

North Glenmore PAC Minutes January 17, 2017

Welcomed by Susan Hayes

Present:

PAC Executive: Sue Hayes, Rhonda Langford, Simone Wittenberg, Kathy Chin, Diane Westfall

Parents: Marnie Turek, Kim Thompson, Terry Farquhar, Laura Overland

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Jill Voros.

Rhonda Langford motioned to approve the November 2016 minutes, seconded by Diane Westfall.

Principal's Report: Jared Birkeland

1. Thank you!
 - Fun Lunch
 - iPads funded by PAC for Grade 4 classes - these are at Hollywood Road getting set up and having software loaded. The school will purchase cases for the iPads.
2. Staffing update
 - Mrs. Manduca (Gr. 2) has taken a one-year leave. Ashley Lane is teaching the class for the rest of the year (temporary).
 - The PAC would like to send her a thank-you gift
 - Mrs. Kohlen (Gr. 2) is off on medical leave, will be back at the end of January. Amanda L'Hennaff (formerly Ms. Zwagstra) is teaching the class until her return.
3. Student teachers
 - Mrs. Mundie is sponsoring Jill Proskiw
4. Registration for the 2017 - 2018 school year will open on February 6, 2017
 - Online registration will be open at 7:00 am.
5. SD23 proposed calendar for 2017-2018
 - Community members are encouraged to submit feedback.
6. Grade 4 - Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA)
 - These tests are scheduled to be written at NGE January 24 -30.
 - The FSAs are standardized tests that are written by students in grades 4, 7, and 10 every year. They are meant to be written by all students in BC with the purpose of providing a "snapshot" of education in the province.
 - The intention is to gather data to enable educators to see general trends across the province. The FSA is NOT meant to reflect progress of individual students.
 - Parents / guardians have the option to request that students "opt out" of the tests.
 - Overall, there are not many "opt out" requests.
 - The subject matter of the Grade 4 tests is meant to be cumulative, that is, the entire school experience up to Grade 4. However, there are some timing differences that can cause issues - for example, if a topic on the test is not covered until the final term of Grade 4 at a certain school, the students at that school would not have had exposure to that topic before writing the FSA.

- The FSA is somewhat controversial, as the data is used by the Fraser Institute to provide school rankings. These rankings have been criticized as the Fraser Institute's method of selecting or including data appears to provide skewed results. For example, data for a student who has opted out of the testing is treated the same way as a student who scored zero on the tests.
 - The FSA is being revised to reflect the new curriculum. The revisions may include choices of how to respond, testing of core competencies, and the hope is that it will be a valuable measure of student abilities.
 - The new FSA is being piloted to reflect the new curriculum, however, not all schools will be using the new FSA.
 - This year's results will not be meaningful in terms of data trends, this year will not be consistent with prior years or even across BC.
7. Parent teacher conferences - February 2 and 3, early dismissal, 12:30 pm
- Scheduling / booking is online;
 - Some classes will use one-on-one interviews, others will use student-led conferences.
8. Upcoming dates - see calendar
9. Superintendents' Meeting: The discussion was centered around the recent Supreme Court decision in favour of the BCTF. In a nutshell, the Supreme Court ruled that the contract language that was stripped by the BC government has to be put back in place.
- Issues around class size and class composition were the most significant, although there were other issues as well.
 - Funds have been allocated by the government to address staffing needs to bring the class sizes and resources back in line.
 - For example:
 - Kindergarten class size this year = 22 students; next year the number of students will be 20.
 - Grade 1-3, class size this year = 24; next year = 22.
 - Grade 4-6, class size this year = 30; next year = 28 + 10% (I.e. some flexibility / discretion)
 - An impact will be felt in the number of "exceptional" or "designated" students that will be allowed in a class by the rolled-back contract language. This is the class composition issue referred to above. The contract will allow three students per class.
 - Population trends in the last ~15 years show that although the total number of students has not increased, the number of "designated" students has doubled.
10. Enrolment
- We note that NGE is almost at capacity. There are 20-30 spaces left in our school, assuming that the kindergarten registration is the same as last year.
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President's Report - Sue Hayes (VP):

