

## Gray Elementary PAC Meeting

October 30, 2013

### In attendance

Sandra Baumeister

Mike Keller

Amy Burden

Zena Ray

Tania Sallinen

Patricia Thurston

Sunita Parmar

Jennifer Marieiro

Cindy Latham

Judi & Bruce Henricksen

Terri Burton

Ruth Kaune

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 AM.

Motion was made and passed to accept agenda for meeting, after Mike added Emergency Bin Wish List and Concerns over 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue traffic.

Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting.

### Principal's Report

October was a provincial Pro-D day. Teachers made decisions and chose courses that interested them. The cost of the conferences was split between the school and union funds. A lot of teachers went to courses on writing and self-initiated learning. Claire and Zena went to their administrator's conference. The other day that the school will be closed is for the May 2014 Pro-D day.

On Friday, it will be a school-wide, Read All Day day. Classes will have guest readers (Mayor Jackson, Chief Cessford, Judy Marshall, many retired teachers, etc.). Students are able to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal. For recess, students can bring warmer over clothes, such as track pants.

On Halloween, students can wear their costumes all day. A parade of costumes will be held in the gym just after recess. Students should not bring props that are considered weapons. Masks will be required to be removed before and after the parade.

Next Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Remembrance Day assembly in the gym at 10:45 AM. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Any students that belong to a group or club, where a uniform is worn, they are encouraged to dress in uniform for school on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. They can be worn all day, or put on at recess.

School EA's will be starting a Homework Club in the next week that will run Monday to Thursday from 3:00 – 3:30 PM. Students that need support with their homework will be welcome. Teachers, and parents alike, can make referrals into the program. The main idea is to give support to kids with chronic issues for not getting homework done, or need support with their learning.

Al Pichler will not be available to do a school performance this year. The school will put on their own Christmas performance on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – one performance in the afternoon and one in the evening. There will be two tickets only available to each family. Parents can, however, call the school to see if extra tickets have been made available for the afternoon performance.

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A district-level committee has been set up for making up a district policy for assessing students (Assessment for Learning) which is designed to make small or big assessments during learning, rather than at the end. Teachers can take the information to further the student's learning during the unit.

A new Aboriginal Curriculum is to being put in place to help aboriginal students, at all Grade levels, to understand their place in the culture of our school, and classrooms.

**DPAC Report**

Courtney sent out a recap of the recent DPAC meeting. No questions asked.

**Treasurer Report**

Cash position was passed out. No questions asked.

**Hot Lunch Update**

Hot Lunch Coordinator will be available on Thursday and Fridays for the remainder of the year, as she works as teacher from Monday through Wednesday. Today's hot lunch is a Grade 6 fundraiser and parents are encouraged to help as support is low for this day.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Director of Facilities for Delta, Frank, sent a list to Mike of required items for each school's bin.

Mike has compiled a wish list, with items priced out and presented it at the meeting. The megaphone is something that is over and above Frank's list. Food and water supplies in the bin will expire in 2015.

Over the past couple years, the PAC has not asked for \$5.00 from each student for the cost of replacing food and water. A notice will go home to ask for funds this year. The last time the school asked for money, the compliance rate was 97%. Terri and Cindy both made the suggestion that the purpose of the money and the bin stock be fully communicated to parents and that the list of required items can go home in the hopes that parents may donate items.

Mike will put together an email and send out to PAC for review, and then prepare for distribution for parents. Zena will check the files for the previous letter that was done up by Jeff.

Zena and Claire have discussed starting the process of having a name tag for every student, to be kept in the classroom backpacks. Each year, the information would need to be updated after pictures are taken and then moved to new classrooms. At Zena's previous school, the Emergency Preparedness Committee handled the process. Zena suggested that Mike add plastic lanyards to his wish list. Terri offered to head up the project under Mike's guidance.

**Fundraising/Special Events**

Tasty Tuesdays are going well. Gift cards have gone well so far and will continue all year. Family Photos have not been fully booked yet, so there is still place available. Ruth is still working through the Entertainment Books.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Grade 6 hot lunch was covered in an earlier discussion and Sandra received an email indicating enough parent volunteers had come forward.

Paula Hutton had emailed a request to look at the cost of placing benches around the new playground. Amy will look into the cost of new benches, and the option of having picnic tables from the back moved.

Emergency Wish List was previously discussed during the Emergency Preparedness update.

Traffic along 80<sup>th</sup> continues to be a concern as some parents have mentioned that cars are speeding through the school zone. Due to the fact that 80<sup>th</sup> is designated an emergency route, traffic calming speed bumps will not be considered by the city.

Some ideas discussed: Can we look into a speed sign that shows the driver's speed? Can we make announcement at Christmas concert? Can the teachers speak to kids, who in turn will put pressure on parents?

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 AM