

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Attendees:

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

PAC Executive: Anna Seto, Lisa Wangh, Sherel Loo, Samantha Shi, Wendy Ng, Joanne Chang, Jaimee Aragones, Michelle Sue

Parents: 7 parents

1. **Welcome and call to order**
2. **Approval of September 20, 2023 Minutes**
Lisa and Wendy approved
3. **Chair Reports**

RDPA Update (Anna): Iris is out of town. She was at the meeting October 10 and there were 2 speakers. Jane McMillan, Assistant Superintendent talked about Feeding Futures program. There will be \$2.37 million over 3 years to support students with food insecurity. They will hire manager to manage funds. Family affordability fund no longer exists. Feeding futures program is a new fund to help support students and their family. All schools received their first allotment to support stocking snack cupboards and for those with breakfast clubs. New funds do not affect current partnerships school district already has. Fund can be used to replace kitchen appliances. Not sure yet if it will support hot lunches. Second speaker is Liz Baverstock from BC Teacher's federation talking about Foundation Skills Assessment. In the past campaigns, they have been asking parents to withdraw students from assessment. But this year there is a change. BCTF has concerns about how data is used. So they will lobby the ministry to ask them to keep data safe. Parents can email MLA to ask. Raised concern about Fraser Institute, using Freedom of Information Act to gain access to data and rank schools. There will be PAC training November 7 at McNeely. There is also traffic safety committee, 2 members of RDPA, ICBC, RCMP, City of Richmond. Received clarification that bylaw officers cannot ticket on school grounds. If any specific concerns, can talk to the committee.

RAM Update (Jaimee): Looking at getting more volunteers for Pro d day event on Sept 20th. Need at least 10 parents for setup after school tomorrow Sept 19th and taking down after event on the 20th. Sent an email to see if parents are interested. Forms are still open. There is a focus group for Montessori parents, haven't received date or any notice yet. Ms. Wong - I thought this was something being done at the district level. Seeking parents and Montessori teachers for focus group. Last year district came to Montessori staff asking their thoughts. I was sending out email on behalf of the district, but I can find out more. Jaimee: There is a live focus group and virtual one and will need to confirm date. McKinney is hosting it.

Hot Lunch Update (Joanne):

Had Pizza Hut and Yummy Pizza so far and feedback positive. Next Friday is Sushi Lovers and we had quite a number of orders. Thanks to all the volunteers. First movie night is November 17 and need more volunteers. Further discussion to see hot lunch options for January to April and introduce other options.

Fundraising Update (Anna): Christmas plant sale, website available to set up. Chosen Dec 6 delivery date and parents pickup December 7. Order will be available to us in November. There is also Interest in gift card fundraiser where certain percentage goes back to PAC. Looking into that. Maybe raffle for movie night.

4. Treasurer's Report

Account balance PAC which includes hot lunch is \$\$8,503.23. Raised \$1,007.05 so far. Received cheque from Richmond School District. Richmond School Subsidy \$986.50. Paid \$425.25 Movie License. Current balance \$17,233.03.

Gaming Grant \$7,000 and balance is \$9,465.50

Budget for school year PAC account expenditure \$14,481.25

Gaming account expenditure \$9,450

Ms. Wong – wish list items from staff

Board games/chess boards

2 Headphones

Document camera

More games

Cooking equipment

Learning Resource Games

Musical Instruments

Books

Art supplies

Looking for picnic table at +\$1000 each

Field trip/student, can be increase?

Volleyballs

Chairs for outside seating

Gym equipment

Can look at school budget, anything that is gaming is outside of school and PAC.

Would rather see more going to classroom

Next staff meeting is November 3 and can vote, will bring back after list has been prioritized

We have enough cushions so can take away \$210

Ms. Norman also waiting for final invoice from camp

Parent suggestion: how about Toy box for Christmas for families to donate board games. Lego could be option too.

Ms. Norman: Idea if people can donate pots and pans

5. Administrator Report

Ms Wong: Ms. Tang going on maternity leave in the new year. Half the year will not have Ms. Tang, go through regular district for hiring.

In October if you have child with more unique needs there will be individual educational plans done, setting goals. We had class reviews schedule where substitute teachers come in and all teachers come in to talk to our team, talk about students and their strengths as collective group. Try to support teachers to enhance their programming. Buddy Groups solidified. 16 divisions.

In first week we talked about digital oath. Tech use information flyer at district level provides expectations for students. At Garden City, there's primary and intermediate digital oath. When cell phone should be used. All students have signed off and moving forward making sure they abide by it. Not eating when using ipads, personal devices emergency use only.

Family Teams after they came back from camp tied to Truth and Reconciliation. Talked about what animals represent in First Nations culture.

Tomorrow parent teacher conference – 11:53am early dismissal

Update on numeracy and literacy. Format has changed. Second year in this format how the child is doing. Gives idea how the students are transitioning.

Elementary Reporting – opportunity for parents to understand new reporting structure.

October 5 will be information on district website about reporting.

Volleyball season will have 6 games this season. 3 away and 3 home.

Ms. Norman:

Clubs started and there is a Quiet Reading Club over 80 kids signed up. Outdoor break time. Ms. Johnson divided students into 4-5 groups and different kids invited. One day of the week they will have quiet reading.

Ms. Sakai doing a Crochet Club on Fridays

Craft clubs and game clubs – for students who would benefit from connections

Terry Fox Run – raised over \$800

Cross Country Run – 15 kids

Zero Heros – presentation given to K to Grade 5s on sustainability and to reduce reuse recycle.

Good reception from the presentation.

Grade 6/7 came back from camp and Ms. Norman has put together a video.

Kids have leadership roles such as morning announcements.

Ms Wong:

Foundation FSAs – used to be done in Spring but in the last 4 years switched to Fall. Assessment changed to get result by Christmas. Helps teachers frame direction of teaching. There is supportive materials for families, information guide, parent and caregivers guide. Can be found on Foundation Skills Assessment website available in 8 languages.

Kind campaign last Friday – Girls Grade 6/7. It was found by American foundation. Had district and school counselor present. Talked about girls bullying, showed documentary, culminated into idea about being kind. Optional for kids to do, but they could write kind card, kind pledge, kind apology.

Feeding Future School – if there is need for support we have supply available.

Back to School Wellness Kit – BC Children's Hospital has parent resources to help support families to adjust to school routines

6. Additional Business

Lisa: Asked if PAC can purchase a popcorn machine and was approved.

Ms. Norman can send out video of camp to Grade 6/7 Families.

7. Next PAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

8. Adjournment 8:15 pm