

North Glenmore PAC Minutes October 13, 2015

Welcomed by Robynn Robertson

Present:

PAC Executive: Robynn Robertson, Dianne Bondaroff, Nikki Price, Rhonda Langford, Adam Romano, Kathryn Chin.

Parents: Clara Tonn, Janine Cornett, Jane Hardy, Jeff Davies, Casey Nye, Patti Ostrickoff, Terry Farquhar, Michelle Jewell, Jody Crumb, Shelley Foley, Kathryn Rexin, Mafe Patasin, Cheriese DeGear

Staff: Jared Birkeland, Jordan Kleckner

Janine Cornett motioned to approve the September 2015 minutes, seconded by Rhonda Langford.

Administrator's Report: Jared Birkeland, Principal

1. Overall it's been a busy month!
 - Fun lunches have started
 - Fruit and Veg program has started
 - AI Summit was held on October 9th
2. Parent-teacher interviews
 - Good turnout - 440 interviews out of 481 students
 - Online registration worked well for both teachers and parents. Parents enjoyed the ease of choosing their slots online, and receiving reminder e-mails about their meeting times. What parents may not have known was that without this online system, teachers would have to meet, class lists in hand, to coordinate meeting times for siblings. A lot of time was saved at the school.
3. Halloween
 - Costumes – parents are asked to review handout re: costumes, especially the guidance re: guns (please avoid).
 - Celebration assemblies
 - Reminder that parents are always welcome! Note that the times and duration of the assemblies may change.

Question: Grade 6 pumpkin carving contest, haunted house – are these activities happening this year?

Answer: Uncertain – last year, due to the late start, we didn't run these activities as they are a big time commitment and the term was already shortened. This year, there are no firm plans.

4. Appreciative Inquiry Summit (AI Summit)
 - As an overview, the purpose of the Summit was to have all of the stakeholders in our NGE community come together to determine our shared vision for NGE. Teachers, staff, administration, parents, and community partners (e.g. UBCO, Starbucks, Canadian Mental Health Assoc., RCMP, etc.) attended the conference.
 - Three themes emerged from the summit:
 - Community Collaboration
 - Students are connecting with the community
 - Empowering the Whole Child

- A database of parent experts is being compiled in order to enrich the resources available to our NGE students
 - Positive Culture of Caring
 - Kindness missions
 - Volunteerism
 - On the day of the Summit, the Boys and Girls Club provided care for kids whose parents were attending the Summit.
 - 95% of the parents attending the Summit used the care provided.
 - Suggestion for next year – that the kids be split into groups, e.g. under-sevens and over-sevens.
5. Revised BC Curriculum
- The Ministry of Education has revised the K-12 curriculum
 - By September 2016, the intent is to fully implement the new curriculum for K-9
 - In reality, this will be a more gradual process – likely taking 3 to 5 years.
 - The Core Competencies
 - The change in the curriculum is not about taking out any of the traditional “three R’s” – it is more a change in how the “three R’s” will be taught. The focus will be on the Core Competencies – an approach that teaches students how to learn. As such, the same content, the “three R’s,” will still be taught - but through the lens of the Core Competencies.
 - An excerpt from Mr. Birkeland’s report is below for more detail on the Core Competencies.

Core Competencies

The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Through [provincial consultation](#), three core competencies were identified

- **Communication** -The communication competency encompasses the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences and ideas, to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.
- **Thinking** - The thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness.
- **Personal and Social** - Personal and social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world.

Core competencies are evident in every area of learning; however, they manifest themselves uniquely in each discipline. In the current drafts of the redesigned curricula, competencies are embedded and evident within the learning standards. Competencies come into play when students are engaged in “doing” in any area of learning. This includes activities where students use thinking, collaboration, and communication to solve problems, address issues, or make decisions. The ultimate goal is for learners to employ the core competencies every day in school and in life, and for the core competencies to be an integral part of the learning in all curriculum areas.

6. Information and Technology Literacy (ITL)

This is an NGE/SKE project, designed to give students digital literacy skills.

- Mrs. Horning and Mr. Kleckner are working with classroom teachers to integrate these skills with existing curricular content
- The library will be used as a centre for this work

Question: What can the PAC do to support ITL?

Answer: Capital purchases – e.g. a projector (a short-throw projector has been considered for this use). Other purchases / needs still to be determined.

7. Calendar

- Move November PAC meeting to take Remembrance Day into account
- No December PAC meeting

Treasurer’s report and Financial Goals – Dianne Bondaroff / Robynn Robertson

- Bank balances were presented.
- Gaming grant received = ~\$9,500 = \$35/student.
- Summary of Committed Funds was presented

The Summary was presented with the preface / question, what should our next large goal be?

We have largely met the last goal of providing technology to each classroom – what’s next?

