

General Gordon School

PAC meeting September 27th. 2010

Meeting starts 7:30 sharp. Miriam introduces herself, and PAC activities and volunteering, most importantly is how PAC discusses and votes how to spend the budget, then parents introduce themselves.

First a vote is introduced regarding whether or not to have wine at the meeting, overwhelmingly the vote is yes. 2 parents raise the issue about driving after the meeting when wine was involved, as well as, "do you drink wine when you vote on how you spend the money?" well it was raised and clearly stated that each person is responsible for his/hers actions.

We moved on to "Communications between home and school", explaining the needed info, and how it can be accessed on the webpage. Also the Gordon Elementary Volunteers. It starts with looking for a new co-Treasurer, explaining the job, and asking for someone that plans to attend all PAC meetings, and also could do it for some years to come.

As for French immersion no reps were here to talk about the steering committee, however this needs follow up.

Ingrid is asking for Class Reps and starts filling out a separate list that will be posted once completed. About five parents offered their help at the meeting, more to come thru the green volunteer sheet.

Greening and garden work volunteering, inviting people in October on a given Saturday or Sunday morning, and Donald Gordon that organized this last year will do that this year.

Ingrid explains how the winter food bank drive works, inviting a volunteer. PAC does something for the wider community once a year, and depending on parent volunteers, it does not have to be during the winter season.

Denise proposes to work with the kids in a larger coordinated social and community giving, similar to the above, or raising funds, or any different ideas that would involve the kids directly. Margaret thinks this is a great idea, focusing also in communities outside our own. She wants to work on that, and invites someone else to work on this initiative.

Recycling coordinator gets a volunteer already, Jennifer, and Ingrid explains how it does work. PAC would also be looking for a kindergarten parent, who is in the basement everyday anyway, who could work with Jennifer.

We go back to the green sheet, explaining the events involving PAC, and requiring help in order to split Ingrid's workload. Fact is that a number of parents will help on any given event, and that anyone that wants to head the effort, will not be alone, but coordinating other parents to get the job done.

Margaret talks about smart boards. Explains how they work, and will ask a Teacher that is proficient in its use to present at the October PAC meeting, the cost is around \$3000 (it is mentioned that it can go up to \$10,000). Some PACs can afford one for each classroom, and we are targeting two per year. We should look for grants and private donations to support this effort.

Seismic status: the space allocated for the school and the neighbourhood room will share the final space, after some years of talks. At this point, an architect will be appointed and one of 3 options will happen. New school, hybrid or the old one renovated. The school will be 100 years this year, and so far has been safe enough.

November PAC is programmed to discuss in full the Seismic status.

Miriam steers the meeting properly to avoid long and unplanned discussions. Last issue before financial status is hot lunch, how can we solve it? Elke agrees to research for catering services if the topic finds enough interest.

Groceries plastic cards are explained, the clear benefit for the school, and the modus operandi to get the actual cards. Last year this activity raised more than \$1,600.

A motion by Diana to loan up to \$10,000 dollars for the grocery cards, so that we can move up to a higher returns brakit. Denise Ryan and Anna Johnson seconds it.

Anna Johnson moves for 3 items, Elke Porter seconds Heather Young too, \$2000 for teacher gifts \$100 per teacher, and \$1700 dollars music and arts performances, and \$800 for author visits, that will be added to the \$1000 already approved for authors.

Miriam moves to vote to spend the \$800 for author visits, which is voted and approved unanimously.

Christina who was an editor for the newsletter at Tennyson, and Elke wants to support a newspaper club?

The meeting ends at approx. 9:05 PM, nobody wants to stand up! Good job Miriam!