

North Glenmore PAC Minutes September 15, 2015

Welcomed by Robynn Robertson

Present:

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

Parents: Luis Dos Santos, Janine Cornett, Jane Hardy, Rachel Jansickle, Teri Loney, Jeff Davies, Casey Nye, Selim Spahiu, Mirvette Spahiu, Andrea Reeves, Heather Letkeman, Patti Ostrihoff, Laura Overland, Greg Germain, Terry Farquhar, Michelle (?), Teresa (?)

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Jordan Kleckner

Rhonda Langford motioned to approve the June 2014 minutes, seconded by Janine Cornett.

Welcome by Robynn Robertson and introduction to the new PAC executive.

Administrator's Report: Jared Birkeland, Principal

- Mr. Birkeland attended the June 2014 PAC meeting as a guest. This was his first PAC meeting as our Principal. He noted that his official Welcome to the Swamp, a musical number prepared and performed by NGE staff and students, was a much appreciated surprise. He also thanked the PAC for setting up a welcome table on the first day of school (coffee and Timbits).
- Mr. Birkeland's career in education began ~20 years ago, after starting off in his family's commercial fishing business. He taught Chemistry and Biology for about eight years before changing directions. He has now spent about 13 years in Administration. He has two children, grades 6 and 5.
- Upcoming – our new school curriculum is being debuted this year, and will be implemented next year.
- Staffing – we welcome three new staff members. Annika Siemens, Cari Lwowski, and Amanda Zwaagstra (she is covering Ms. Davies' maternity leave).
- Enrolment – we have 478 students this year. There are 19 divisions overall, with some movement between split and straight classes.
- Growth and planning – the School Planning Committee (SPC), active last year, has been dissolved by the Ministry this year. It's uncertain what will replace the SPC – it will be reviewed this year. As a start, there will be an Appreciative Inquiry Summit (“AI Summit”) held on October 9th – the district's implementation day.
 - Jordan Kleckner described the AI Summit in more detail.
 - A gathering of the entire school community – staff, parents, stakeholders
 - Opportunity to create a shared vision and build/determine goals
 - Invitation to parents and external stakeholders will go out at the end of the week
 - Question – what can parents do to prepare for the Summit?
 - Answer – an important part of the AI approach is that we are to meet and develop shared values in a collaborative way – i.e. advance preparation is not strictly necessary. Part of the day will be spent on this.
- Parent – teacher conferences. Over two days – Thursday October 1 and Friday October 2
 - 12:30 dismissal, afternoon and evening appointments will be available.

- One on One and individual formats will be used, depending on class
- Online sign-up will be used
- Mr. Birkeland emphasized that parents should feel confident that they can contact their children's teacher outside of this framework if they would like to discuss an issue or ask questions.
- Celebration assemblies – in prior years, they were held once per month. This year, the format will be 2X/month, but shorter in duration. This will provide collaboration time for teachers and allow a more effective focus on social and emotional learning. The “galloping gators” will move to the classroom rather than being done at assemblies.
 - Question / suggestion – that there could be a primary / intermediate split for assemblies
- Terry Fox Run on September 18th, coordinated with the first Celebration Assembly
 - Theme – What does it mean to be a hero?
 - Early dismissal 11:00 am

Parking Lot Safety – Jordan Kleckner

Reminders regarding the “Kiss & Drop” program in the upper parking lot. Noted that this year the program runs smoothly and most of the people dropping off students have been trained by now as to what they should be doing (e.g. pulling ahead as far as possible rather than stopping at the entrance and causing a bottleneck). Some of the student volunteers from Dr. Knox have returned to help out; the contact at Dr. Knox is working on recruiting more volunteers from the new Grade 7 class. Nikki Price has been coordinating the Kiss & Drop program and asked that parents consider volunteering. The last 15 minutes of the shift is lacking in coverage as the students have to leave to get to Dr. Knox on time.

Upcoming meetings of note – Grade 4 parent meeting, Sept 22

Question: what is this meeting about?

Answer: the various changes when transitioning from primary to intermediate.

- change to letter grading on report cards
- gym strip
- agendas

Treasurer's report – Dianne Bondaroff

- No report on the summer months.
- Bank balances were presented.
- Gaming grant = \$35/student. In the prior year, the grant was approx. \$9,200 and was deposited October 7th (later than normal due to the delayed start last year).
- Diane discovered that in addition to the reloadable IGA cards, Chapters also has a reloadable card that will pay the school 10% (as a comparison, the IGA pays 4%). This is a great find – Diane will follow up on this.

