



Willows PAC General Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2011

Call to Order

PAC Treasurer, Carolyn, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. 18 people attended.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by Kris.

Approval of the Minutes

The September 2011 minutes were moved to be approved by Lisa. Adopted.

Principal / Vice Principal Remarks

Teacher job action

- LR board list of what teachers continue to do and do not do (copies here, available at the office and will be put on the Willows web site)
- Questions can go to Mrs. Holob
- List done "at this time"
- Things are still running smoothly
- Children are the priority
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Call Back System

- Ready to go now
- Waiting for phone line to switch over (should be Nov 1)
- Handout about what to do; will be sent out to parents
- Parents can e-mail in. Put only the needed info in the subject line; doesn't tie up the phone line
- Synervoice calls when a student is reported absent without a reason
- Emergency contact will receive a call if the first point of contact cannot be reached
- If it doesn't make contact with a live person, it sends a report to the office, who then keep calling (Laura will be added to the office)
- Callback number will be disconnected, and the school office will take the calls, if you are recording an absence, please press 2.
- Group calls/e-mails can be sent to remind of practice, advise of cancellations, snow day, etc.

Great BC Shake up drill

- Happening tomorrow
- Not at 10:20, because it's recess, will be done earlier
- Full practice of earthquake
- Many of the kids in K already knew what to do; they had good questions and knowledge
- What happens after is a question for many kids. A description of that will go into the next newsletter
- For a future PAC meeting, a walkthrough of the emergency container, and process, is planned

Activities

- Willows web site has the best information
- Sports: cross country running almost done, boys soccer & girls soccer are under way, swim club starts after soccer, second week in November (open to Gr 2 & up, subject to distance; could be based on red cross level)
- Gr 3 dance club started

- Terry Fox run done
- Food drive done by K's

Current Business

Job action / labour, From Michael Keirnan, steward

- Reasons: O's policy, and stripping the collective agreement
- 46 meetings and very little progress
- During job action, teachers are focusing on teaching rather than administrative duties
- In bargaining, the priorities: teaching conditions that support all students; fair and reasonable salary and benefits (zero doesn't keep up with cost of living); respect for the profession; local solutions for local issues (not one size fits all)
- How's this affecting parents & kids: not doing the same paperwork and meetings as before, collection of funds, field trips if it needs drivers or costs money (which requires admin work), no scholastic book orders, no formal reports (report cards) – if parents have questions about their child's learning, please contact the teacher (they are still assessing and collecting information on the kids, there just isn't a formal report)
- Some staff groups have decided on other things
- Teacher comment that the children are not worse off, the teaching experience is actually better quality this year
- No timeline to jump to phase II

Transition for new students

- Difference this year is that the students started with their permanent classroom teacher (because of full time K) on the second day of school
- Transition is settled right down
- Still a little concern about Grade 5 students being lunch monitors
- K teachers have put together a plan that has more monitors than before, watching that kids eat, clean and put things away
- Many teachers stay to eat their lunch, and there is a circulating adult supervisor (one per four classrooms)
- Monitors have been drilled for food allergy kids and know what to do; kids take the job very seriously and the room is very quiet
- Many of the Grade 5's put on a monitor jacket and play with the K's after lunch

Holly Tree Festival

- Coordinator, Misha Dhillon, Mishadhillon@hotmail.com will start looking for volunteers after Halloween
- Book fair delivery is secured

New Business

- Some executive positions are still open, please contact Margaret margrc@shaw.ca and Carolyn ckroeber@shaw.ca. Will put info on the website and communicate through the class reps.
- PAC contributions can go to Carolyn

Adjournment

- 8:08 pm
- Next meeting, 3rd Wednesday of Nov (Nov 16th)