

**BLUERIDGE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 25, 2018
Library @ 7:30pm**

- **Welcome 7:30pm**
- **Attendees**
 - Jennifer Dickson, Jennifer Bigwood, Cyndie Gilley, Janet Stringer, Cheryl Sauve, Jaimie Morrison, Deanna Robertson, Karina Wood, Erin Primas, Ralph Stringer, Jimmy (from Stong's)
- **Special Guest Presentation from Stong's.** Jimmy is the Assistant Manager at Stong's. He came to present us with a cheque from the rebate program they currently have for us. He spoke about the History of Stong's in our community. He spoke about the family business. The cheque he presented is 4% of the parents online shopping from 2015 – 2017. He discussed how we can claim this rebate online. He discussed the pick up service Stong's offers it is only 4.99 and they bring your groceries to your car and this qualifies for the rebate. He presented us for a cheque of 280.00. A picture was taken with a novelty oversized cheque and Jen D. We thanked Jimmy for all of the support Stong's gives us by way of this rebate program and by sponsoring our BBQ's in September.
- Agenda and previous minutes approved
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- **Treasurer's Report** –Cyndie - We still have money to spend in many areas that have been budgeted for. Cyndie asked about the Esteem Team which we have budgeted for. Jen B will follow up with Andre ask about booking. Nobody had any questions about the budget which was distributed to all.
- **Update on fundraising** – Popcorn Monday will begin next week. Directory – we will be sending another push out to let people know it is available. We have sold 105 so far.
- **Hot Lunch and Recycling** – 2 families were not happy with the BPAC letter that went out in regards to our recycling solution. The Goal of BPAC is to reduce waste and use vendors that support this. We are adopting a “*pack in and pack out*” philosophy. We are always evolving and looking for ways to improve. Deanna mentioned concerns from parents regarding food waste and contamination of food that comes home etc and sits in a backpack. The BPAC agrees that food should be left at school in the organic waste containers. It was also mentioned that the aides are impacted by the waste as the kids are needing prompting to follow the new process. We believe this job will get easier as children adopt new habits. The BPAC is not changing school policy with our request to take home recycling. *This is merely a request.* Regarding hot lunch, Janet pointed out that if we are informed ahead of time by staff, we

can make accommodations to have hot lunch delivered possibly to another location or brought in earlier when there is an event or field trip that conflicts with hot lunch delivery times.

- **Movie Night** – Is tomorrow night. Over 62 pizzas ordered. Jen D will count entrants to get an idea as to how many people attend so we have numbers for planning in the future.
- **Blueridge Gear** – We had a profit of just over \$500.00. We will stick with paper orders next year as it is easier to distribute and order from one source. Jen B will look in to a different style of sweatpant for next year.
- **Skoah Gift Certificates** – The BPAC has received \$100.00 so far. Thank you Skoah!
- **Deep Cove Brewery** – Has brought in \$332.00 so far. Thank you Lisa M for your work on this!
- **Tree Chipping** – Profit was \$1,840.00 The BPAC thanks Ralph Stringer and the Grade 6's.
- **Parent Social** – We have decided on March 8th at the Maplewood Pub. It is under new ownership. They offer appies and a drink with their ticket. There will be raffle baskets, silent auction, 50/50 and a Wine wall.
- **Card Project**- The due date for Art will be March 9th. The cards will have a more generic theme. Long term we will be rotating each year, 1 year Xmas cards the next year, Generic in the Spring.
- **Spring Bulbs Fundraiser**- We will be offering seed mats and bulbs during the first two weeks of March.
- **Tomobola Jars**- We talked briefly about the tombola jars. In the past we have rotated years as we would do the Spelling Bee on year and the next year Tombola . As we are not doing a Spelling Bee this year we may do Tombola Jars again at Good Neighbour Day which will take place on June 3 of this year.
- **Teacher Spending** – Admin will look at the wish list and see what they can cover and what BPAC may be able to cover. An amount for the Intermediates has been approved for \$1,275.05 for learning science activity tubs. We want to encourage teachers to use funds for field trips as well. The Primaries have been approved for \$1600.00 for High **Touch**, High Tech. It is \$200.00 per class. We only had \$1500.00 budgeted and we will move the funds to make this happen. Jen D moves, Jen B seconded, all approved to move funds.