Pizza Night – Janine Cornett / Jane Hardy

(Jane and Janine are very graciously stepping in as social coordinators on an as-needed basis).

- The purpose of this night is to kick off the year with a fun meet & greet event.
- 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- Cake raffle 7:15
- Volunteers will be needed and will be assigned half-hour slots.
 - As a thank-you, a \$25 gift card to T-bones will be awarded to a random volunteer
- Domino's will be our supplier

- Cut-off for ordering will be this Friday

Question: what does the Social Coordinator do?

Answer: organizes the “extra” events – e.g. the Family Dance in February, the Pizza Night (this year was unusual in that there was no social coordinator elected last year). The social coordinator also organizes the Treat Bags for the Xmas Movie day.

Fundraising – Nikki Price

- Reloadable cards – as already described by Diane
- Family Photos – 2nd/3rd week of October
 - This is a historically successful fundraiser. The sitting fee of \$25 comes to the PAC, any orders that arise from the sitting go to the photographer. In the past an 8” x 10” picture was included with the sitting fee.
 - We are using a new photographer this year. She will contact Nikki with info on orders and sitting times.
- Art Cards
 - This is another historically successful fundraiser. This year, we will time the fundraiser so that families can have Xmas / Holiday cards featuring their kids’ art.
 - Parents can purchase a choice of packages, with the option of reordering online.
 - Comment from Casey Nye – supplies need to come ASAP so that teachers can coordinate the students’ work.
 - Nikki to work with the teachers to disseminate information and handle deadlines.

Yearbooks – Robynn Robertson

Thanks to Teri Loney and Kathryn Rexin for last year’s yearbooks! This year, we need a volunteer to lead this project. Teri and Kathryn are still willing to help but need to pass the torch.

- May 5th deadline
- No contract yet this year – to do. It will need to be signed by someone from the PAC exec.
- Teri will draft an e-mail to send out to parents, describing the yearbook project and asking for volunteers.
- Suggestion – if no one is willing to volunteer, we could create a book for Grade 6 only

Hot Lunch Program – Adam Romano

- The Hot Lunch Program is available for Grades 1 to 6.
- An e-mail is coming out with a link for ordering.
 - Orders must be made for the whole term by September 29, including payment (via cheque to the office, or online)
 - Reasons – there were many orders in the past that were not paid for
 - That said, the PAC will fund lunches for children if needed.
 - To order, participants must re-register online.
 - Help is available for people who don’t have access to a computer. Contact Adam, he can meet at the library. Also, paper forms are available.
 - Noted that very few people seem to need help with this
 - Suggestion – with the ease of online ordering, could we set up a separate item that would allow participants to donate funds to cover hot lunch costs for kids who need funding?
 - Call for volunteers! 10:30 to 11:30 am

Long Term Goals of the PAC – Robynn Robertson

Part of the purpose of the PAC is to fundraise and provide funds for long-term capital projects (i.e. projects or acquisitions that take several years to fund or complete). The Technology Goal, which began years ago, is now almost complete. We are at the stage where deciding on our next long-term goal is on the horizon. The findings from the upcoming Appreciative Inquiry Summit will help to guide our choices for our next goal(s).

Due to the importance of the AI Summit to our goals and the school's overall direction, Robynn put forward a motion to support the AI Summit by sponsoring the lunch provided for that day, with an upper limit of \$2,000. Seconded by Nikki Price.

Other funding / donation goals (not long term but recurring): field trips, bursary (last year's recipient was Luke Rodwell).

Question: do we have an idea of what our baseline is in terms of our recurring financial commitments, i.e. how can we tell how much money can be considered "liquid" or available for additional donations or commitments?

Answer: discussion ensued, with a general framework given to describe our recurring contributions (bursary, playground, SumDog, library).

Question: parents are contributing thousands of dollars per year and it seems that there are significant funds in the accounts, why is the same level of fundraising needed?

Answer: see above re: long-term financial commitments. Our funds are used for recurring commitments but also for long-term goals. A cushion of approx. \$10,000 is carried as part of the regular practice.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 13, 7:00 pm
Adjourned 8:00 pm

