

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION - JRES PAC Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: Tracy Meldrum (PAC President), Sarah Riley (PAC Treasurer), Tracy Morgan (PAC Vice President), Theresa Nernberg (PAC Secretary), Don Poelzer (JRES Principal), Rolynda Simpson (Teacher Rep), David Takahashi, Claire Tosoff, (DPAC Rep), Andrea Edwards, Kerrie Fraser, Jennifer Hatton Buck

6:04 **Tracy Meldrum motioned to start the meeting. Tracy Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting started.**

1. ADMINSTRATIVE ITEMS

- Welcome and Introductions: Tracy Meldrum welcomed all attendees and introduced the PAC Executive members
- Thank You Cards, In and Out: Thank you cards to the PAC were received from the photo contest winner, J. Twemlow and his sister. Thank you cards from the PAC to Deb Twemlow and Joy Dempsey, the yoga instructors that donated their time and proceeds from yoga nights held at the school, were passed around for members to sign.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- October minutes adopted: Theresa Nernberg read out a summary of the October minutes. **Claire Tosoff motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Sarah Riley seconded. The motion carried.**
- Red Cedar/Battle of the Books Support: Tracy Meldrum reported that the PAC has received an invoice from the school librarian for \$165 from June 2015. The invoice was related to the Red Cedar/Battle of the Books initiative that the school participated in. The PAC historically supports the initiative but the amount was not included in the current budget. **Claire Tosoff motioned to pay the Battle of the Books invoice. Tracy Meldrum seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- Teacher Incentives: Tracy Meldrum reported that she has talked to the teachers and they are on board with the changes in how the fund will be administered. The teachers will now submit invoices to the PAC to access the teacher incentive funds that have been approved for teachers to use for class supplies and projects. Sarah Riley will discuss how the invoices will be administered with Bev Decker, the school secretary.

3. STANDING REPORTS

- Principal Report: Don Poelzer provided the following information to the attendees:
 - The New Student Information System: Don informed attendees that he is still front loading information into the new system and that there has been progress. The system has been down since last Thursday because the School District was adding more schools. The system will be up next Thursday. Report cards will be written in this new program. Don cautioned attendees that the report cards may not look as polished as this is the first time the grades have been added to the system. The report cards may be delayed until Dec. 11 rather than the end of November. The “Grade Book” component of the system that contains the parents’ portal is still in development. It will be available in the future, but the teachers have not added information yet. It may be running by the start of next year.
 - Socktober: The school collected 572 pairs of socks for the New Life Mission during the Socktober event. The agency was very excited to get so many new pairs of socks. If anyone is looking for ways to help out more, the New Life Mission is always in need of disposable razors
 - Hour of Code: The objective of the Hour of Code is to do age appropriate projects such as playing a logical progression game or using technology to create a program to do a simple task. Information can be found at hourofcode.org. Parents can help out if they have expertise. The Hour of Code initiative runs from December 7 – 13. The teachers are currently considering projects for their classes. There will be a free webinar on the [Hourofcode.org](http://hourofcode.org) website on Nov. 18. Don will forward the link to the PAC.
 - Social Media Concerns: In the past couple of weeks there have been some behavioral issues at the school with roots in social media use. Although the terms of use for all the social media sites have an age requirement of 13, students are using the services, the Grade 7s in particular. There is a lot of stuff going on during the evenings and weekends that has students getting into conversations that are difficult to deal with

emotionally. The conversations are not face-to-face and result in higher risk conversations. Parents are bringing screen shots of conversations their children are having to Don because conflicts between students become behavioral issues at school. The use of social media by kids can result in more anxiety and aggression because the kids this age do not have the tools to deal with intense conversations that may occur. Rolynda Simpson cited the McCleary study results that showed kids mental health is declining because of social media. The light from cell phones activates the brain so kids are not sleeping enough. The study results also showed that kids are dealing with more depression, sadness, and worry and not participating in healthy activities because of social media. The schools policy with respect to cell phones is that if the students are on the school network Don can search them. They are required to be turned off or turned in unless needed for class. Posting photos of students is not allowed. Don suggested that it may be time for the school faculty and PAC to work together to address how to raise parent awareness of the issues around social media. The PAC attendees discussed the potential to form a committee, hold workshops and to ask DPAC about available resources. The PAC will make a plan for the next meeting and it will be an ongoing agenda item until a concrete plan is formulated.

