

## DPAC Monthly Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks to Manon, Laurie and James for coming. Thanks also to guests Adam from Camosun Community Gardens Association, and to Teri from DASC.

Approval of Minutes from meeting held October 7<sup>th</sup> 2010.  
Proposed by Dawn and seconded by Jessica

Approval of Agenda

Laurie requested Math Mania be added. Sheena requested Magazine Drive and Darren Laur be added.  
Agenda approved.

### Old Business

#### 1) Craft Fair

Anyone who would like to volunteer can either complete the paper form or email Catherine Dubois directly. Catherine has also organised Reynolds students to help through their leadership program.

#### 2) Servery Supplies

The servery is pretty well stocked now. Catherine went out to half price day at Value Village and got loads of supplies – thank you Catherine!

Popcorn maker is fixed. Sheena explained that it had not been emptied and so had jammed up. It is really important that if you use it, you empty it. It is now available to classes for popcorn sales etc.

### New Business

#### 3) Community Gardens

Adam Beech, President of Camosun Community Gardens, proposed developing a community garden at Doncaster. Support for this type of project comes from government, Saanich municipality, Lifecycles Farming Organisation and other non-profits. If school was interested Adam would be willing to work up through school board, municipality, etc.

There are numerous options on how this could be organised, from fenced-in large plots or raised beds to smaller alternatives – like growing scarlet runners on baseball backstops or improving the courtyard with flower beds. Composting could be included. The scale of the project would depend on the level of interest.

There were a number of practical questions from the PAC:

- would it need to be accessible out of school time/would courtyard be usable?
- how would we deal with water requirements?
- would outside community members work in the garden too and require access to the school?
- how do you deal with the fact that school is closed during main harvesting season?
- what would the costs be?

Adam promoted the educational aspects of a community garden – as well as planting and growing there is also potential to cover soil biology, composting, nutrients, etc. Lifecycles can provide educational materials/resources. Both after school program and classes could have access.

Laura thanked Adam. The PAC will discuss this further to determine whether this is something the school would like to pursue.

#### 4) After School Care

Teri described how full day K will have a major impact on ASC, potentially losing both revenue and jobs. Teri is therefore considering establishing a preschool program. She will undertake a needs survey in the next couple of weeks to find out which of the many options would be preferred eg: mornings, afternoons, 2 days a week, 3 days a week, etc.

James confirmed that the ASC space allotment will be the same as this year. He has no concerns about the proposal.

Teri confirmed that the same ASC program would be offered. The preschool offering would only be within normal school hours. At 2.50pm normal afterschool/kindergarten kids arrive. Preschoolers could not go into after school care without relicensing.

Not sure yet on how many preschool places would be available - max group size probably 20, but this is unconfirmed. No idea on costs as yet. The Survey will go in the newsletter, paper copy sent home and possibly online too.

#### 5) Paperless communications

Where possible both the PAC and the school would prefer to communicate with parents via email. However our experience is showing that where payment is needed – for example for class trips, tickets to events, etc - paper is more likely to get a response. PAC will bear this in mind in the future, whilst working towards formatting things more effectively for online.

#### 6) Treasurer's Report

Cheryl provided her work email address to the PAC Executive for urgent situations. All invoices have now been paid. All deposits for magazine, hot lunches, etc are complete.

Regulations on the way gaming funds are spent mean that \$1500 identified in last years budget for stage curtains now needs to be spent. Laura and one other will take on prototyping the “wings”.

#### 7) Scheduling

Charene asked that whether it was possible to move Star Search from it's current 1pm slot to end of day just before pickup eg:1.50 to 2.50pm? James thought this should be possible and that even if time has to change at last minute we can email through class reps.

#### 8) Recognition assembly

Again it was stated that late notice on Friday's doesn't give working parents enough notice to arrange to be at their child's recognition assembly. James told us that the main reason for late notice this time was that Hilda was sick.

Feedback on the new format of the recognition assembly was mixed:

- there was great feedback for James' talk about Responsibility from both kids and parents
- the fact that kids now just stand up and do not come to the front made it less special
- parents missed that lack of a personalized statement about each child being recognised.
- a photo op for newsletter/bulletin board would be good.

Discussion on recognition assembly in general also showed differing viewpoints:

- everyone getting recognised once a year feels superficial (Sandra)
- it is a way to celebratethe kids achievement (Brianna)
- it is important for the rest of the school to see kids being recognised (Byron)
- the flip side is over-praise - getting a certificate for behaving no differently than should be expected. (Dawn)

Manon told us that teachers are not picking names out of a hat. They do pick kids specifically who have the "virtue" of the month. Each child will fall into at least one category.

