

BLUERIDGE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES
Thursday, September 28, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Dickson, Katie Wilson, Krista Fox, Kristina Souter, Helen Moore, Cheryl Sauve, Janet Stringer, Ralph Stringer, Sandra Hastings, Julia Richmond, Georgia O'Flynn, Brigitte Welsh, Karina Wood, Brooke Tupper, Louise Birch, Lisa M, Jaimie Morrison, Heather Gall, Deanna Robertson, Erin Primas, Andrie Bates

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: 6:36pm

AGENDA – Approved (moved by Cindy, approved by Katie)

OUTSIDE PRESENTATION

Joan Vyner - Destination imagination – www.destinationimagination.org

Joan Vyner presented for 15 minutes on the Destination Imagination program – a non-profit which puts together project-based learning opportunities that blend STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) with the arts and social entrepreneurship. Students who participate in Destination Imagination improve in creative and critical thinking, build on their unique strengths, learn how to design and manage a project, and gain the skills needed to thrive in school and beyond. In solving a Destination Imagination challenge, students learn the creative process that will help them meet the demands and challenges of the future.

- this program offers a way to learn in an inter-disciplinary fashion, there are 7 challenges per year, and something for every age in elem school (same problems, different ages approach them differently). Teams with a mix of kids makes it best. Acquire communication, collaboration, critical thinking – reflects core competencies.

- how it works – a team manager (adult) needs to step up to lead a team. Adults sign a non-interference letter. Teams can be an entire class or a group of 2-7 kids. Joan would be happy to run a workshop for anyone who is interested.

- Materials are free of charge.

- Tournaments – there is an opportunity to compete in tournaments if desired – chance for celebration of getting there – present in 8 minutes and a panel of appraisers provide scores and positive, constructive feedback. Fee of \$60/team.

- Costs – low – provided with a shopping list but can be acquired at a dollar store or recycled.

- Regional tournament is at Seycove Saturday March 3 2018.

- Next steps - Team manager training in November. Teams would start with weekly meetings of 1-1.5 hours in mid-November and pick their challenges before Christmas. The tournament provides a useful and fun end goal.

- Great opportunity for teachers as a module for the applied design curriculum.

FINANCE REPORT –

- Jen D. forgot to send the budget out in advance of the meeting, will attach it with the minutes.

-the budget was developed by Ralph and Cindy back in June
-additional fundraisers will be added (Skoah, Deep Cove Brewery) so it may change a little bit.
-question from a parent about whether athletics was requested, as kids really enjoyed it in the past. It was not requested but Mrs Bates said that teachers may not have been aware that the opportunity was missed.

-Ralph moved to approve the budget– Janet seconded – motion carried.

UPDATES

OLD BUSINESS

- **BBQ** – The BBQ was well attended, they tried to find ways to keep the line short and felt that there were minimal complaints. Brooke Tupper presented some figures: 397 orders total = \$2357. After subtracting costs, and with money from the 50/50 draw, plus \$392 from the concession, the total profit came in at \$2181.82 (over budget). She also has notes for the incoming grade 5s.
- **Newcomers tea** – It went well, moved it earlier in the month and earlier in the day, and saw a better turnout than in previous years (although morning kindies had gone home already) – only 8-10 new families at the school, and we saw a turnout of 8-10 families at the tea.
- **Fun day concession in June** = Grade 4s ran the concession – spent \$230, but we don't yet know the final tally – Cindy will find this.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Hot lunch** – 3 people are taking over the hot lunch program from Janet (Karina Wood will coordinate hot lunch volunteers, Cheryl Sauve is working on the website, Louise Birch doing the on-site coordination).
 - Current issue: the website isn't locking down properly. Instead of restricting editing capabilities in the 8 days prior to the delivery date, people are able to edit their orders. Cheryl and Janet are working on it.
 - Although a new system is in place, which seems to be generally working very well, most other things are status quo, with the addition of the Lyft smoothies to replace Pinkberry.
 - Hot lunch volunteers are required – the job requires that someone is there from approximately 11:30 – 1pm and they need to put milk into cold bags and once food arrives make sure it is put into hot bags. There will always be someone else there who has done it before. If interested contact Karina Wood – you can sign up for only one time, or every week.
 - Parent comment – so easy to use the new system.
- **Parent email list** – only 156 people have signed up for the parent email list which makes it difficult to get information out as needed. There seems to be some confusion about where the correct location is for parents to sign up for school emails. To sign up go to www.blueridgepac.net and click the signup button below

[BPAC Email Contact Sign Up](#)