- Program wish list:
 - Sumdog (already funded) – Grade 4s are the biggest users, \$150 was paid
 - Splashmath – Grade 2 and 3, last year NGE had the use of this program on a free trial basis. This year, the classes would like to use this again. The cost is \$7/student, approx. \$900 total.
- Technology goal (recap and revisit)
 - We have Smart boards, document cameras, iPads, laptops and laptop cart
 - Some shifting over time from school’s budget
 - Is our technology goal really completed, is there more to do?
 - Need to ask teachers for their wish lists - bigger capital items
- Sports equipment / programs
 - While this report was being prepared, it was discovered that the \$750 commitment to playground equipment had been underpaid in the past two years – i.e. it was originally intended to be \$750 twice per year (\$1,500 total).
 - This money normally goes to the sports equipment in classroom bins

Action item: Robynn to compose an e-mail request to teachers for their wish lists

Comment: wise to keep in mind how much a technology refresh will cost – i.e. there should be funds kept in reserve to service/refresh the technology we have invested in.

Answer: Agreed - the last technology refresh was an update to the laptops and desktops. iPads have been holding up well, but a new generation will be needed at some point.

Comment: A parent commented that she would like to see the funds she has contributed to the school used while her kids are attending NGE.

Fundraising – Nikki Price

- Gift cards, with percentage of cost donated to NGE – as proposed last meeting. Further information presented by Dianne Bondaroff.
 - Full list of participating vendors was received
 - Noted that if the cards purchased are reloadable, reloading the cards results in continued donations to NGE.
 - Decision to go ahead – November 15th deadline proposed for ordering
- Family Photos – sessions have already started.
 - New photographer – Danielle.
 - There are still five spots available.
 - Great feedback so far – good quality, on time, flexible. Positive comment from a family who couldn't make any of the slots allocated to NGE, they were able to book during another school's session.
- Art Cards – in progress.
 - Materials have arrived and have gone out to teachers.
 - The art will be collected during the first week of November.
 - One sample will be delivered to kids/parents
 - Opportunity to order / reorder online
 - Good Xmas timing
 - One-week turnaround

Yearbooks – Patti Ostrihoff

Thanks to Patti Ostrihoff for volunteering to head this project. Teri Loney, Kathryn Rexin, Shelley Foley, and Kathy Chin will form the rest of the team.

- Provider / publisher
 - Decision to be made whether to go with last year's provider, Lifetouch, or new provider, Picaboo (or other). Picaboo is very promising in terms of ease of use, quality, and capacity (good turnaround, flexible packages, etc.) and the pricing appears to be comparable.
 - Proposed contract was received from Lifetouch. To assess Picaboo further and decide on a provider.
- Pictures – how to best find / receive pictures for the yearbooks?
Discussion ensued – determined that:
 - The best source for Primary (K-3) pictures is likely from parents;
 - For Intermediate (4-6) field trips etc. the kids are likely the best source (i.e. the teacher could assign a couple of students to be the photographers for the day).

- Suggestion that it may be more manageable for teachers if we limit our requests for pictures to two pictures / month
- Suggestion that the PAC provide memory sticks for each classroom – appeared that this may not be the easiest way. To revisit.
- Suggestion that dedicated iPads be purchased, i.e. they would be kept at the office and be signed out by classes/teachers for taking pictures (iPads because they could be used for other purposes as well).

Motion to purchase iPads for pictures by Robynn, seconded by Shelley, none dissenting.

Hot Lunch Program – Adam Romano

- The Hot Lunch Program is available for Grades 1 to 6.
- This year, we have returned to “per-term” ordering – i.e. all of the lunches for a particular term must be ordered and paid for at the beginning of that term.
- Reasons for the change from last year:
 - This practice drastically cuts down the administrative time needed to run the Hot Lunch Program.
 - There were many orders in the past that were not paid for
 - That said, the PAC will fund lunches for children if needed.
- Reminder that to order, participants had to re-register online.
 - Help is available for people who don’t have access to a computer, but not many people have used this resource.
- Call for volunteers! 10:30 to 11:30 am

Question: Have we considered using Hot Lunch as a fundraiser (similar to other schools in the District) rather than aiming for break-even?

Answer: Yes, it’s an idea that has been raised. Last year the program did run a surplus. This year the prices were set to run a surplus, though not to the extent that it will be a major source of funds.

Kiss & Ride

The volunteers from Knox are doing a great job. Not many of them are even NGE alumni! Bottlenecks are happening again, which are frustrating, but there was a reminder that the situation used to be much worse. Parent volunteers are still needed for the short 8:20 – 8:35 period, when the Knox students have to leave and NGE students are still arriving.

Next meeting: November 17, 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned, 8:30 pm