



**McGowan Park PAC
February 28, 2018
McGowan Park Elementary Library**

Called to order 6:45pm

In Attendance: Coralee Kwiatkowski, Rebecca Warner, Sara Sundholm, Kathryn Brown, Chris Brennan

Adoption of Previous Minutes: motioned by Coralee, Rebecca seconded.

D-PAC News:

Chris delivered notes from last D-PAC meeting. Of note was the following:

May 16th, 2018 Askable Adult – Henry Grube from 6:00-9:00 for parents on how to talk to their children about sex.

Food Safe Course – Available for those who help with food at the school. Dates are: Monday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 28, and Monday, April 9 at Fairfield Inns & Suites. To register please call 250-540-7763.

Social Media - There have been concerns within the district as to the use of social media and parents creating their own school groups. It is important for parents to remember that these groups need to fall within the requirements of the District and follow privacy standards/laws to keep our children safe.

Chair Report:

Carnival:

Huge Thank You's to everyone who volunteered and participated in such a successful event!

Carnival wrap up meeting on the 8th of March.

There was discussion about whether to continue with the carnival in coming years. While it was an incredible success in the end, it took a lot to get volunteers.

This year there were a few new ideas to help make future carnivals easier on everyone involved.

We discussed the possibilities of different fundraiser ideas to generate funds for our school. In the end, we are thankful for this great fundraiser as opposed to monthly small ones.

Constitution:

The PAC constitution, which states what we do will be updated this spring. Chris, Kathryn and Sara have volunteered to help Coralee with the updating.

Principal's Report:

A HUGE thanks to all of the PAC parents involved in organizing this years Winter Carnival! Much fun was had by all. The community support this event generates is what makes it really special at McGowan. Thank you!

Winter carnival teacher input – teachers would like the opportunity to be more involved if asked early on and given first crack at ‘volunteer’ positions. Advise setting up raffle baskets in advance of carnival day. Wonder about options to eliminate or reduce price room ‘junk’ prizes. Date should be carefully picked so it doesn’t coincide with Blazers games or other community events for a bigger turn out.

School Plan/Student Learning Survey – input from parents is appreciated and helps us with data for the school plan. Grades 4 & 7 parents will be sent access codes for participation in the Ministry survey.

Rotary Speech Arts Competition – Riya Narang was the successful winner at the school level & participated in the Zones Speak Off at Aberdeen on February 27th. All grade 6/7 students were invited to participate in this competition. Six students from McGowan participated. We plan to sponsor this activity again next year.

Skills Canada Cardboard Boat Race – a class of grade 5/6 students (Denise Underwood’s) were one of two schools in our District invited to participate in this amazing competition at TRU and TCC. Two of our students teams won first and second prize for their planning, construction and boat race with their cardboard creations.

Instructional Rounds in April – McGowan is looking to participate in a third instructional rounds this spring on the topic of student resilience & struggle. More info will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Activities/Date:

- Mar. 9 Jump Rope for Heart Day
- Mar. 14 Japanese student teacher tour
- Mar. 14 Assembly – McCaugherty/Pawliuk – Multiculturalism
- Mar. 15 Monster Theatre @ 1:15
- Mar. 15 Report Cards one
- Mar. 16 Pool Day – grades 2-4

C. Wickes, Principal

Treasurer’s Report: Nichole Rae (absent, notes were forwarded prior to meeting)

PAC funds are held in two bank accounts – “General” and “Gaming”.

General Account

The PAC deposited revenue from the Healthy Lunch Program (\$4,065) and from the Winter Carnival (\$14,565) since last meeting. Several cheques related to Winter Carnival, Healthy Lunches, Family Math Night and the Grade 4 Fur Trade Education Program have now cleared the bank (total \$5,622), and there are several outstanding cheques (total \$3,888) related to Carnival and Healthy Lunches. The adjusted General Account balance (once all cheques clear) is \$29,515.

Outstanding Commitments include \$2,050 remaining for this year's School Improvement expenditures, along with \$1,199 for March Healthy Lunches and \$12,500 for a future Playground Equipment purchase, bringing the Unrestricted Funds available in the General Account to \$13,765. The Treasurer requests permission to set aside an additional \$5,725 in an Internal Reserve for 2018/19 School Year Expenditures, based on selected items approved for funding early in the current school year (see funding summary). This would leave Unrestricted Funds in the General Account at \$8,040. (In prior 2 years, \$4,600 was set aside for coming year expenses.)

Fundraising and Community Events so far this year have generated a net profit of \$17,382, with the bulk of that coming from the Winter Carnival (\$8,569) and the Direct Donation Drive (\$5,965). Additional Carnival funds will be deposited once Silent Auction sales are completed. Direct Donation profits are down slightly from reported previously, as a refund was issued to a family that accidentally donated twice. School Improvement spending to date totals \$5,540.

Gaming Account

Gaming account funds are received through a grant from the provincial Gaming Branch and must be used to enhance student extracurricular opportunities.

Two cheques written in prior periods (total \$350) for Art Club & Primary Gymnastics cleared the bank since last report, and there is a single outstanding cheque (\$312) for Primary Gymnastics. The adjusted Gaming Account balance (once all cheques clear) now stands at approximately \$12,832.

Outstanding commitments include \$5,188 to enhance Student Extracurricular opportunities, along with \$7,500 toward a future school Playground Equipment purchase, bringing the unrestricted funds available in the Gaming Account to approximately \$140.

Reserves

Between the two accounts, the Playground Reserve now stands at \$20,000

Funding Requests:

Nichole motioned to increase the reserves carried over to the new year from \$4,600 to \$5,725. Sara seconded.

Ongoing/New Business:

New Playground: We have chosen a company to work with! We will be going with Habitat as our current equipment is through them and their prices are more within our budget. We have a few design ideas and will be solidifying things soon and will be sharing them with the rest of the school when available. Not only are we wanting a large play structure for the new portion of playground, but we are looking at finding options to make our current playground more inclusive for all students within our school.

Winter Parking: There was discussion on the parking situation in the winter with the lack of plowing this year. The safety of our children is paramount and we will be looking into ideas as to how we can help facilitate safe parking/drop off. Some ideas brought up were: not parking on the house side of the street so as to open up more space for vehicles to drive down the road, parking at the church and walking with children down to the school to ease congestion at the round about and in the street, pylons in front of the driveways of the houses so parents are discouraged to park in front of them. Will be contacting ICBC and RCMP for some safe road ideas.

Fun Day – Fun day is rapidly approaching. We are trying to get ahead of the game by finding someone to head up this years Fun Day concession. Any volunteers? Please contact Coralee.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 18th at 6:45

