

## PAC MEETING

May 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 (last PAC meeting of the school year!)

1. Discussion with three teachers (Miles Patrick, Mary Locke and Gail Johnson) on PAC support at the school. Discussion of how to change–improve our support.

What should we keep, what should we change, what should we...

Teachers talk about the use of the money. We start with the gaming grant for sports equipment. A needs sheet is produced yearly, with Ingrid. They use the money for instance for the new jerseys. If the money would not be given by PAC, then it would be deducted from the school general fund. Comparing with Queen Elizabeth, our school gets a similar support. In the East side, through grants, they may get even more funds than we.

From the library point of view, we`re about in the middle somewhere funds wise, compared with other schools too. The wish list has been typically classroom specific. \$100 dollars per teacher in the fall, then another \$100 in the spring, with an additional \$2000 per year distributed amongst all teachers.

PACs contributions are really valuable. Years ago (10–15É) \$15,000 was the budget for the library alone, now we`re down to \$3,000 (!). PAC has supported the library for years now. Sometimes in a big way: some 10 years ago the bar coding program needed \$5,000, and PAC supported that action. Money for books varies year after year, but it is there every year.

A main thing PAC has done, is bringing authors to the school. In order to facilitate the process, PAC came up with a budget, and that made this activity easier to happen, and it did. The result has been Canadian writers coming to the schools, and some kids thinking about themselves becoming (Canadian) writers! The cost to bring them in varies, but we`re contacting the authors directly, and not through their publishers, getting the cost as low as possible, and making the author receive all the money.

The support worker and special needs kids. We used to have 3 kids here, now we have 6 and next year we will have 7, and the funds have not increased in a corresponding manner. The space is not big enough, and it is cold in the winters. We need to properly outfit the `sensory` room, really an increase in their budget. They also need a space for quiet work without actually stepping out of the room. Additionally, 50 cushions are needed. Examples: bubbles, sound of water, aromatherapy, swings, weighted vests, pillows, battery massagers, etc.

An idea to talk to the school board to integrate the new playgrounds that are going to be needed with the new school, we should fight to have them integrated with

`sensory`` playgrounds, as a way to have one for all kids, integrating these special needs.

`Friends`` is a program for students that have problems socializing, a puppet show that helps discuss the differences and similarities amongst us all, helps a lot in the integration. Timing for the actual money delivery is raised; apparently it has been on time.

The preparation of the wish list, administration of it, and payment (paperwork, receipts, copies, reimbursement, messages of approval in the mailboxes, etc.) is discussed. PAC-master will be wish-list-master, and will administrate such monies. A proposal is made to the teachers to give PAC input: activities, wish lists, important info, etc. Maybe even PAC - Teacher e-mail, or Margaret can be the `middle man``.

Inflation should be considered, and support workers compared with teachers gifts is discussed as well.

### **Margaret starts with the school calendar first:**

First Friday off, the teachers go away in a natural setting, get to know the new teachers, and plan the activities for the year. The 2 days in a row, teachers very much involved in the technology advancements. Smart-boards et al. 6 teachers have sent in their list on why they want their smart-boards. Stronger focus on technology next year.

Goal setting starts in October, the one in January gets scrapped, and another one comes after spring break. That will happen with the report cards at the same time.

### **Margaret distributes the School Plan 2011 - 2012**

Teachers are very much into technology. Grades 5, 6, 7, how do we teach them to use technology adequately. A way to really measure the results compared with 2010 outputs, for instance. Reading development is still in the plan, yet improved through interactive media.

The teachers will formally monitor and record their development by comparing improvements at the end of the school year.

### **Expenses**

Vote: \$1000 dollars from gaming is to be voted: beanbags, volleyball, etc. It was unanimously approved.

Notice of motion: \$10,000 dollars loan for the grocery card fundraiser to purchase cards in bulk. A motion was made by Jane Pike, seconded by Siobhan Williamson.

Notice of motion: \$ 800 instead of \$500 for grad that Margaret needs, and is unanimously approved.

Ingrid is asking Miriam if she wants to be chair next year, and it is being approved unanimously. Ingrid is not going to be co-chair. Ingrid is asked for a handbook of what she does, and when, in order to understand what it is that she does. Gerardo Iglesias is co-chair, approved unanimously, and Karen Wood and Gerardo Iglesias are secretaries for PAC.

A discussion and suggestion about a safety committee, in order to work as an additional body for the seismic plan, one that focuses primarily on safety during the period between now and the beginning and end of construction.