

Alexander Park Elementary School/ Ecole Alexander Park Meeting Minutes- Parent Advisory Council

Location: APES Library- March 2, 2020

In attendance:

Nancy Jensen
Laura Shaw
Bob Wilson
Sandra Beckett
Liz Anstiss
Yuki Tan
Leslie Hein
Amy Sharples

Proceedings:

1. Meeting called to order 3:30
2. Approval of agenda approved by Yuki, seconded by Laura
3. Approval of minutes approved by Yuki, seconded by Laura
4. Principal's report
 - Aboriginal Education (based on DPAC email)
 - a question came to DPAC about Aboriginal Education support workers
 - Our education system has a history of oppressing Indigenous Culture/knowledge- very colonial system (these structures persist today)
 - history of residential schools destroying families, communities and culture
 - high school completion rates for Indigenous students is still way below other residents of BC (lasting impact of colonisation)
 - we employ Aboriginal Education support workers to support students in their learning - cultural activities, awareness, cultural content in their curriculum - connection with elders

- all students benefit from this - all learners need a new understanding of Indigenous people - but core purpose is to support the Indigenous students
 - at our school 49 kids are self-identified as Indigenous
 - BC is very progressive in Indigenous education compared to other provinces
 - with our new curriculum Indigenous ways of knowing are embedded all across the curriculum
 - our purpose is to close this gap (of success/graduation rates) as quickly as possible
 - possibility of hosting an evening to share information/experience about Aboriginal Education - blanket exercise
 - video - equity in action project (looks at whether or not we are systemically putting up roadblocks for Indigenous students to succeed)
 - gov't of bc and gov't of canada is working towards new goals for Aboriginal Ed
 - 5 year commitment to Indigenous professional development (1 day each year with a focus on how to enhance learning)
 - Paul Carriere (our superintendent) has taken the lead on Aboriginal Education
 - Karen Shipka is our new superintendent that will take over when Paul Carriere retires at the end of the year
- Other:
- getting a hold of the town about garbage containers at dirtland

5. Teacher's report

- when appropriate, parents are welcome to professional development days

-Sandra Beckett is working with some teachers to do a Bio Blitz - local educators to put together a day for NES, APES Reflection Lake - to Mount 7. Children will be in groups of 20 or less with an educator and community volunteers. May 14.

-teacher are in mediation now - BC students are funded \$1800.00 less. From the BCTF's parent information pamphlet:

"BC's per student funding is \$1800 below the national average. This means fewer supports for students, fewer support workers, and fewer learning resources. It also leaves teachers filling the gap with their own money for the classroom materials that students need every day."

This is what is suggested will help:

"Please talk to your child's teacher about how underfunding affects classrooms and schools. We encourage parents and members of the public to wear red on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to show your support for BC's public school teachers and students. Take a photo and post it to #RedforBCED on Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms. Place an I Support BC Public Education window sign in your car, or at home. Bctf.ca/SupportBCEdSign"

If anyone wants one, can get signs from our Union office. Writing to elected officials such as MLA's to put pressure on to increase funding to education would also be helpful.

I have asked Caroline Carl-Osborne for her advice on who and how parents could contact the union with questions and/or for information that is not confidential. I have also cc her in this e-mail. I think she would be open to attending a PAC meeting if invited.

6. Treasurer's report

- gaming account stayed the same
- checking \$4309.3 (opening) \$2132.81 (closing)
- still expecting \$4600.00 to come into to our account
- skating has not yet been paid for

7. Hotlunches report

- we will no longer be serving pasta
- DQ offered to supply the school with some ice cream cakes

8. Fundraising report

- movie night - got a bit crazy (clear guidelines needed to sit still/overall behaviour, and parents need to stay with their kids!) - maybe cut out the candy bags
- Earth Day dance - Janet Anderson could lead some dance
- seed fundraiser was well-received!

9. President's report

- spoke with Siggy - he is interested in the outdoor classroom. Nick Laferriere has given us an estimate (very low - \$3000.00 - we will apply for more to cover the scope of the project when grant applications go in).
- Will find out cost of shake roof.

-spoke with Golden community foundation about grant for the outdoor- they are interested in supporting this project

-downhill skiing - we may not have the snowpack

-call out for a grant writer (we need one!)

-summer gear swap - Sunlife is willing to do everything (2.00 for a small item, 5.00 for a large item). They will receive/set up everything, keep an eye on everything, 10:00am-1:00pm. They will get recognition for Sunlife - and will give us all the proceeds. They feel we should include all the local sport stores. Kicking Horse would like to print their summer passes again. Dan Braco's food truck will be present for this event.

10. AOB

11. Meeting adjourned 5:10PM Next meeting - April 6 2020