

Minutes of Whiteside Elementary School PAC

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 in the Whiteside Library

Attendees: Pamela Essex (Acting Principal), Sarah Grant (Vice-Principal), Diana Redman (Co-Chair, Hot Lunch Coordinator), Brandi Snow (Treasurer), CC Chang (Fundraising Coordinator), Anne-Marie Olmstead-Wilcox (RDPA rep), Jon Snow, Alison Mayan, Tasneem Damji, Jamie Epp, Brenda Geib, Wendy Swain, Sandeep Bhullar.

Regrets: Erin Mah (Co-Chair), Puneet Jain (Secretary)

1. Welcome—Diana
2. Review and approval of September Minutes—Diana
 - **Motion:** approve September 2019 minutes as presented.

Moved: Brandi, seconded: CC. **Motion carried.**
3. School Administrators' Report—Pamela Essex, Acting Principal and Sarah Grant, Vice-Principal
 - Received all the grants they applied for: leadership grant for \$1,000, SRPP \$3,500 plus iPads, Library Learning Commons \$2,000
 - Training of crossing guards is underway—please be mindful they are learning, and follow all parking lot rules. Please be patient with each other and minimize honking to ensure everyone is safe in our parking lot.
 - Volleyball season has started, game schedules are posted on purple notices around the school.
 - Mme Bengall has started a jewelry club to run a few times this year, so new teachers are bringing their own interests into the school community!
 - FSAs: grade 4 and 7 students have begun the FSAs with far fewer tech glitches than last year—hoorah!
 - Orange Shirt Day and assembly: students are really responding well and understanding why we learn about these stories from our past.
 - DARE is underway every Tuesday for all grade 5s.
 - SRPP Parent Evening: about 30 parents came to learn about portfolio reporting, but many families know about portfolio already from last year. Some teachers are doing traditional reporting so families may have some children on each system.

- Grade 6/7 Leadership Conference runs October 22, 23, and 24, have secured a local athlete who is currently training for the Tokyo Olympics as guest speaker.
- October 25 is a professional development day province-wide
- November 13 and 14 will be early dismissal for parent conferences (2pm)
- November 12-15 will be the Scholastics Book Fair in the library
- Grade 6 immunizations will occur on November 19
- Follow up from camp cost questions from September meeting: the change a few years back was due to reducing travel time, but costs did go up.

Action: Ms. Essex will look deeper into available options for camps for future years as well as supporting rationale for the current choice.

- Questions from the floor for administration:
 - 1) The newspaper says we have to provide proof of immunization (particularly measles), but we were not asked. Were we supposed to hand it in at some point?

Answer/Action: Admin just received an email about this, awaiting clarification on whether all students will be asked for their records or only students missing data from the health unit.

- 2) Safety in schools. What does staff do to ensure safety and that some of the tragedies we read in the news can't happen here?

Answer: There is a very well-established protocol that is followed. Careful not to create anxiety or spark copycats. If parents have classroom-related safety questions, they can always ask the teacher.

- 3) What technology rules exist this year, and is that uniformly enforced?

Answer: no devices from 8:45 to 2:45 unless specifically allowed for educational purposes during class time (looking up French vocabulary, doing research, etc.). Definitely not allowed during recess and lunch.

Action: Ms. Essex will look into digital safety workshop for kids and parents, potential for PAC to support.

4. PAC Exec Updates

- Teacher wish lists discussed. 8 of 18 divisions submitted ideas, plus music and resource teachers.
- **Action:** CC will resend information on the TD Friends of the Environment grant to Ms. Essex to possibly assist with the outdoor classroom project.
- Discussion about funding individual teacher needs vs. funding school-wide projects. Considering how best to use PAC funds vs. school funds vs. asking particular classes to help support their own classrooms' needs. Tabled to next time!
- **Motion:** Support Ms. LB's request for replacement glockenspiels for the music program for up to \$625. Moved: Brandi, seconded: CC. **Motion carried.**
- **Motion:** Support Ms. Svalestuen's resource request for self-regulation tool kit items up to \$200. Moved: Brandi, seconded: Diana. **Motion carried.**
- **Movie Night:** November 29, Diana, CC, Brandi helping. Jamie interested in helping, too! Chose the classic *Elf* to show! Common Sense Media rates it 7+. Request that administrators coordinate the setup of the gym as usual, and the sound system.
- **Social Media Contest:** Johnny is organizing a Wolf Wear contest based around attracting more followers on Facebook. Each "like" will be an entry to win! Watch for more details coming soon.

5. PAC Outreach—CC

- Sandeep updated the contact list spreadsheet and CC has formatted it for Erin to send out the emails to this year's class parents. Parents can keep a look out for an email from their class parent arriving soon!

6. Executive and Treasurer Reports

- Treasurer—Brandi
 - Please see attached report for details
 - 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.

- Closing balances: Gaming \$9,199.69, General \$15,849.53

7. Fundraising—CC

- Fall packages will go out next week, including Mom's Pantry dry goods, Purdy's, gift cards and Wolf Wear. Ordering deadline November 22 (November 18 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.

9. RDPA—Anne-Marie

- President of Richmond Teachers Association spoke about lack of a contract for teachers
- Movie license is going ahead, Brandi has put in our interest so we can hold Movie Nights this year
- November 7 at McNeill they're running PAC 101 for anyone wanting to learn more about their executive role, or considering taking one on in future. Format is dinner and then discussion time regarding various roles.
- RDPA pays for 2 PAC people per school to take Food Safe training Nov 24.
- Looking to show the film *Screenagers 2* this year, but trying to have a reduced price since it's very expensive to bring in.

10. Halloween Party—Diana

- Both Acting Principal Ms. Essex and Vice Principal Ms. Grant will attend

- We have enough volunteers now to go forward with a party instead of movie night—although we could still use a few more helpers to take a 1.25 hour shift at <https://volunteersignup.org/MDTPR>
- Need more bakers—please sign up on Volunteer Sign Ups link above!

11. Other

- Division 4 is running a Food Bank Drive October 28, 29 and 30, participating in “Scare Hunger” campaign collecting non-perishable food items, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- **Action:** CC will mention to Johnny to promote bringing donations to the Halloween party via social media.

Next PAC Meeting:
Wednesday, November 20 @ 6:30pm