

Minutes of Whiteside Elementary School PAC

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019 in the Whiteside Library

Attendees: Sarah Grant (Vice-Principal), Valerie Pollack (Teacher Librarian), Erin Mah (Co-Chair), Diana Redman (Co-Chair, Hot Lunch Coordinator), Brandi Snow (Treasurer), CC Chang (Fundraising Coordinator), Anne-Marie Olmstead-Wilcox (RDPA rep), Puneet Jain (Secretary), Christian Ung, Jon Snow, Stacey Wong, Jack Wang, Ling Zhang.

1. Welcome—Erin

2. Review and approval of October Minutes—Erin

- **Motion:** approve October 2019 minutes as presented.

Moved: Erin, seconded: Diana. **Motion carried. No one opposed.**

3. School Administrators' Report— Sarah Grant, Vice-Principal

- Tuesday and Thursday fundraising for the Grade 6 Camp. The students will be doing popcorn sales. More info to follow.
- Sarah asked for a clarification of what the DARE donation is from PAC. Brandi clarified that the donation goes directly to the program.
- Sarah thanked members of the PAC for setting up the Christmas tree in the lobby. The Wish Tree program is being run by Mme Robie this year. Items are due by December 6th.
- A parent was asking about lead in the school's water. Sarah called the Head of Health and safety for the district and they informed Sarah that the levels are extremely low. The water is flushed daily in the pipes of concern. The water fill stations use updated piping and are not of concern. All taps in classrooms have signage that the water is not potable.
- Parents can expect one of two types of report cards. Traditional report cards will go out before the winter break; there are 6 divisions who can expect these. All other divisions will receive regular reporting on portfolios.

Questions from PAC members:

- Why the two types of reporting as last year the school was 100% on portfolios? (Erin)

Answer: Two divisions have teachers who are new to the school who haven't used the system before and were not comfortable with it. The remaining 4 divisions have teachers who chose to go back to the traditional reporting system this

year. As this is a pilot, it's not mandatory to use the reporting system. Hence not all the teachers have to use it.

- Boundary Proposal from Richmond School Board (Erin):

Erin, Diana and other Whiteside parents attended the meeting at McRoberts where Lynn Archer, Assistant Superintendent for Richmond School Board answered questions from concerned parents regarding the proposed boundary changes. Proposed changes would move large parts of the McRoberts Catchment to McNair. Also proposed is the movement of the EFI program to Palmer. Parents are concerned that the boundary changes which will come into place in September 2020 are a way for the school board to lower attendance at McRoberts and potentially close the school. The school board was seeking feedback until November 15, 2019. They will vote on the changes in December. Ms Archer advised during the meeting that all current catchment students will have the choice of whether they would like to attend McRoberts or McNair and thus be "grandfathered". Parents are concerned that this will only affect current students and not new students (ie anyone attending Whiteside currently). Parents at the meeting were also concerned that the school board was not fully consulting parents so that parents can be fully informed about the proposals. There is a lot of information posted on the SD38 Let's Talk page to sort through. Parents at the meeting felt that the school board should have done full consultations like they have in the past and also should have allowed more time to provide feedback.

Answer : Its in the early stages of consultation and the board is not looking at the closure of McRoberts yet. The only thing being decided on is the proposed boundary changes. There are a lot of things that will be considered and it will take some time before the changes will take place.

ACTION : Sarah will get some clarification about the grandfather clause and how soon the boundary changes are expected to be put into place.

Erin: As these proposed boundary changes may affect Whiteside students the PAC is encouraging all parents to involve themselves and continue to email the board with concerns, even once the deadline has passed.

4. PAC Exec Updates

Co Chair (Erin): Vermilion Photography have reached out the PAC to offer to host a family portrait night at Whiteside. A percentage of sales will be refunded to the PAC as well as

the sitting fee. Jack WONG of Vermilion Photography presented the PAC with sample pictures and the process of how the event would work.

Co-Chair (Erin): Lunch Lady is expanding to Richmond and is interested in offering a hot lunch service at Whiteside. Lunch Lady has an expansive menu, is allergy aware and has reasonable prices for each item available. They offer two programs, one is a hot lunch service similar to Libby's Kitchen which is available for order online every day. The second option is a hot lunch program similar to what the PAC offers. No contract is required. Lunch Lady also receives payments directly via their website and does not require involvement from the PAC. The PAC will receive a percentage of sales similar to Libby's Kitchen. Parents in attendance were very interested in the new provider. The PAC will look into the new provider and ask them to provide a hot lunch daily service only and to not provide hot lunch for the days the PAC does our own fundraisers. The PAC will also continue to use Libby's Kitchen for those families who prefer their menu.