- **Facebook**
 - Jennifer D has started a BPAC Facebook group: “Blueridge Elementary BPAC”. It’s a closed group – for parents and teachers only, you need to join and then you will be approved by an admin.
- **Jesse Millar**
 - Jesse Miller from Mediated Reality (leader in education of social media awareness) will be coming to the school on October 10 to speak to the grade 4/5s (1-2pm) and 6/7s (2-3pm). In the evening there will be a parent presentation at 6pm in the library. Please RSVP to bpacblueridge@gmail.com to reserve a spot!!
- **Blueridge gear**
 - Blueridge gear will probably be delivered Nov 27-29 – Jennifer Bigwood will work on it.
 - Parent comment that it worked really well to have the boards of full of gear on display at the movie night etc
- **Card project**
 - Will be doing the card project again but this time later in the year (spring, before spring break) which will provide for more flexibility with themes (birthday, thank you, etc)
- **Cookies and pies**
 - Nov 28 pickup
 - Won’t happen in the hallway as previous years – most likely in a room off the library with an outside exit
- **Family photo night**
 - Oct 4-5
 - Need 10 spots per night for it to happen. May cancel it by Monday if there aren’t more signups.
- **Popcorn Mondays**
 - Not started yet. Louise and Brooke can be here Monday to train the new recruit.
 - There is now a 2 bag limit per child to eliminate massive orders clogging up the line.
 - There is someone who assists the kindies with their orders
- **Eco-kids (Karina)**
 - The eco-kids program includes the edible garden as well as some grounds cleanup. Most enthusiasm comes from grades K-3.
 - \$180 in donations at welcome back BBQ through produce stand, so very nearly self-funding.
 - Will hold a meeting of interested parents to hand it over, as Karina’s daughter is becoming too old for it and she’d like to rally support with a broader group including some with younger kids. Stay tuned for more info.
- **Class reps**
 - We have quite a few parent reps signed up – some have signed up others have contacted Sinaz (class rep coordinator) directly. With the proliferation of splits some parents have offered to do full grades to streamline communication. Sinaz will coordinate with parent reps and make sure that communications are shared effectively as needed.
 - October meeting – class reps will join the meeting in October.

- Reminder: class lists are confidential – always bcc
- **Family of schools**
 - Georgina is our rep for these meetings, there hasn't been one yet for this school year, October will be first one. Second Tuesday of the month - Ms Primas will find out when.
- **DPAC member**
 - Looking for someone from PAC executive to attend DPAC meetings. Jen D will go to the first one and gather information and hopefully find a volunteer from the executive to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Lauren Middlemass thanking for scholarship.

PRINCIPAL + VP REPORT

Deanna Robertson, our new principal.

- in general she will usually talk about learnings, exciting upcoming events.
- thank you to PAC for volunteering and generous fundraising
- grade 6 outdoor school oct 16-19 – there was a parent meeting
- x country and basketball starting – appreciation for the teacher volunteers
- km club is underway
- question for PAC – there was a recent redesign in the school curriculum and core competencies, what do parents know about it and would we be interested in learning more from her? PAC response = we do not know very much and yes we'd be interested in learning more.
 - inquiry based curriculum around big ideas, good opportunity to reflect on new practices. Will bring more information (snippets of info) to next meetings about what we are doing here at the school on redesigned curriculum.
 - core competencies – communication, creative thinking, critical thinking – just getting started with it, but hoping to get better at it. hoping to get kids to self assess on these effectively.
 - Monday October 5 Ms Robertson and 2 staff going to an in-service on curriculum implementation.

Question from a parent about whether there will be another school planning committee. This is a small group of parents, teachers and administrators who set goals for the school and for kids to achieve – there are academic, but also social and emotional elements. Ms Robertson will find out how it works in North Van as she is new to the district, and will reach out for volunteers.

Erin Primas – Vice Principal

- Terry Fox run was successful with a lot of parents joining in on the fun.
- Ho-Down – Friday Oct 6 between recess and lunch - tough to accommodate parents as there is not much space
- Blueridge will be participating in the ski program this year.

- [FSAs](#) (foundation skills assessment) for grade 4 & 7 moved to October. The district will send more info out.

Mrs Bates

- Choir starts Oct 10 – parent asked for detailed information to be sent to parents directly about choir schedules (so as to limit confusion for both parents + kids)
- Basketball started Oct 2. – no cheque, no jersey – not many cheques in hand, need to get a message out to the parents that cheques for jerseys need to come in.
- Cross country for grade 4-7 underway

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Emergency Preparedness**
 - Lisa M and Jaimie Morrison taking over
 - Shelves - When they opened the container they found that the water was too heavy for the wooden shelves and they all collapsed and need to be replaced. A dad has volunteered to do that.
 - Food stores – In 2010 food (3600 calorie bars) was purchased. When it expired in 2015 it was given away and was not replenished. This has surprised some parents and sparked an energetic discussion. Some key points of debate include:
 - cost – previous cost was \$2400 for 350 bars. Lisa has secured a deal through a personal contact for \$750 for 350 of the same bars. Question about whether there is a district supplier.
 - responsibility – it is unclear whose responsibility it is to provide the food (the school, the district, the PAC)
 - North Shore Emergency Management has been consulted and previous guidance has been that schools shouldn't have emergency food stores on site.
 - Parents vocalized concerns that if both parents work over the bridge it might be days before they can get to their children and they may need to rely on food at the school.
 - Deanna and Erin will reach out to the school district to get a sense of what the guidance is regarding having emergency food at the school, and whose responsibility it is to decide and/or provide food.
 - Comfort kits
 - The question was raised about comfort kits, what their purpose is, and why some classes sent them back last year, and none have been asked for this year.
 - Some teachers pass them on to the next teacher while others send them home. No clear policy.
 - Jaimie will look into which classes have them, and who needs one and will clarify what the purpose is so that contents have a useful purpose.
 - It was mentioned that the school board has someone who can come and speak to parents + teachers on this subject.

- **Outdoor school + big house**

- grade 6 – October 16-19

- grade 4 – February

- grade 3 – grade 3s won't be going to Big House this year, instead they will be

snowshoeing at Grouse Mountain for a day and this will include a First Nations element. This sparked some conversation as many parents were not aware of this change and were concerned that Blueridge is the only school in the district to not participate in this very popular program. Although unpopular with parents this decision is ultimately up to the grade 3 teachers and there does not appear to be any opportunity to change it at this point.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30ish (moved by Janet, seconded by Cheryl)

NEXT BPAC GENERAL MEETING: Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:30 PM