- Sports: After school basketball has started. It is still for fun and is on Mondays at 5:30 in the gym. Week 4 of after school volleyball is finishing up.
- Events: On Dec 1, there will be a Christmas decorating event. All classes will be participating in a door decorating contest. There will be festive music and parents are welcome to come and help out.
- DPAC Report: Claire Tosoff provided a summary of what was discussed at the October 20 DPAC meeting. A written summary of the meeting was provided to attendees and a copy is attached to these minutes. The main items discussed at the meeting were:
 - Boogie the Bridge: Information was provided to all schools to bring back to their respective PACs
 - Stuart Wood Breakfast Program: The school board trustees are going to look into the breakfast club funding issue and will report back during the next meeting. Claire provided an update at the meeting indicating that this is a non-issue.
 - Hour of Code: Participation in the project is left up to the school and the principal.
 - Askable Adults Training Session: A training session for options for sexual health for K-12 with a focus on elementary age groups is being held by a Public Health Nurse. The DPAC is considering hosting a session in January or February. The course is for parents and other adults and usually sells out.
 - Tech Conference – The DPAC will host an internet safety key note talk for SD73 parents. More information to come.
 - BCCPAC: There is a conference in Burnaby on Nov. 7. DPAC needs a representative.
 - Superintendent report: The 3 year plan to support teachers with the new curriculum was outlined. The new curriculum focuses on individual learning outcomes. There will be 2 additional pro-D days added to the 2015/2016 school year to focus on the new curriculum. The new curriculum can be found on the Ministry of Education website.
 - School Trustee Report: Megan Wade remains JRES school trustee representative.
- Teachers Report: Rolynda Simpson provided attendees with the following information:
 - Den Groups: These are multi age and multi-level groups that form relationships across grades. The third event is coming up next Tuesday. The grade 7 class trained in activities and asked for more practice time. The grade 7s will provide mini-presentations to let students know what behavior is expected. These group events benefit the school because the teachers are paired so that half of the teachers supervise the kids, and half of the teachers meet for professional learning communities.
 - Christmas Baskets: Rolynda asked the PAC to consider moving the baskets that are planned to be silent auctioned at the Christmas concert be moved to another time of year. The teachers are too busy during the Christmas season. The PAC will discuss cancelling the Christmas Basket auction during the upcoming Entertainment committee meeting.

- Toy Drive: The upcoming PAC toy drive crosses over into service activities that the students are already doing. The students are supporting the ASK Wellness program to give gifts to disadvantaged children in Kamloops. Each teacher selects a service project for their class and running too many initiatives at a time will tax the community with too many requests for donations. Rolynda asked that the shared calendar be used to keep the teachers informed about upcoming PAC initiatives. The attendees discussed the possibility of having the primary grades participate in the toy drive and the intermediate grades participate in the ASK Wellness initiative instead of the Christmas Baskets. In the future, the PAC will bring any proposed service initiative to the Leadership Students and teachers before launching and will use a shared calendar that the teachers can access. The Entertainment Committee will discuss the issue at their next meeting.
- There will be early closures for parent teacher interviews. Teachers want to meet with all parents at this time of year and encourage parents to request alternate times if they cannot make the set dates.
- o Treasurer's Report: Sarah Riley provided attendees with the financial statement spreadsheet and read out a summary. The PAC currently has \$73,827.40 in chequing and needs \$75,000 to purchase the new playground equipment. There are funds to come in from the Cookie Dough, Poinsettias, and money pledged from local realtors that will put PAC funds over the required fees. **Tracy Meldrum motioned to have the treasurer move \$75,000 for the playground equipment to the School District Finance Department so that the playground equipment can be purchased before the end of the year. Claire Tosoff seconded the motion. All in favour. The motion passed.**

4. OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

1. November and December Events

- o Hot Lunch Committee Update: The Toy Drive will be just for the primary grades.
- o Entertainment Committee Update: People are signing up for the Craft Sale. Flyers are available to handout around Kamloops. The silent auction Christmas Baskets are likely cancelled.
- o Playground Committee: Tracy Meldrum showed attendees the pamphlet for the Explorer Dome that will be purchased. The equipment is like the one that is located at Riverside Park. The equipment will be installed in the spring and a supervisor plan will be created.
- o Safer Schools Travel Program: The City of Kamloops provided maps and air photos of the neighborhood. Surveys will be sent out to parents to mark students' routes in January. The information will be looked at in aggregate so that a crossing guard program that prioritizes the most used routes can be developed.
- o Hour of Code: The PAC is looking for any parents that would like to participate in this initiative.
- o Fundraisers: The cookie dough fundraiser is ending on Friday and the poinsettia fundraiser is starting on Monday. The Yoga fundraiser was successful and raised \$400 for the playground.

5. PLANNING

- o Hot Lunch/Lunch Hour Clubs/Entertainment Events/Fundraisers: tabled
- o New Initiatives – Level Readers: tabled
- o Social Media Speaker/Anxiety Speaker: tabled

6. NEW BUSINESS

- o Boogie the Bridge: Participation in this event will left up to individual families. It will not be a PAC initiative at this time.

7:40 Tracy Meldrum motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Takahashi seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

- o Tuesday December 8, 2015 at 6:00 pm JRES Staff Room

ATTACHMENTS: 2015-16 Approved Budgets, October 20, 2015, DPAC meeting-@ Henry Grube