

BLUERIDGE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, October 26, 2017  
Library @ 7:30pm

Agenda Items:

- Welcome 7:35pm
- Attendees  
Krista Fox, Diana Dalzell, Cheryl Sauve, Janet + Ralph Springer, Cyndie Gilley, Cynthia Rusnak, Erika Eineigel, Brooke Tupper, Louise Birch, Lisa M, Georgina O'Flynn, Jessica Payn, Heather, Jaimie Morrison, Karina Wood, Katie Wilson, Deanna Robertson, Jennifer Dickson, Jennifer Bigwood
- Approve agenda and previous minutes
- Treasurer's Report (Cindie)
  - Government grant is in (\$40 more than in budget).
  - On schedule for writing cheques
- Update on fundraising
  - Seymour passes
    - Raised \$575 on adult passes so far
    - Can still get commission on passes that were purchased until opening day
    - There have been some glitches so if you have troubles phone and they will sort it out.
  - Family photo night
    - Cancelled due to lack of response
    - Looking at a different photographer perhaps (LifeTouch? There were some concerns in the past with the quality of the photos of LifeTouch as well as the current company). Need to book the dates earlier (fall) to find a date as it may have been too early for parents to get informed and organized.
    - Is it possible to do a spring photo night?
  - Directory
    - Will be assembled next weekend (aiming for Nov 1).
    - Online version will be for sale for \$5.
  - Hot Lunch
    - Cheryl – new online lunch ordering system going okay, parents seem happy.

- Karina – volunteers all set up, one spot remains open in mid-Nov. Need some trays. Reports are quite small to read for volunteers, HotLunch people are going to work on increasing the size of the reports.
  - Cookies and Pies
    - Order forms went out. Will get it on the website to share with friends.
    - Delivery date Nov 28, cutoff Nov 10.
    - This is a Kindergarten allocated project
  - Movie Night
    - Grade 1 event – going to be in January (too rushed to squeeze in before Christmas)
  - Blueridge Gear
    - Sale will start soon, and will keep it open three weeks in November instead of two. Will hopefully be able to make it possible to pay online.
  - Gift Certificates (skoah, Deep Cove Brewery)
    - Skoah has agreed to provide an \$85 gift certificate for a facial and \$15 would go to the BPAC.
    - Deep Cove Brewery gift certificates are in the works (Lisa)
  - Laser Tag
    - Lisa spoke to them, will donate \$30 to the BPAC for every birthday party booked.
  - General fundraising note: Jen D – we'd like to market our fundraisers more. Will add some to the Facebook site, Karina will update the fundraising info on the website. Are there other ways we can publicize the great deals and rebates we have for fundraising?
  - Louise – will check with P&T Cobs (we are on the Parkgate deal)
  - Lisa – check on the Esplanade Boston Pizza
  - Could we put something on the bulletin board - Sanaz?
  - Class reps could share info
  - Purdy's chocolate? Lisa will put together some of the detail and share.
  - Other ideas (for future years? Or anyone interested?):
    - Pictures with Santa
    - Santa breakfast
- Current business
  - Class Reps
    - Now full, we have enough reps for all classes, thank you to all the volunteers!
    - Little different with so many splits – so class reps have to pay attention to who they need to work with on the different communications (same grade reps in the other classes, or class rep in the same class)
    - No visibility on number of kids in class vs. number of email addresses (so difficult to know if working with a complete list).

Reps can check on the website under staff info (breaks down the number of kids in each split).

- Good idea to reach out to the teacher to remind the parents to sign up to receive BPAC communications.
- Might be worth spelling out why people might want to be in the directory and on the email list (benefits of each)
- EcoKids (Karina)
  - New volunteers, kids are excited, planted rye grass as a cover crop.
- FOS (family of schools) report
  - FOS rep needs to be someone from the PAC exec (so Georgina and Jennifer B can't be the reps).
  - Pleasant event of coffee (Windsor, Seymour Heights, Dorothy Lynas, Lynnmour) just an exchange of info. Let us know if anyone would like the role and join the PAC exec we will vote you on as a member-at-large.
  - REPORT –
    - Dorothy Lynas changed PAC meetings to every other month due to poor attendance. Using a click campaign for donations (similar to what we did with the barometer) optional. Raising money for a new PA system. Welcome back party is Halloween theme. Movie under the stars in January. Lots of new PAC positions, lots of new people.
    - Seymour Heights
      - Welcome back bbq
      - Cookies and pies in spring
      - 7 classes to pumpkin patch
      - Bottle drive and market on same day
      - Santa breakfast
      - New music teacher, Christmas concert at school (raising money for curtains at gym and for iPads to replace broken ones on iPad cart)
    - Lynnmour
      - PACsnack raised \$100
      - Christmas market
      - Principal leaving in January
      - Santa breakfast Dec 2 and bottle drive.
      - Babysitting training paid for by PAC
      - Raising money for iPads and performances
    - Windsor
      - Rise in PAC donations mainly from grade 8 parents
      - Sending out a donation questionnaire to find out if parents donating and if not why.

