

DPAC Monthly Meeting: April 7th 2011

Cheryl opened the meeting at 7.10pm. She thanked Ms Montgomery for attending on behalf of the staff.

MINUTES FROM 3rd MARCH

Motion to accept the minutes from 3rd March.

Motioned: Charene

Seconded: Kathy

Minutes approved.

AGENDA

James asked that Incubator be added to the agenda

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPC (Jessica)

The SPC have been reading *The Element* by Ken Robinson. It provoked a lot of thought/discussion. It describes many types of intelligence – and suggests that a school focus on academics can stifle some kids .

The SPC used the book as a starting point for discussions around clarifying the role of the SPC; how the SPC can helpfully contribute; which decisions are in scope and which are not.

Process: teacher led – they provide focus, SPC provide feedback, 'inject flavour of the community' into the plans and try to find ways to support kids to find their element.

CPF (Catherine)

May 10th 7pm is AGM. It will be held at Campusview Elementary.

PLAYGROUND TEAM

Nothing to report

TECH TEAM

Nothing to report

MISSION STATEMENT (Kathy)

Kathy reported on the recent DPAC survey. There were 20+ responses. Respondents felt that the most important role of the PAC was to fund and/or run programs that regular school budget and staff cannot support eg: lice check. ArtStarts was the thing that most respondents did not want cut.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Anna will be passing on Lice Check to new volunteers. While she is happy to do backup/organising, she cannot be physically at school anymore. 2 volunteers are needed to take over. This will be advertised in the next newsletter.

Given the experiences of the last year, Anna recommends keeping to 4 lice checks a year. This year she tried cutting back to 3, but an outbreak in one class that needed many in-class checks to get under control. Anna noted that while public health may not consider lice checks important, it is important to parents in terms of stress/time, and is preventative/educational for parents. This is backed up by the DPAC survey results.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Jennifer is returning to work and will not be able to co-ordinate the Hot Lunch program in the fall. A call for a new Hot Lunch Coordinator will be advertised in the next newsletter. It is a co-ordination role – lots of other people help with data entry, money and organisation. The sooner someone is found the better as there we need to book dates with school and suppliers and get meal dates set now for September.

Jennifer had suggestions for simplifying the process for next year:

- Reduce the number: feedback has been that 9 hot lunches between Christmas and summer is too many. She suggests 4 in fall and 5 after Christmas
- Make price \$6 for all of them: should cover costs/keep income the same, while accounting for HST
- Cut the number of suppliers? Village, Subway, Booster + possibly one other

While there are complaints re: quality of food from Villages, it is difficult to find other suppliers. Suppliers have to be able to supply a lunch for \$4.50 and to follow food safety/healthy food guidelines. Packaging waste also needs to be taken into account.

Hot Lunches remains well subscribed with c. 240 lunches at a time. We make about 50c profit per lunch. We have budgeted \$2500 in income from Hot Lunches. We have already made \$1400 from last term, so are on track to make budget (\$1100 this term).

FUNDRAISING FOR NEXT YEAR (Cheryl)

Cheryl will assess the mountain of fundraising literature in the DPAC drawer and bring back to the group. The aim is to concentrate on couple of big fundraisers. We have big goals, so need to make the money.

One possibility is to put on a Spring Fair this year. This is a big undertaking, but is more community building. The Dine Around Raffle was a very successful fundraiser, so another option might be to expand the format and try out some non-dining options eg: recreation/activities/ wildplay, lee valley, cedar hill golf course.

Cheryl noted that Pam and Michelle are no longer able to organise the Raffle, and so we will be looking for volunteer replacements.

SPRING CHALLENGE (Lana)

The Doncaster Spring Challenge runs between Earth Day to Clean Air Day. Events include the Greening Tree, the TripTracker, Bike to School Week and the Principal's Walk to School.

Lana noted the mixed messages that kids can take from these programs. She is aiming to for maximum participation, not exclusion, and wants to send out the message that this is not an all or nothing thing – every little helps. James suggested a raffle as motivator - everyone gets one ticket but can earn extras. Please contact Lana with any suggestions. Calls for volunteers/help will go out via email and newsletter.

INCUBATOR

Staff have been incubating eggs for 20 years, but the last 7 years have yielded poor results. Mme Gustafson has serviced the incubators etc but they now need replacement. The cost is around \$600. Only one incubator is needed – to be shared. It is needed for 3 wks at a time. Seeing eggs hatch has an amazing impact on kids who get to experience it. It is used mainly by Grade 2 classes mainly, but other kids get to see them too, wherever possible.

Attendees voted unanimously yes to buy a new incubator. \$500 from stage/\$600 left in stream of dreams budget items.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Apologies from Laurie

Replacement Incubator

Have been incubating eggs for 20 years, but the last 7 years have yielded poor results. Mme Gustafson has serviced the incubators etc but they now need replacement. The cost is around \$600. Only one incubator is needed – to be shared. It is needed for 3 wks at a time.

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Open House

Open house is scheduled for Tue April 12th from 1pm until 8pm.

It is running in conjunction with the curriculum fair and is open to the community. The opening ceremony is at 2:15pm with G2/3 singing and dancing and brief speeches. PAC is helping with welcoming people and refreshments.

Assembly

The next Demonstrated at Doncaster assembly is on April 18th and will be Perseverance

James asked how important is the assembly to parents? The feedback was very positive.

The only issue was whether we could improve logistics/photo opportunities. It is very difficult to get pictures, for example, when kids are so far away from the parents. There is also no opportunity for a group photo.

James concluded that he would try a different format, with kids walking up to the front and waiting. One they were all gathered parents would be invited to take photos.

Spring Concert

Spring Concert is scheduled for May 4th and 5th .

Projections

The School is now full with a projected 379 kids. We cannot accommodate any more families, and there is a waiting list. The main reason for this is full day Kindergarten.

If you know of anyone not returning, please ask the to let school know as soon as possible.

James anticipates that there will still be split classes.

Sports

Doncaster team played well at the recent Basketball jamboree

Mini Rugby is due to start April 13th times to be confirmed

Cross country has started for G3-5, with practices Wed/Fri mornings at 8am (Mr Strickland, Ms Cairns)

Several parents noted that it would be helpful to know beforehand what schedule is, so that kids don't over commit and can choose which sports they want to participate in. Perhaps signup dates could go into school calendar?

Communication

James asked how parents felt email communication was working. Feedback was good.

Ian wondered if could PAC provide software to help make it easier for Margo.

Meeting adjourned