

Grenfell PAC Meeting – October 4, 2018 - Minutes

1. Welcome - what is PAC and what do we do
 - a. Parent Advisory Committee - our role: we help school however we can
 - b. we do fundraising to support things that are not funded by the province
 - c. parent education events (ex: collaboration with school counsellor)

2. Introductions - Jonathan (principal), Sheri & Monica (co-chair), Petra (secretary), Stella, Doreen, Raman, Nicole, Elicia, Janelle, Sarika

3. Accounts
 - a. Casino (from government grant) - \$6500 but new funds coming from this year's application
 - i. there are limitations around what we can spend this money on(extracurricular endeavors and things considered non-essential for classroom use including technology) and we must spend the money within 2 years of receipt
 - b. PAC (fundraising) - \$11,000, we have fundraised this locally and have more control over how this is spent
 - c. question - how do teachers apply for money? Answer - application form with specific criteria. PAC meeting will address funding requests throughout year as they are made and discuss

4. Principal's updates
 - a. letter will be forthcoming from school board about lead in pipes. Will include information regarding specific lead levels in Grenfell based on testing
 - b. Gr 4 and Gr 7 - letters will be coming home (from teachers and school board) regarding FSA testing. Parents can chose to have their child opt out.
 - c. new vice-principal: Tamara VanWyck (former school counsellor and classroom teacher with passion and experience working with diverse learners)
 - d. currently doing dance in PE
 - e. Orange Shirt Day - day that honors survivors of residential schools (Sept 30th). Celebrated this year on October 1st. Challenge in that it is very close to Terry Fox run
 - f. Terry Fox run - students very excited about the event and students were allowed to run as many laps as they could in 30 minutes
 - i. question - how much was raised by the Terry Fox run?
 - g. new resource teachers, Ms.Wiens is back from leave
 - h. current enrollment - we are at 424ish and are almost full

5. Fundraising
 - a. so far - we have committed to spending money for Gr 6/7 camp busses, scholarship for Windermere (historically \$200), Gr 7 grad if they ask (last year \$250), and funds for 10 iPads (replacement)

- b. Pizza - Monica is willing to do the organizing and money collection, but we need someone willing to be on site and take charge of the event during the day as she is not available at lunch time any more. Sarika said she could at least do one.
 - i. discussion on how to streamline so that we need fewer volunteers. Online Day payment?
- c. Mabel's labels - we need to set up and get letter out to parents
- d. winter holiday gift card sales - we need to discuss soon.
- e. we need a fundraising subcommittee - Janelle, Nicole, Sarika
 - i. meet separately and bring forward ideas, plans, etc
- f. can we ask people to look online and find grants available for schools (ex: Staples, Best Buy, etc). Can't be tobacco, LNG, etc.

6. Other

- a. question - do the schools ever address a larger vision plan? Ans - yes both at the PAC level, and at the school (annual school growth plan, etc).
- b. seismic upgrade status - recent meeting at board. Currently 2 elementary schools that are being upgraded (Edith Cavell & Wolfe). Grenfell is not facing imminent upgrades.
- c. significant discussion around improving greenspace at school and playground upgrade
 - i. school board limitations esp regarding digging things up
 - ii. can we apply for a grant/contest, etc?
 - iii. ideas for what could be done to make greenspace better?
 - 1. paint benches
 - 2. ramp up to outbuilding
 - 3. raised beds
 - 4. student art on boards and then attach
 - a. wooden cutouts of students and flags on boards - intention was for Grenfell students to paint - are they somewhere in the school? Where did they go? Never finished - administration change?
 - 5. native plant beds or even better native pollinator friendly beds (seed mix from West Coast Seeds)
 - iv. are there teachers willing/interested to take on more gardening with students (yes - 2)
- d. question - (Stella) does the PAC have a voice in the delivery and development of curriculum?
 - i. Ans - the DPAC (chaired by Amanda Hillis) is the best organization to voice on this. If you'd like to attend they meet at the VSB office on Broadway. Next meeting is Oct 25th. <http://vancouverdpac.org/>

7. Next Meeting - November 5th

8. Adjournment