

North Glenmore PAC Minutes November 22, 2016

Welcomed by Dianne Bondaroff

Present:

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

Parents: Marnie Turek, Kim Thompson, Terry Farquhar, Laura Overland, Danielle Walker, Megan Coakley, Teri Loney, Kathryn Rexin

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Bryce Owens, Lisa Mundie, Heather Letkeman.

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

Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank yous - Hot Lunch, PAC for sponsoring SplashMath and SumDog, Nikki for the great family photos fundraiser (photographer Daniela Sitar).
2. Winter Concert update
 - Organizing is in process
 - E-mails providing info and requesting volunteer help have been sent
 - Increased time between performances this year to help alleviate parking issues etc.
 - Videographer has been hired - video will be posted, link will be sent
 - Mixed response re: DVDs (we have had these in the past)
 - Videos will be available online - no cost to parents/guardians/relatives/friends, available worldwide
3. Communicating student learning in the redesigned curriculum
 - Reporting
 - Revised reporting groupings
 - The changes are challenging - can be difficult to decipher the temporary reporting guidelines. See Mr. Birkeland's letter included with report cards.
 - New groupings - reading, writing, speaking, listening
 - New groupings - Arts education = fine arts, music, drama
 - Primary social responsibility - this will be a focus, but there will be no grade associated with it. Comments will be provided on report cards.
 - 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).
 - To facilitate using FreshGrade, iPads will be purchased (using school budget) for grades 2 and 3 classrooms.
 - An instructional leadership team of eight teachers has been formed to advise/investigate the best use of FreshGrade. Findings will be shared with parents.

- Parent feedback may also be sought - what would parents like/expect to see?
Would like to engage parents - spark conversations and support.

4. Upcoming dates

Special events:

Family dance: The DJ has been booked, we are on track for the event.

Spring Fair: After some discussion, Megan Coakley stepped up to become the co-coordinator of our Spring Fair. Kim Thompson, who has been organizing the event since inception, will be co-coordinating. The intention is for this to be a transition year as Kim will no longer be able to participate after this year. Thank you to Kim and Megan for taking on the work of ensuring that this this great event continues!

Treasurers' Report - Rhonda Langford

- ✧ No unusual transactions to report.
- ✧ At this time, we have approx \$24K in our general account, \$11K in the Fun Lunch account, and \$25K in the gaming account.
- ✧ We have approx. \$30K in commitments that will be disbursed.

Fun Lunch - Diane Westfall

- ✧ Diane presented an in-depth financial analysis at this meeting. The profit margins between different providers was compared (e.g. Subway's margin is 31%, Wok Box's is 29.8%, Wrap Zone's is 19.9%). Noted that the target profit margin at this time is 25%; some providers are more profitable and some are less - the prices are set so the target margin is reached on an overall basis.
- ✧ The projected profit for this term is \$2,400, with a projected year-end profit of \$7,000.
- ✧ Grade 6 pizza fundraisers are running - note, this is separate from the Fun Lunches but are coordinated and paid through the Fun Lunch site. The profit for the pizza fundraiser (Dominos is the supplier) will be \$2,290 for the term.
- ✧ Table purchase - approved last meeting - Mr. Birkeland ordered them, they have arrived.

Presentation - Grade 4 teachers, technology requests - Bryce Owens, Heather Letkeman, Lisa Mundie

The Grade 4 teachers presented a request for PAC support to purchase iPads for the Grade 4 classrooms.

Status quo: The Grade 4 classes have to borrow iPads once per week to work on projects.

Description of proposed classroom use and impact on learning:

- ✧ Support FreshGrade and a more interactive approach to learning and assessments.
- ✧ Note that the FreshGrade archive will continue to be available indefinitely - the Company has

committed to preserving the archives. That is, the students' work will not expire or disappear when they progress to the next grade.

- ✧ Use iPads to showcase learning vs. "stuff" - that is, the process rather than the end product.
- ✧ Having iPads readily available means that the learning process itself can be captured in a spontaneous and authentic way. This is important when students analyze and reflect on their learning, and adds another way for students to see / take ownership of their learning.
- ✧ Reading, comprehension, etc. can be recorded and shown (vs. Only a comment on a report card)
- ✧ Reporting and authentic assessments - iPads will enable recording conversations and observations with students to show learning outcomes. This will provide an additional tool for teachers to assess students, rather than only relying on tests and quizzes.

Formal request: Would the PAC consider purchasing 30 iPads for use by the upstairs Grade 4 classrooms and the music teachers? At ~\$300/unit, this purchase is a funding request of \$9,000.

Discussion and analysis:

- ✧ Reminder / recap of last PAC meeting: The Grade 6 classes made a technology funding request for 30 laptops (~\$30,000) and 45 iPads (~\$13,500). The need for these items was appreciated and acknowledged, however, the amount was prohibitive as the PAC would not have been able to fund any other projects for the year.
- ✧ Taking both of the requests into consideration, the following motions were made:
 - ◆ Motion to purchase 30 iPads, at a cost of approximately \$9,000, for the upstairs Grade 4 classrooms and the music teachers (motion, Dianne Bondaroff, seconded by Kathy Chin).
 - ◆ Motion to approve and allocate \$15,000 to the Grade 6 team, towards the purchase of technology (motion, Sue Hayes, seconded by Teri Loney).

For greater clarity, the motion to approve \$15,000 towards Grade 6 technology was intended to give substantial support to the Grade 6 technology needs, even though the full amount requested could not be funded. It was also intended to empower the Grade 6 team to discuss the needs and make decisions on their own with respect to the priority of the purchases. For example, if they determine that purchasing the iPads now would be better than waiting to purchase the laptops, they would be able to do that immediately. If they determine that the laptops are a better choice, they can pursue additional funding through sponsorships, fundraising, and additional requests to PAC next year with the confidence that they have a \$15,000 start.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm

Next meeting January 17, 7:00 pm.