

## **Willoughby Elementary School PAC Meeting**

February 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President C. Bennet at 7:02 pm.

11 in attendance. 8 Voting Members

### **Principal's Report**

The school is finalizing who will stay at Willoughby and who will go to the new school (Donna Gabriel Robins). Currently, there are 755 students for both schools and there are still new registrations coming in daily. There will be more information coming after Spring Break. Some students may benefit from staying and this will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Amy is getting more information about starting a PAC at Donna Gabriel Robins. P. Giovanni will get advice from Peter Ewart's principal, K. Reeve, as they just opened two years ago.

Term Two report cards will be published on MYEDBC on March 5. Parent/teacher conferences will be taking place on Wednesday, March 10 (2 – 7:30 pm) and Thursday, March 11 (2 – 4:30 pm). Appointments will be booked online and will be available on February 23 at 7:00 am.

Respect and Diversity Week: Besides Pink Shirt Day, the school is planning other activities for this week. The children will be creating flags of their culture/heritage which may be sent home to do with parents, especially the Kindergarten students who will need help. There will be daily announcements on how to say greetings in different languages. Each class will select students to participate in the announcements. On Rainbow Shirt Day, "We All Belong" stickers will be distributed for students to put on their shirts.

### **President's Report**

For anyone interested in more information in starting a PAC at Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, please connect with A. Malli.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The PAC Financial Accounts were reviewed for both the General & Gaming Accounts for January and February 2021.

General Account & Gaming Account

- January and February 2021 – motion to pass R. Rathjen, R. Peck 2nd.

As of October 1, there were new changes in the account, where is it not adding interest anymore. A. Malli mentioned that we could switch to a Jump Start savings account to add interest. A question was raised if this new account has bank fees. A. Malli is waiting to get more information on how to switch and if there are fees.

### **Secretary's Report**

The January Meeting Minutes were submitted for approval.

- Motion to pass R. Rathjen, R. Peck 2nd

## **DPAC Report**

There was a special presentation about Diversity and Respect Week. Diversity buttons and masks are available for purchase. There was a discussion on how elementary students will be educated and P. Giovanni discussed this earlier in the Principal's report.

Covid cases are around 80 cases from September to January; no transmission within the schools. Parents have been vigilant with monitoring symptoms and keeping sick children home.

K registration is online and at some point, papers will need to be signed. The focus is to get registered online to prepare for the next school year. Next year's model will probably stay the same – the cohort model. It will depend on provincial guidelines and how Covid evolves.

School closures: recently there were schools that had to be shut down because of power outages. It was discussed how the district is planning to provide enough time to send notification to families, especially those who go to choice schools, as they commute farther. In some cases, parents are already on the way to school or the children have already been dropped off. The district is still working on a plan.

Outdoor classrooms: There are 27 schools that received funds. All elementary and middle schools now have outdoor class environments and two more schools were provided details for their grants. The funds are based on equity and needs.

Summer sessions may occur if permitted this year, with the same blended model. Planning will start in the coming weeks.

## **Committee Reports**

- Spirit Wear
  - R. Leong reported that there was a total of 130 shirts sold (122 youth and 8 adult) for the Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt sale. We are hoping to get them by February 18 or 19, at the latest. It is estimated that there is a profit of \$550-645 from this sale, depending on the shipping charges.
- Compassionate Support
  - R. Rathjen reported that bottled water is mostly used. She suggested to P. Giovanni to add a reminder in the next newsletter for parents to provide a water bottle for their child/ren to bring to school every day. P. Giovanni mentioned that T. Tanner is keeping an eye out for repeat visitors and sending a note home to them to remind them to bring their own water bottle to school. Additionally, more snacks are being supplied by the Township Firefighter's Charitable Society.
  - So far, families have all been doing okay. No reported need for assistance.
  - P. Giovanni mentioned that Glenwood Elementary has started a free thrift store called "Glenwood Closet" where families can shop for free for gently used or new items.
  - R. Peck suggested getting Bear Paws Veggies and fruit snacks as another selection to stock up on.

## **Old Business**

- Buddy Bench
  - K. Muuren presented choices and quotes for buddy benches. A question was raised on the installation cost. K. Muuren mentioned that we need to pick a bench first before an estimate can be provided. P. Giovanni mentioned that it shouldn't cost too much (supplies + hourly labour cost). The school can share the cost of installation as there were not many maintenance requests this year.

- The benches do not have the words “buddy bench” but K. Muuren suggested that we could install a plaque.
- P. Giovani mentioned that each school will have at least 90 new students and Donna Gabriel Robins will need a bench too; this will be discussed later on.
- It was also discussed where the bench will be installed. A possible spot would be near the small monkey bars.
- C. Bennet held a vote on the budget for the buddy bench and possibly 1-2 new accessible swings. Depending on installation cost, a \$5,000 budget was proposed. The vote passed unanimously.
- Tree Installation
  - K. Muuren is waiting on final numbers from maintenance. We need to get them planted before the end of April.
  - K. Muuren clarified the budget of \$5,600 (grant money Mrs. Kelly applied for) and if PAC can add to it. C. Bennet responded that it will depend on the overall cost and we can vote on this at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

- Sensory Path installation: P. Giovani confirmed that the decals were ordered a year ago. An occupational therapist has planned the layout of the paths according to their standards and then passed on to maintenance for installation. Hopefully, this will be accomplished during the Spring Break. There will be two sensory paths: one outside the gym down to the music room and one along the staff room to the Principal’s office.
- Staff appreciation ideas: The PAC is thinking of stocking up the staffroom with coffee pods and individually packaged snacks. P. Giovani mentioned that not all staff members go in the staff room because of the physical distancing limit. K. Muuren mentioned that they can make an announcement so the staff can grab some snacks once they are available. It was mentioned that the staff like salty snacks like chips, and maybe chocolates are welcome. PAC will also provide a basket in the office for some snacks that staff can easily grab as they sign in. It was decided to get this done during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3 – 7).
- Gift Basket: M. Gobin will organize a gift basket to the new pastor moving in April or May as a thank you for allowing parents to use their church parking lot.

### **Open Discussion**

- Questions raised: Is there an update yet on the new principal replacing P. Giovani? More information will be available in the coming week.

### **Next Meeting**

There will be no meeting in March due to Spring Break. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 pm, mostly likely through Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next meeting by: J. Viaje, DPAC Representative