- **Mathletics** – It has come to the administration’s attention that the information from Mathletics is stored in the U.S. and this isn’t permitted. Furthermore, it’s been concluded that Mathletics does not align with our curriculum. BPAC regrets that it will not be approving funds toward Mathletics due to those reasons.
- **Big House**- It was brought up that parents would like to know if the Grade 3’s will be attending or not. Deanna talked to the Grade 3 teachers. The concern is that when Grade 3’s used to go to outdoor school it had all the facilities of home, warm meals, comfortable beds, heat, etc. The Big House does not have these comfortable facilities and perhaps not a good option for children spending their first time away from home. The idea of going for a day trip has been brought up and Deanna is looking in to this. Last year the grade 3’s did a day trip to Grouse Mountain. Janet asked if other schools in NVD in Grade 3 attend. It was noted that some schools do send their Grade 3’s overnight. Deanna will find out if the day trip is an option and communicate to parents. She will gather feedback from other schools, grade 3 teachers, and BPAC. Deanna **acknowledges** the importance and the tradition of outdoor school in our district.
- **Eco Kids**- Is having a break and will start mid February. It will start with an indoor session perhaps updating recycling signs.
- **FOS** – Jaimie will attend the meeting tomorrow at 9:15
- **DPAC** – Jan 31st Leah Peskett will be attending.
- **Emergency Preparedness** – Meeting was held at Windsor on January 16th. 3 BPAC members attended. The event was not well attended. Attendees feel it was more focused on home preparedness and did not answer a lot of their questions as to what would happen at school. It was stressed that it is very important to have your emergency contacts up to date.
- **Principal / Vice Principal Report:**
 - Principal Report
 - In the past, Action Schools gave baskets of equipment to schools to support healthy living. They now offered a grant of 300.00 to support healthy eating and living. Additionally, each teacher could receive 100.00 to support healthy eating and living. They can also bring a dietician in to help make healthy food choices. Blueridge will be bringing in a dietician to assist with the Food Access Program. They have also asked if they can speak with BPAC about healthy choices in regards

to our events and fundraising. Deanna would like to know if BPAC is interested.

- Report Cards- Term 1 report cards were published in December with the new format. We gave feedback. The reporting itself seems to be useful however a lot of parents are frustrated with having to create a new password to get online each time. It is a barrier for parents to get easy access to the report cards. All families are not looking at the report cards in a timely manner. Perhaps if it would be possible to have the report cards emailed? Deanna has also mentioned that the school district is piloting different ideas in regards to reporting, possibly more face to face, less formal written reports.
- Blueridge Elementary's 50th Anniversary is this year. Deanna is envisioning a legacy piece. There is a time capsule that will be opened in April 2018.
- Fruit & Vegetable Program has a fundraiser to sell produce. This fundraiser was done at Deanna's last school. There are volunteers needed for the unpacking etc. Deanna was wondering if the BPAC would be interested. Karina noted that we do have a rebate program with SPUDS, though this would be a onetime sale. You can buy 3 or 5 pound bags of fruit and vegetables. We have asked Deanna to find out details on the profits etc and we can have a look at it.
- We have created a new learning space near the gym and they are thinking of creating a learning space, with the Reggio Emilia approach (art and nature based). Deanna will be visiting the HIVE, a natural learning space in Delta for inspiration and to pick up ideas to create a beautiful space. The Reggio Emilia approach is inquiry based with nature, art and environment acting as a 3rd teacher. There may be possible grants for this but they may want to come to the BPAC for some help.
- Vice Principal Report/Erin
- Volleyball starts next week it will run for 5 weeks,
- Choir starts next week. Grade 4 and 5 will be Tuesday and Grade 6 and 7 will be Thursday. After a few weeks they will all be together.
- Ski Program – Day 2 is tomorrow. Everyone is having a great time.

Other business:

BPAC would like to host Girls with Grit and Iguy there is a lot of interest

Karina wanted to mention that we need to drive more people to the Facebook group. Maybe at movie night we can sign people up.

Adjournment: Motion Jaimie, seconded Cyndie

Next meeting Thursday February 22 @ 7:30pm