

Gray Elementary PAC Meeting
November 28, 2012

In attendance

Patricia Thurston	Jeff McCallum	Shalu Saldhi
Munish Saldi	Kim Perry	Amy Burden
Sandra Baumeister	Courtney Marsh	Deborah Pettigrew

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Motion was made, seconded, to accept agenda.

Motion was made and passed to accept minutes of the October 2012 meeting, which can now be published through the school website.

Principal's Report

Christmas concert will be held on Dec. 19/12. There will be an afternoon and an evening performance.

Report cards will go home on Dec. 14/12. Any questions about report should be directed to teachers. The intent of staff is that regular communication with parents will ensure that there should be no surprises at report card time.

December 3rd is a District Holiday due to Spring Break running into Good Friday, which effectively leaves the district short one day of holiday time.

Volleyball for Grade 7's is winding down and will end after the final tournament which is being held at Sands.

Annual food drive begins on Dec. 4/12. Canned food can be brought in to the classrooms. Parents are asked to bring a canned food donation to the Christmas concert as well. Donations go to Deltassist.

Grade 6 students will hold a bottle drive on Dec. 5/12 and then again in January. Proceeds will be used to fund a ski trip and for Grade 6 students to go to Victoria for the day as they were not able to go last year during teachers' job action.

Grey Wear items are still available in the office. There may be another order put together for the spring.

In the rare event that schools are closed due to snow, information will be announced through the school website, CKNW, and may also come through Twitter.

Parents are reminded to ensure their children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Kids, as a general rule, go outside during recess and lunch if it is not raining. If kids are underdressed, staff need to make arrangements to have someone stay with kids inside.

An update to the parking concerns was noted insofar as the School Superintendent called looking for more information on the traffic issues around the school.

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DPAC Report

Last meeting was with school trustees and members were encouraged to talk about the best things and worst concerns about their schools. Common theme was lack of parent participation in PAC meetings and events, as well as traffic in and around the school during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Can we send the PAC Meeting Agenda to all parents in advance of the meeting date? Also, we can announce location of meeting on our website.

A parent education grant of \$100 will be given to each school. Discussed looking to other schools and combining resources to ensure best attendance and a quality speaker or educator.

Some schools are using Syner Voice, which is an automated messaging system, to get information to all homes. School will not supply equipment.

Discussed communication barriers with families that may have English as their second language. Paragraphs of the PAC newsletter can be translated into other languages.

Treasurer Report

Reviewed recent Cash Position report.

Hot Lunch

A pizza hot lunch will be held tomorrow. Last month, some kids did not get their lunch. Mandy is still looking for people to help on hot lunch days.

Emergency Preparedness Report

No update at this time.

Fundraising/Special Events Report

No update at this time.

Budget/Wish List

Items put onto the wish list are:

- 1) Document cameras for classrooms.
- 2) Benches around new playground.

Jeff will get word to teachers that we are looking for their input into creating a wish and/or needs list.

Gaming Grants

Reviewed disbursement amounts of previous years. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to give each classroom \$400 from gaming grant monies, to be used at teacher's discretion as long as it meets the use conditions of the grants. Remaining gaming funds will be held and go toward teachers' wish list.

Grade Liaisons

The idea is to get messages out to parents about what is happening and to build a community feeling. Can we have one person coordinate all grade liaisons?

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NEW BUSINESS

Mathnasium – Shalu and Munish Saldhi presented information on a math tutoring program that they run. Information can be passed out to parents through the PAC newsletter and their own brochures. They are will to donate a portion of the profit from Gray student registration back to the PAC as a fundraising idea.

Fundraising ideas can be discussed with Ruth Kaune at any time – rkaune@dccnet.com

A discussion took place early on in the meeting regarding playground concerns were brought up by a couple parents with children in kindergarten because the K classes are not using the playground. Jeff explained that teachers and lunch-time monitors feel they are better able to keep the three classes together when using the older equipment in the back of the school. The feeling is that there is not enough space, within the borders of the playground, for kids to be playing.

Can we increase the footprint of the surrounding area so that more children can comfortably be contained within the borders?

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.