

McGowan Park Elementary

PAC Minutes - November 16, 2016

In Attendance : Principal Cori Wickes, Gitte Nessman, Nichole Rae, Coralee Kwiatkowski, Sara Sundholm, Catherine Cameron, Rebecca Richardson

Additions to Agenda : none

Adoption of Previous Minutes: *Motion:* Catherine motioned, Coralee seconded

Correspondence of Note:

- BCTF sent a letter regarding funding in the schools questioning why PAC's have to supplement so much. An interesting read if anyone wishes to look at.
- Thank you note came from a previous student who received the PAC scholarship at Sahali last year. Discussion about giving more money next year towards this scholarship either for two people or one larger scholarship.

Motion: To double the Sahali Scholarship to \$500 per year. Gitte motioned and Rebecca seconded

Principal's Report : Ms. Wickes

Principal's Report to PAC

Upcoming dates:

- December 7 - primary Christmas concert (rehearsal at 1:00)
- December 15 - report cards home
- December 16 - start of Christmas holidays

District Strategic Plan - input requested

Leadership group will be purchasing a 'Buddy Bench' for the school.

A Parent Curriculum Information Evening will be held January 11, 2017 at 7pm.

Funding considerations:

- \$150 per intermediate classroom for activities
- \$500 Math nights/day
- Ice Skating – bussing costs - \$937
- Chromebook recharging carrier box - \$269 plus tax

Many thanks!

Cori

Action: Coralee will look at donated skates and see if we need sizes still donated and get the skates sharpened. It was suggested to number skates so children know which skates they fit last time and then get dull skates sharpened once a year.

Motion: Pay for \$1000 for bussing for skating and cover costs to sharpen skates each year. Catherine motioned and Coralee 2nd.

- Family Math Night: Cost was \$500. The instructor, Thor, is fantastic but the program was sadly not well attended this year. Last year it was very well attended so wondering if the timing was poor or not advertised enough this year. Ms. Wickes requested we pay for that math night or do another math day at the school for classes and parents would be welcome. The goal would be that classes learn new great math games and the children would take them home to play also.

Action: Ms. Wickes will look into Thor coming back to teach classes in day time

Motion: PAC pay \$500 for Thor to come back and do a math day with classes.

Motion by Catherine and Nichole 2nd.

- Parent Communication: Can this be improved? PAC is trying to send out reminders to remind parents on our list when something is coming up. Discussion about parents getting emails from school with the link to the school newsletter so more people will be aware when a new newsletter is up on our website. Phone calls are great but are only for a specific type of information. If parents have not yet given the PAC their email, it would be greatly appreciated.
- ChromeBooks Carrier box is needed. \$269 plus tax. School bought 8 new ChromeBooks out of the learner resource budget

Motion: PAC pay \$269+tax toward ChromeBooks Carrier box. Motion by Nichole and Gitte 2nd.

- Discussion re: hard copy books being available for kids in library and in class rooms are important to help kids see and experience new things they would never google but would actually like reading. Discussion about learning online vs. out of a text book
- School Spaces: we are at capacity with 390 + kids. Music has been supported by PAC over the years. \$6000 was given. Music teacher doesn't have proper classroom and district is trying to figure out a proper space for her again.
- Space Considerations District is looking at: School District is touring all schools to see how to give us more space. We need 2 classrooms (1 music room and regular classroom). 55 new children predicted next year which is 20 extra children. Discussin held on options for additional spac

Treasurers Report: Nichole Rae

See treasurers report appended at end of minutes - thank you Nichole for your hard work keeping us organized with finances!

- Intermediate Class fees: We have given 9 primary classes x \$233 per class = \$2100 to primary classes for gymnastics. PAC discussed giving intermediates 6 classes x \$250 per class = \$1500 which is \$100 more than other years for field trips- makes it more equitable with primaries. Ms. Wickes confirmed Intermediate Class Fees are to be used for class field trips.

