

Gray Elementary PAC Meeting Minutes

January 26th, 2022

Microsoft Teams virtual meeting called to order by Andrea Mori at 7:04 pm.

In Attendance:

Andrea Mori, Jennifer Hastings, Heidi Gonzalez, Bob Thompson, Amanda Berera, Dave Camara, Kurt Morley, Sonja Gustavasen, Jenn Clarke and Karen Kang

Motion made by Karen to accept Agenda as presented, seconded by Jenn and all present voted in favor.

Motion made by Karen to accept November 24th, 2022, PAC Meeting Minutes, seconded by Jenn and all present voted in favor.

Principal's Report:

Provided by Bob Thompson and VP Heidi Gonzalez

Bob started with:

- Christmas seemed very successful at school and Thank You to the PAC for the gingerbread houses as they were a big hit
- We were able to put generous hampers together and they were delivered to the families. The families were very appreciative and grateful for the support from their school community. It was a very touching day, and the families were overwhelmed with the kindness
- Jan 14 was the read all day event and it was a fun day. Heidi was able to gather some guest readers with recorded stories to share virtually

Heidi continued with:

- Upcoming Pro D Day this Friday, teachers will focus on their own learning. The main focus is on Heart and Mind skills for life which is a school wide initiative. Math minds will be the afternoon focus
- Also in the afternoon, arborist company is coming to work on 9 trees. They will be cleaning the ones that are rotting or dead and trimming down what is needed. A notice went out to school community avoid the school grounds for safety during that time
- Next week the school is hosting 4 teacher's candidates from SFU. Looking forward to having them in and hearing their new ideas and fresh outlooks
- Feb 4 is the play all day event which will be modified and be in class (not school wide due to covid)

Bob continued:

- Covid update, in midst of enhanced measures we have been conservative all year. Students are learning new safety measures that were implemented at start of school after winter break
- Last week we had a lot of staff and students absent which was monitored, and we kept in contact with Fraserhealth to make sure we were following their protocols to ensure school

could remain open. This week we have bounced back with attendance and the absences are way down. Hoping this trend continues and absences remain low.

- Daily health check has also been amended and should be put on school and District website by this Friday, just waiting for the Ministry of Health to publish it.
- Connected with district coordinator for the Emergency Preparedness person and will be meeting with her soon
- Starting a 2-year SEL with staff to address school needs. There is a strong consensus on the need for more attention towards social, emotional well being, anxiety and mental health. They want to develop a strong common language and share that with school community
- We have signed a contract with the Dalai Lama Centre for workshops.
- The framework is:
 - Compassion and Kindness
 - Get along with others
 - Peaceful resolution
 - Secure and calm
 - Alert and engaged
- We feel this will be very beneficial for everyone. For more information you can look up Heart and Mind through the Dalai Lama Centre online. There is a companion program for parents called Skills for Life. This consists of 5, 2 hour long workshops and each module can have up to 15 participants and the total cost is around \$2700 for the 5 workshops which is capped at 15 people
- Heidi shared that she did SEL (Social, emotion, wellness & learning) for K-5 last year and lots of parents that utilized it previously have been asking if anything was in the works for this year. These workshops provide information on how to assist their families with tools for anxiety, and parents are looking for new information or updates

Follow up on a few requests from November:

- 1) Wheelchair accessibility swing, we sourced one not being used from another school. We are now looking for quotes from our contractors as to where it would go, do we need to have a path created towards it, etc. 2 students would currently benefit from this and any financial assistance towards the installation would be appreciated
- 2) Outdoor wagon, the district provided 1 per school last spring and it is very well used. Having 1 additional wagon would be well used.
- 3) Outdoor garden, a water source closer to it would be welcomed. Currently we are bringing water from Ms Watson's pod, it would be best if water was right outside of the garden

Jennifer Hastings provided an update on the Stream of Dreams. The dates are set for June 13, 2022 over that week. They will also do information sessions over zoom if we aren't allowed in person with students at that time.

PAC REPORTS

Special Events

- None currently

Fundraising:

Update provided by Dave

- Nothing in place for this month
- Upcoming Purdy's for Easter and Neufeld's in March possibly
- Open to any other suggestions
- For spirit wear, we are waiting to see if we get any more orders. Some parents were curious if it came in adult sizes and wanted to know correlating prices

Hot Lunch:

Preeti and Maleena away

- No update as no hot lunch was offered in January
- Some February dates are opened up and about 50% of people ordered compared to before Christmas

Treasurer's Report:

Update provided by Amanda

- Accounts at \$18,079.29 for operating and \$24,941.02 for gaming (which includes our \$10K gaming grant)
- Hot lunch profit has been around \$1000 per month so far

DPAC:

Update provided by Dave

- There was a discussion around band and why there were restrictions around some things but not pertaining to band. The response was that there is information/data that shows no transmission through band
- PCR tests will be available at school for kids sharing symptoms in conjunction with Life Labs but no further info provided at this time
- Neil Stevenson did a presentation on the 2030 vision
- Next meeting all the school trustees will be there
- Access to DPAC meetings are available for any parent wanting to attend

Emergency Preparedness:

Update provided by Sonja

- No new update at this time but it is good that Vanessa the coordinator reached out to Bob. Hoping the meeting takes place soon

Newsletter:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

Amanda is asking about Salima Noor as they contacted us to see if we are interested in booking. Dates are for April through zoom. Cost is \$1450 + tax. Last year we opted not to proceed on zoom as we didn't think it would be beneficial. Jennifer Hastings thinks it would be good to proceed for this year. Dates in April are 26th onwards and the K-1 is 45 minutes and Gr 2-7 is 60 mins

Motion made by Dave to purchase 2 beehives for \$900, seconded by Andrea and all present voted in favor

Some discussion around band safety protocols during covid. Bob advised that the school is following the guidance of the district and public health. Public Health has determined there is no additional risk associated with it. Band is a district wide mandated program.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 8:39 pm by Jenn, seconded by Kurt and all present voted in favor.