Co-Chair (Erin): Movie night will be on November 29th and we are showing ELF. Brandi, Diana, CC, Puneet and Jon available to volunteer.

Co-Chair (Erin): Johnny (Social Media coordinator) is offering a Contest to up our "likes" on Facebook. The PAC will provide two Wolf Wear clothing items as prizes. More to follow!

- **Motion:** To have Vermilion Photography do a fund raiser whereby they will be taking family portraits and the portion of the proceeds will go to the PAC. Details to follow. Moved : Erin, seconded by : Brandi. Motion carried. No one opposed.
- **Motion:** Erin will contact Lunch Lady to start offering their services in January if possible on a trial basis. Moved: Erin, seconded by: Diana. Motion carried. No one opposed.

Co-Chair (Diana): Ms Swain asked some teachers about the Grade 6 Camp and why it was changed to the new location. It was moved because the location is closer and doesn't require as much travel time. Teachers said they prefer it to the old location.

- Sarah noted that the travel time is the biggest issue as the students get to the camp earlier and are able to participate in activities the first day which is unlike the former camp. Sarah will look at other options as she understands that the cost is much higher than in the past.

5. PAC Outreach—Erin

- The PAC email list continues to receive updates regularly but they are slowing down. We have finally found a class parent for the last division. The last PAC

update regarding the meeting at McRoberts was not forwarded to some of the division due to some confusion. This issue has been resolved and all parents should receive the PAC updates from now on. Thank-you to Sandeep for putting together the contact list and to CC for updating it regularly. If any parents are still not getting emails they are encouraged to email the PAC (WhitesidePAC@hotmail.com).

6. Executive and Treasurer Reports - Brandi, Treasurer

- Gaming Account: we received our funding from the government (\$7,960).
- General Account: \$200 per classroom/resource/music/library for resources and \$50 per classroom for fitness equipment has been provided to the school as approved Sept 25/19. Hardship fund transfer has been provided to the school for \$1,500 for the year as well. The Halloween Party raised approximately \$1200, more than last year's movie night. Hot lunch and treat days have raised a good profit for the first term but we are still waiting for some invoices to go out.
- Closing balances: Gaming \$9,199.69, General \$15,849.53

7. Fundraising—CC

- Fall packages have already gone out, including Mom's Pantry dry goods, Purdy's, gift cards and Wolf Wear. We are very happy with sales so far. We have surpassed our original \$3000 sales goal for Purdy's and have raised it to \$4000. Gift cards are slightly down this year with total sales of about \$8000. Ordering deadline November 22 (November 17 for Wolf Wear). Pickup December 11/12/13.

8. Hot Lunch—Diana

- Quoola always well received.
- So far, running smoothly and with enough volunteer help. Grade 7 teachers have volunteered students to assist when there isn't enough parent volunteers. A request was received from Primary grades to have hot lunch delivered earlier if possible. Diana will make adjustments for future events.
- Next terms orders will be available between December 6th and 20th.

9. RDPA—Anne-Marie

- Movie license is going ahead, Brandi has put in our interest so we can hold Movie Nights this year

- Main discussion was about the boundary changes. On the Richmond district website it states that there will be boundary changes happening in September 2020, which upset lot of parents.
- RDPA pays for 2 PAC people per school to take Food Safe training Nov 23rd.
- Looking to show the film *Screenagers 2* this year, but trying to have a reduced price since it's very expensive to bring in. It is aimed at students 12 and up.

10. Halloween Party—Erin

Thank you everyone for their volunteer contributions. About 225 kids attended and seemed to enjoy the games and costume parade. We had good pre-sales and concession sales. Thank you Diana for setting up the volunteer set up online, it was a huge success and we had some amazing parent volunteers this year. Thank-you to all parents who helped make the event a success. We also had 7 McRoberts students who volunteered and ran our carnival games and were paired with 6 grade 7 students. This went well and would be good to do again for next year.

11. Other

- Dec 10th Band concert 1:30 and 7 PM.
- Dec 17th Musical concert 1:30 and 6:30 PM.

Next PAC Meeting:
Wednesday, January 15th, 2020 @ 6:30pm