Motion: PAC pay \$1,500 toward Intermediate Class Fee. Motion by Nichole and Gitte 2nd.

- Microscopes have been requested \$850 has been set aside -

Action: Ms. Wickes will check with teachers regarding whether these have been purchased.

Chairpersons Report: Gitte Nessman

- Direct Donation Drive: We are so close to our \$7000 goal! \$6780 has been raised. Donations still accepted if parents are desiring to give at a later date.
- Our PAC meetings will alternate evenings one month and days the next to give more parents and opportunities to attend.

On Going/New Business:

Playground equipment we need is expensive so we will set aside a specific portion each year. We will inform parents in June that Direct Donation Drive will happen again in September and set a specific goal for the money.

-Playground investigator: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** we need a parent to look into the basic information and costs of equipment so we can get general goals.

Action: Gitte will ask a few people she has in mind to see if they might take this on

- We are wondering if the existing playground has to be moved for a portable, would the district cover the costs?

Motion: To set aside \$3500 from the Direct Donations and \$3500 from the Gaming account for playground improvements (new equipment). Motion by Coralee and Catherine 2nd.

Hot Lunch Program: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

-we don't have a parent to coordinate this and would like to have it happen but

we do have pizza and hot dog days organized by Intermediate classes, not by PAC.

Action: Gitte can advertise this in the next PAC email.

Sex Education: parents are desiring more communication about when this is happening and what is being taught

Action: Ms.Wickes mention this to teachers

Cookie Bake : discussion about the value of this and how it represents our school in the community.

Motion: To give \$150 to cover the Cookie Bake program. Motion made by Coralee and Catherine 2nd.

Family Movie Night: Friday Nov. 25 - Sam Meredith in charge. Free family fun night but concession available. Discussion about what is acceptable at concession and we decided candy and treats are fine in this setting as parents are there to monitor and choose if this is acceptable for their family. Some parents are concerned about candy given out at school on a regular basis but this is different because it is outside of school and is a special treat.

District PAC Representative: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** we don't have anyone to represent us yet so are looking at setting up a rotating schedule. If you are interested in attending one district meeting this year, please let us know.

Action: Gitte will ask one more time for a parent to volunteer to do this role and if not will set up a rotating schedule with parents willing to go one or two times.

Winter Carnival: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Tim needs a team to support him.

Action: Gitte will ask parents to volunteer on this team in the PAC email

Parent Curriculum Info Night: Wed. January 11, 2017. Potluck snacktime 7-8pm. Ms. Wickes and teachers will be presenting information about the new curriculum for parents.

Next Meeting: discuss Sports uniforms.

Next Meeting:

No meeting in December. **Next meeting Monday January 16 at 6:30pm**

Treasurer's Report – November 16, 2016

Nichole Rae

General Account (Oct. 14 to Nov. 14, 2016)

- Expenses incurred this reporting period:
 - Classroom Discretionary - \$2,400.00
 - Banking fees - \$7.83
- The Direct Donation Drive brought in **\$6,779.45**, bringing the adjusted bank balance (once all cheques clear) to \$13,933.23.
- The PAC has previously approved approximately \$4,945 for curriculum-related items requested by the school, which will be covered through Gaming. In addition, \$1,800 is being held in reserve for the winter carnival.
- Unrestricted funds available for spending now total **\$7,188.28**.

Gaming Account (Oct. 14 to Nov. 14, 2016)

- Gaming account funds are received through a grant from the provincial Gaming Branch and must be used to enhance student extracurricular opportunities.
- Expenses incurred this reporting period:
 - Halloween Dance - \$310.03
 - Primary Gymnastics (McCarthy/Reilly) - \$312.00
 - Banking fees - \$3.00
- Adjusted bank balance (once all cheques clear) is \$10,225.06.
- The PAC has previously approved approximately \$3,138 for extracurricular activities requested by the school.
- Unrestricted funds available for spending now total **\$7,087.06**.

The current PAC financial summary is posted on the school website. Printed copies are available upon request.