- Gala - \$50 ticket, silent auction
  - Spirit week in full swing
  - Grad June 3 + 23 at Oppenheim theatre
  - Rotary club has teens who go and get baked goods and distribute them downtown.
  - 'We' club is big
  - Brought up question of emergency preparedness – the Windsor PAC FOS rep has taken some of the info and is planning to host something from the NS emergency management so all FOS parents can go and listen to a presentation at Windsor.
- DPAC and NVPAC report
  - NVPAC meeting – Jennifer B and Jennifer D attended. Emergency preparedness event will be held in January. We haven't been involved at all in the past, interesting to be involved. Other PACs have a lot of information to share. Superintendents were there too, good to tap into it.
- Deanna Robertson
  - Hoedown was very interesting. Grade 7s showed amazing leadership, really floored by the whole thing (some kids danced with almost every class and knew every dance!).
  - Outdoor school – grade 6 went – well enjoyed regardless of the weather
  - Camp summit – grade 7 – new camp for us, seems like kids really enjoyed it.
  - Grade 4s will go in February (**DATES?**)
  - Cross country and basketball going on
  - Website – you may have noticed that the Blueridge website hasn't been updated regularly. This is because no one on staff has been trained to do it. We are waiting for training, but haven't been booked in yet, so in the meantime if you see any errors, email Deanna and she is having the district update it for us.
  - Halloween – letter went out from district about safety, please follow what they are asking to make sure it is a safe and fun Halloween for everyone
  - Curriculum implementation – Nov 6 – inquiry based learning – a lot more coming from the students about what they are interested in, following their passions, encouraging them to ask questions further, staff has been enthusiastic about it
  - Core competencies – communications, thinking (creative and critical), → because the world is not the way it used to be – used to be the teacher held the content, and tested kids on learning it. Now the content is not the learning, it is how to apply critical thinking to the content available everywhere (for example).

- In the future we will have staff members come to the PAC meeting and share what they are doing around the core competencies and inquiry-based learning. At end of last year we may have received self-assessment from kids, but this year we are trying to do it all through the year. Helping kids understand what the core competencies look like when well executed, so they rate themselves on them.
      - Will continue to send little clips and tidbits about the curriculum to help parents understand what is going on.
      - Jennifer D – grade 3s are not doing Big House, is it possible to put it forward for next year that there be consideration given to the grade 3 families to do Big House.
    - Emergency preparedness report
      - Deanna Robertson – spoke to NV school district today – the district is discouraging schools from storing food in the big emergency supply container on the school grounds because of rats primarily. **Biggest takeaway is to make sure that every parent ensure emergency contact lists are updated with 4 to 5 different contacts so that you can be reasonably sure your children will get somewhere safe within a short amount of time**
      - There was lengthy discussion on the topic, with many different viewpoints from parents, administrators and the district and North Shore Emergency Management all considered.
      - While it appears that most parents aren't aware that there is no food in the outside container bin, with the district guidance being that no food be stored there, the following steps were agreed upon:
        - Parents will be notified that no food exists in the outside storage container, and that Edupac comfort kits are available for purchase (each will have 72 hours of food)
        - It is agreed that priority should be given to rebuild the collapsed shelving in the bin and restock the water supply ASAP.
        - Additional information regarding emergency preparedness information sessions will be made available to parents once details are confirmed.
        - Deanna will investigate next steps regarding comfort kits and ensure parents are informed
      - Jaimie – class bins for teachers in emergency were updated last year, this year will add bins for music room, gym, library.
- Other Business
  - Band – all kids were told to leave school at 2 and come back at 2:30 for band, but by the time the kids leave the school grounds to walk

home, they will need to turn around again, is it reasonable to ask kids to leave the school grounds for that half hour? Response : Parents have to be responsible for kids at 2. Main concern is that kids should not be permitted to be inside the school after 2. Costas is going to send an email to band parents to clarify.

Motion to adjourn 9:25 (Jen Bigwood) seconded (Janet Stringer)

**Next meeting Thursday November 30 @ 7:30pm**