



## **DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAC MINUTES**

January 16, 2024

**Attendance:10**

**Voting members: 8**

**Administration:** Phillis Giovani, Dunja McCrae

**Executive members:** Bianca Sinclair, Jennifer Shelford, Amy Malli, Gagan Hyare, Nicole Cotiangco, Candice Sellers, Elena Maynes

**General members:** Jennine Jackson

The meeting was called to order by A. Malli at 6:36 pm.

### **Introduction:**

We respectfully acknowledge that we work and learn on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Matsqui, Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations.

### **Principal's Report:**

Kindergarten registration opened on January 15. We currently have 79 students registered online on MYED.

The school has formed an Indigenous committee called Ya-yestel which means "coming together" in həŋqəmiñəŋ. The committee's goal is to infuse more Indigenous perspectives into teaching, celebrations, and our school environment as well as to further understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures. The group will be introducing the Seven Laws of Life. Each month there will be a theme to focus on. This month the theme is "happiness." Teachers will speak to students about the themes. There is a bulletin board across from the Learning Commons where students will showcase what they are working on each month. The committee also booked The Wild Moccasin Dancers. They came to our school on Monday and Tuesday this week. Students learned and participated in different Indigenous dances from across Canada. PAC voted to cover the cost of this event from the gaming account.

January 24: Lantern walk - will be held at DGR. The walk is to encourage preschool aged children and Kindergarten students in the community to connect with nature and our neighborhood. Please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lantern-walk-tickets-773325656857>. Pizza and lanterns will be provided to all who register.

February 9: Dragon Dance

February 10: Lunar New Year

Feeding the Future Fund: DGR has been given funds to create food programs to support students. On Monday, January 22, the school will be starting a "Grab and Go" morning snack program for students who want to participate. One of our SEA will purchase the food and set up two serving carts. One cart will be set up at the front and one at the back of the school every morning. There will be several food options such as: fruit, yogurt, cheese strings plus gluten/nut free options. More information will be in this week's newsletter.

PAC gift card donations were also distributed to families in need over the holidays.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Present and pass November and December 2023 general and gaming account financials:

General account for **November**: income - \$8,601.80; expenditures - \$6,182.33; ending balance - \$67,748.81

Gaming account for **November**: expenditures - \$53.96; ending balance - \$14,377.87

General account for **December**: income - \$3,873.96; expenditures - \$3,840.86; ending balance - \$67,781.91

- **The PAC received \$350.00 in donations from parents to help with costs for the pancake breakfast.**  
**Thank you to all who donated.**

Gaming account for **December**: expenditures - \$1,200.00; ending balance - \$13,177.87

- Motion to pass general and gaming accounts: B. Sinclair, G. Hyare 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Secretary's Report:**

The November 2023 PAC minutes were submitted for approval

- Motion to pass: J. Shelford, N. Cotiangco 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **DPAC Report**

Deferred to February meeting

### **Old Business**

- **Pancake Breakfast:**

Pancake breakfast was a huge success.

Feedback for next year:

- use pizza cutters to cut pancakes
- use serving carts to go around to serve extra pancakes to students
- have less fruit (J. Mela reached out to a local shelter and was able to donate the extra bananas and mandarins to them)
- add more warming trays

### **New Business**

- **Movie Night**

- Doors open at 5:30 pm
- Concession to run until 6:15 pm and movie will start by 6:25 pm
- 192 tickets sold so far and 44 large pizzas. Cut off to order pizza is Jan. 18 and cut off for tickets sales is Jan. 24
- Concession snack items: water, candy bags and extra popcorn (G. Hyare to purchase candy and water)
- Need to purchase glow stick bracelets (A. Malli to look into and purchase)
- IT will come out to check sound system before movie night (N. Cotiangco to bring in movie and DVD player)

- **Playground Additions:**

- E. Maynes, N. Cotiangco and Mrs. Giovani met with Todd from Swing Time last week to look at the remaining grass area to see if we have the space to add additional play equipment and benches.
- Ideally two Canopy benches and one piece of play equipment would be nice to add. District needs to be called in to view the area and see if it can be levelled (must be approved by them first).
- If District approves site, then PAC will look at costs and time frame for equipment.
- Canopy benches are \$3,862.00 each and play equipment ranges from \$12,965 - \$26,033.00. Additional cost to install plus taxes.

- **Valentine's Day Fundraiser:**

- PAC will follow up at next meeting to bring fundraising ideas for March.

- **PAC Activity for Kids:**
  - AOT (taekwondo) E. Maynes has reached out to confirm dates. Jan. 29 - Feb. 2
- **Movie Night #2**
  - April 12
- **Pink Shirts**
  - Sold 50 shirts so far
  - Post a FB reminder and in newsletter
  - Cut off to order shirts is Jan. 18
  - Profit from pink shirt sales will go to Ishtar Woman's Resource Society
- **PAC Used Book Sale**
  - PAC will collect gently used books from families after Spring Break
  - PAC will host a book sale day in May
  - B. Sinclair met with Mrs. BG to get more information on books for the Learning Commons. Mrs. BG provided a flyer to go over the importance of having more books for students and where our library is at with the number of books. Currently we average 6 books per student while the district averages 10 books per student. DGR has 4100 books in total and the goal is to have 6000 books by 2027. \$2500.00 buys about 100 books.
  - Given this information that B. Sinclair shared with us, she suggested we take all profits from the PAC Used Book Sale and donate the funds to the Learning Commons. All members voted in favor of donating profits to the Learning Commons.
  - PAC will store donated books for the sale in the gym change room (we will need to organize and clean the room up beforehand)

#### **Open Discussion:**

- Due to lack of storage space in the school; the PAC will look into renting/buying a storage box in the future.
- Moms Against Racism assembly workshop: S. Harrison followed up with them. In order for them to host an assembly for students we would also need to have at least one virtual offering for teachers/parents booked as well. Due to timing and booking we will look at bringing this workshop up next year during diversity/respect week. If any other suggestions come up, we will try to schedule for next month's diversity/respect week.
- Suggestion Box: N. Cotiangco would like to organize some kind of anonymous online survey for parents/caregivers to have the option to ask questions and suggest ideas for the PAC. Not all parents can make it to PAC meetings, and we would love to hear from anyone who has ideas for events, fundraiser, vendors, etc.; we will also look at adding a suggestion box in the foyer for parents/caregivers to use for ideas or questions.
- N. Cotiangco suggested we have teachers complete a wish list. This will help us learn more about what extra items the staff would like to add to their classrooms and the PAC will get a better idea of budgeting for classroom enhancements.
- One Movement Threads (the company we purchased toques from for spirit wear) informed us they have extra DGR toques. The PAC will purchase the remainder from them. We will sell them at a future event; if anyone would like to purchase one, please contact the PAC.

The next PAC meeting will take place on February 20 at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm. Respectfully submitted for approval at the next PAC meeting by E. Maynes, PAC Secretary.