Laurie said that there had been lots of conversation about recognition assembly format. Teachers did not want long drawn out statements about each child. However it was also felt that having kids just stand up was underwhelming.

James thought that there were a number of small simple changes can be made that will accommodate what people want. Walking to front is easy to address, as is having teachers hand out certificates.

#### **9) DPAC Exec Elections**

Executive Elections are next month, with the new executive starting in January. There are a large number of members leaving this year and so we need to encourage new members. You don't have to put your name forward in advance, just come to the December meeting. There is no limit on the number of Members at Large – a good way to get involved without taking on specific responsibilities.

#### **10) Family Folk Dance**

Tammy reported that ticket sales were slow going. Part of this, she felt, was a lack of response to the email forms – a paper form will go home in backpacks tomorrow. This is a transition year in terms of communication methods, so may improve as people get used to paperless way.

#### **11) Math Mania**

Laurie confirmed that Math Mania is now Booked for Tuesday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. This family event is based around math games and run by Profs from UVic. The evening is free. There are fundraising opportunities though – the PAC might want to consider running a concession; teachers may want to sell Power of Ten cards. May need one of two volunteers to help set up. Tammy will organise tickets and snacks.

#### **12) Art Starts**

Laurie confirmed that the following shows have been booked:

Kerplunks - Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2010      One Woman Circus – Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 2011      Story Time - Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2011

#### **13) Magazine Drive**

Sheena reported that the campaign has now wrapped up, although we do still receive credit for those magazines sold until June 2011. This year we sold \$5500. This is down from last year, but more than the year before.

#### **14) Darren Laur – Internet Safety**

Cedar Hill Middle School have invited all their feeder schools to participate in a community event on Internet Safety, presented by Darren Laur. Each school PAC would contribute part of the cost of Darren Laur (\$200). The evening is for parents only. We can arrange separately for Darren to present this talk to students. PAC agreed that we would like to be involved.

#### **15) SPC Elections**

The School Planning Council looks at data about the school and prepares a school plan. They compare it with the District Achievement Contract to see how they align. There are about 3 meetings a year, and usually one training session. Currently there are 4 members: Jessica, Pam, Cheryl and Joy-Marie

Jessica, Cheryl and Lana are voted on as SPC Representatives for 2011.

James will check with Joy-Marie if she wants to continue as a fourth. The School Board want to see priorities for the school budget, so will need to arrange a meeting this week. No training date as yet.

### **16) Active and Safe Routes**

Lana reported that the iWalk event was a great success. This year Lana opened up the competition to all kids, rather than just those walking/biking to school. As a result more data came back on the entry forms and the numbers were really positive. Approximately 48% walking, 13% biking and 35% travelling by car. This is good baseline data, and Lana will take the same approach next time.

Upcoming events include Winter Walk to School Day in February and the Spring Challenge. Lana also suggested using children's artwork to produce some Slow Down signs. School leadership is at the heart of success of active and safe routes to school.

### **Principal's Report**

#### **17) Sports and Clubs**

##### a) Finished

Xcountry season is now complete. Doncaster had a great turnout with 34 kids for every race more or less. Lana noted that of the G5 students only 1 girl and 3 boys participated. Mme Manon had fully half of her class taking part! Soccer has now finished too with the Jamboree taking place on November 1<sup>st</sup> where Doncaster did well.

##### b) Ongoing

Swim club on Tuesdays. Mme Manon reported that 28 kids signed up for Swim Club in the first session. Number of participants is capped at 95 – so we are matched with an appropriate school for numbers. The first week is usually chaotic while kids are being assessed, but settles down quickly. Classes are high quality and game led – kids are learning swimming techniques without even realizing it.

Manon will need at least 20 kids to sign up for the next session to run.

Kerry-Ann noted that there was no parent in boys washroom. This is a safety issue for younger kids. Mme Manon will ask some of the fathers if they can help out, or perhaps the Tyee coaches.

##### c) Upcoming

Basketball and floor hockey are coming up: the Reynolds family of schools do floor hockey first. Intramurals will be introduced as it gets rainy. As long as fields are open kids will be going outside!

Craft Club and Dance Club running well, with lots of younger kids coming to Craft Club this time. As a result craft club sessions alternate between G1/2s and G3/4/5s. This is working well.

### **18) Reading Screening**

Reading screening takes place twice a year. Teachers use this data to gauge class progress and lessons.

### **19) Recognition Assembly**

Recognition Assembly on December 7<sup>th</sup> is Creativity

### **20) Recycling / Waste Management**

Committee of teachers has been established to work out best approach, with the aim of keeping the bulk of the mucky stuff out of class while still recycling.

### **21) Scent Free**

The school continues to work towards Scent Free status.

Power of Ten in action – demonstrated by James.