seatings, Dominoes Pizza
- ❖ Family Dance -
 - Thursday February 23, 2017 (the day before a Pro-D day), 6:00 - 8:00. Super Dave will be booked (~\$500) Grade 6 concession / fundraiser
- ❖ Holiday movie
 - Friday December 16 (last day of school before holiday break). Oranges and candy canes for students, individually bagged

Fundraising report - Nikki Price

- ❖ Family photos
 - Danielle Sitar (same photographer as last year). October 8-15
- ❖ Art Cards
 - Holiday / Xmas timing
 - Voted to change suppliers this year - new company offers various products, e.g. coffee mugs, in addition to the cards. The profit will be lower but we anticipate higher sales due to the increase in types of products.
 - Nikki will confirm whether we will receive proofs from the new company
- ❖ Give from the Heart
 - February
- ❖ Gift Cards (for stores, not to be confused with the Art Cards)
 - Last year, they sold well and raised ~\$700
- ❖ Suggestion from Mrs. Voros - cruise raffle
 - This was a very popular fundraiser at her last school, raising 3,000-5,000
 - This may be a good item to have at the Spring Fair

Facebook

Simone Wittenberg will take over the responsibility of maintaining our Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Next meeting October 18, 2016 7:00 pm.