- The xmas movie night was a hit. Thank you, Simone!
- Mr. Owens' class sent us thank you cards :)

Treasurers' Report - Rhonda Langford

- ✧ No unusual transactions to report.
- ✧ Balances of our accounts look high, but there are significant amounts coming out.
 - ✓ The gaming account will go down to zero.
 - ✓ Grade 6 amounts for fundraising (parents) and technology (Grade 6 teachers - to remind, \$15K was allocated last meeting to the Grade 6 classes for technology) will come out. Note that the Grade 6 parent fundraising amounts are amounts that were raised specifically for/by the Grade 6 classes to fund their extra-curricular activities this year. They are being held/administered in the PAC accounts for efficacy.

Fundraising

- ✧ Give from the Heart - donations over \$20 will get a charitable donations tax receipt
- ✧ Summary of profits to date:
 - ✓ Art cards = 3,700
 - ✓ Family photos = 1,200
 - ✓ Pizza Night = 800
 - ✓ Gift cards = 509

Fun Lunch - Diane Westfall

- ✧ Fun Lunch is on target with respect to projections.
 - ✓ Gross sales = 12,136 this term (grade 6 pizza = 10,178)
- ✧ McHappy Day - May 3rd. This is a McDonald's fundraiser, where they match our purchases with a donation to the Boys and Girls' Club and Ronald McDonald House (50/50). We will support this cause with our order. Listen to your radio, as NGE will receive a media shout-out!
- ✧ Issue / conflict with Grades 3 and 4 swimming lessons
 - ✓ Feb 1, 8, 15
 - ✓ We will request a second pickup for these lunches
 - ✓ Sue, Diane, Rhonda - will handle the additional distribution. Superheroes!

Special Events - Simone Wittenberg

- ✧ Family dance: February 23, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
 - ✓ Volunteers will be signed up through sign-up genius
 - ✓ Simone will contact Robynn to get details
 - ✓ Dr. Knox's students may volunteer to get Rec. Leadership credits (contact is Mr.

Bowen)

- ✓ DJ is Jeff Haymaker - he will set up at 5:30 in gym (note, book the gym from 5-9 pm)
 - ✓ Note that parents must attend with the students
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- ✧ Spring Fair - Kim Thompson
As noted last meeting (perhaps prematurely, sorry Megan!) Megan Coakley stepped up to become the co-coordinator of our Spring Fair. Kim and Megan will connect to pass on the resource binder and discuss further.

Yearbook - Kathy Chin

Yearbook is on track. We are looking at our provider from last year, Picaboo, and assessing pricing.

Wrap-up / New business

Question from a parent - where did NGE's kindness missions go? When deciding to move to Kelowna and searching for schools, NGE's culture of Kindess was a factor when deciding to come to NGE.

Answer and discussion - the kindness missions are not communicated / shared with families and the rest of the NGE community in the same way as in the past, but they are still going strong.

- Prep assemblies - "our kindness mission continues!"
- "G.A.T.O.R.S." - so far, we have had:
 - ✓ G for Generosity,
 - ✓ A for Academics,
 - ✓ T for Trustworthy,
 - ✓ ... to be continued!
- Videos
- We continue to use the Kindness Tree (in the foyer) for messages and thoughts
- Thirteen new students enrolled in our school over the holiday break; each of them were "adopted" by a class who made hand-written welcome cards and pictures for them.
- Discussion - should we offer Gator Swag? T-shirts, hats, etc.? Diane suggested going to the source for the Grade 6 shirts and swag, and having the orders from NGE at large go through the Fun Lunch site for payment. Orders could be made, say, twice per year.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm

Next meeting February 21, 7:00 pm.