

North Glenmore PAC Minutes October 18, 2016

Welcomed by Dianne Bondaroff

Present:

PAC Executive: Tessa Russell, Sue Hayes, Jennifer Eberle, Rhonda Langford, Simone Wittenberg, Nikki Price, Kathryn Chin, Dianne Bondaroff, Diane Westfall

Parents: Torrie Zimmerman, Heather Csikos, Teri Loney, Kathryn Rexin, Laura Overland, Terry Farquhar

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Jill Voros, Lara Davies, Bryce Owens, Chandra Bowen.

Rhonda Langford motioned to approve the September 2016 minutes, seconded by Sue Hayes.

Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank yous - Hot Lunch, Family Pizza Night
2. Digital Literacy and online research skills - Bryce Owens
 - The skill of using technology as a tool has to be taught - in a nutshell, this is digital literacy.
 - Students need to be taught to be discerning consumers of digital content. For example, when searching/researching, they need to be able to assess credibility, verify results, use critical thinking when considering digital content, corroborate evidence, recognize bias.
 - We are fortunate to have the resources we have (technology, i.e. iPads, laptops, smart boards, sound field)
 - Our school is one of the best supplied schools in SD23
 - The PAC had technology as a goal for several years, and supplied NGE classrooms
 - The capacity and ability of kids reflects this commitment
 - Example: Grade 6's 2 years ago - did a digital project re: Terry Fox
 - There is no request for funds from PAC right now, but there may be in future when the program is up and running. As a school, we are ahead of the curve in comparison to other schools in our district.
 - Digital literacy is a new field - the approach will be new. The general approach we propose to take is as follows:
 - First steps - Grades 3-6 (and onward), a recurring digital literacy unit that would be presented in the same manner each year.
 - This year, the "beta" test classes are Lara Davies' Grade 6 class and Anita Harms' Grade 5 class. There will be 8 sessions for each class as a general introduction.
 - Second steps - Coding. The students will go from consuming digital content to creating digital content.
 - KNOW --> DO --> UNDERSTAND
 - Other items on the radar: robotics, after school coding workshops facilitated by UBCO computer science students, coding challenge

3. Request for funding - Lara Davies and Chandra Bowen, Grade 6 teachers
 - As noted above, technology is increasingly being used as a tool for learning.
 - Status Quo:
 - Current assets and their use:
 - NGE's computer lab is used by the primary students.
 - NGE owns two laptop carts (30 laptops)
 - 30 laptops are shared by five classes
 - There are three Grade 6 classes this year (90 students)
 - There are logistical problems with sharing the laptop carts - due to the placement of classrooms in the building, it is time-consuming and difficult to transport the carts back and forth. Care must be taken to plan a safe, smooth route through the building. Transport can often take up to 30 minutes.
 - iPads - the Grade 6 classes currently have 15 iPads per class (45 total)
 - Funding request #1: \$30,000 for two more laptop carts (30 laptops) to be shared between the Grade 6 classes.
 - Funding request #2: 45 more iPads (i.e. enough for each student to have their own). Each iPad would likely cost \$300, for a total of \$13,500.
 - Discussion / responses
 - This is a significant expenditure that would deplete the PAC's funds for the year
 - If it were done, the PAC would not be able to fund for any other projects or requests.
 - Could we investigate other options to fund the expenditure?
 - Sponsorships from industry, tech companies, etc.?
 - Additional Fundraising?
 - Suggestion that the Grade 6's create an iMovie as a pitch / request to be sent to sponsors.
 - Note that the Grade 6 classes did not request significant funds from the PAC during the PAC's previous Technology Goal, i.e. they have benefited less than other grades to date.
 - Note that there are District / Ministry funds budgeted for a technology "refresh schedule" - this happens every four years (formerly every three years). Assets purchased by the PAC are included in the refresh - e.g. if we purchased a new suite of laptops this year, the software etc. would be refreshed as part of the "refresh schedule."
4. Parent-teacher meetings
 - Electronic sign-up is working well, 440 meetings have been scheduled
 - Student-led conferences as well as one-on-one conferences will be used.
 - Reminder - Parents can always request a one-on-one conference instead, or ask for an appointment to see a student's teacher at any time in the year.
5. Halloween
 - On a Monday this year
 - There will not be an assembly, but students can wear appropriate costumes on Monday.

6. FreshGrade

- The professional development day on October 7th focused on FreshGrade.
 - To remind - FreshGrade is a 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).
- Each teacher is given the opportunity to decide whether to use FreshGrade
 - Each teacher will be provided with a new iPad with the capacity to record students' work.
 - Note, the PAC received a request letter from the Grade 2 and 3 teachers to ask for iPads - this request will be covered by NGE (i.e. no PAC funds needed).

7. Parent information evening - Nov 8th - Dan Duncan, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

- Dan Duncan is an expert on ADHD.
- The presentation is free, with child-minding available.
- Dan will be presenting to the intermediate classes (grades 4-6) at 10:15 on November 2nd. Parents are welcome to attend.
 - iPad and phone strategies will be covered
- Props to Heidi Gatti and Lesey Lesiuk for spearheading these sessions

Updates and news:

Big White - after school program is starting up. The program is offering an incentive this year for registration. The school with the highest increase in registration numbers will have a child sponsored.

Spring Fair - note re: last year's fair - the last bill was paid on June 25th. The overall profit for the event was \$4,280.

Bursary - \$500 for a former NGE student. Request to change the name to "Award" vs. "Bursary." Nikki Price motioned, Rhonda Langford seconded.

2012/2013 Yearbooks - there are some extra copies up for grabs.

Spirals of Inquiry (presented by Carol Dueck) - this session was attended by Dianne Bondaroff.

Treasurers' Report - Rhonda Langford

✧ No unusual transactions to report.

✧ At this time, we have approx \$45K in our cash accounts and \$4K in investments.

✧ We have \$10K in funding committed for the year.

Fun Lunch - Diane Westfall

- ✧ The first Fun Lunch of the year went smoothly. There were 11 volunteers for this day - thank you! There are 18 volunteers signed up overall.
- ✧ The total number of orders for the semester was 297. There were several paper orders submitted after the online cutoff.
- ✧ Carrots - Diane has FoodSafe training/certification. Due to cost and dependability issues, she will be preparing the carrots and dip for the fun lunches going forward. The cost savings is significant - \$0.66 was the price per unit from the supplier; the cost going forward will be \$0.12/unit.
- ✧ Apple slices - prepared by MacDonald's
- ✧ Request to purchase additional bins and tables (6 bins and 4 tables) - approx. Cost \$250. Motion to approve the purchase by Dianne Bondaroff, seconded by Kathy Chin. Funds will be charged to the Fun Lunch account.

Fundraising - Nikki Price

- ✧ Family photos fundraiser - \$1,275 raised.
- ✧ Art project (cards and other goods featuring student art) - this fundraiser is in full swing. The art will be collected at the end of this week, and orders will be due at the beginning of November.
- ✧ Gift Card fundraiser - should we do it this year? Last year - \$18,000 in gross sales, approx. \$1,200 profit. --> YES we will do it.
- ✧ Suggestion - T-Bonz fundraiser

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm
Next meeting November 22, 7:00 pm.