

George Peck School Council Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2015

Attendance:

Stacey Dinadis, Elaine Suessmuth, Lois Concannon, LJ Race, Mark De Soysa, Olena Plouskas, Veronica Servellon, Rebecca Meng Qing, Andrea Levendakis, Yota Tsonis, Star Frampton

Review of previous minutes: Correction, hedge trimmers are not needed in our list for fundraising goals however garden claws are. We will watch for any upcoming sales for this item. We welcome Star Frampton. She is a member of the community and has come on board the parent council.

Treasure's Report

Our balance is currently \$4105.75. There are a few outstanding cheques which will bring our balance to \$3472.57. The December 4th pizza lunch brought a profit of \$276.67 & the January 22nd pizza lunch brought a profit of \$274.70. We will need to buy 2 musical instruments. All in favor for spending extra \$5 for trombone. By next month our balance should be \$3707.52.

Principal's Report:

School Improvements

- Susan Raponi won another \$2,500 for the Music department by submitting a Grant (see below)
- Major clean-up of change rooms, storage room (to put new kindergarten equipment), etc., in the next few weeks. We will need task force, bin, etc. Carpenter to come in and move large painting to Exit 4 stairwell and to put up Character Development Pictures, to move Community Bulletin Board and start displaying Kindergarten Grad photos

Pediculosis Check - Diane Ferrara, TDSB's Pediculosis Program Advisor, did a lice check on Jan. 19, 2015. Thank you to Olena for volunteering! We appreciate your help.

Pest Control – The following rooms were treated on Dec. 30, 2014: Staff room, main kitchen, boiler room, day care kitchen.

Problem with fruit flies. We have stopped saving organic waste and are encouraging staff to participate in the “Boomerang” lunch program with the students. We are continuing with the Green Bin program with only paper towels, tissues, etc., nothing to attract pests. May have to revisit; however, it seems to be working – staff are taking home their organic waste.

Staffing update

Welcome Ms Ramirez, LTO ECE for Ms Russell (due date Jan. 25, haven't heard anything yet).

Spirit Day – 1 st Friday of each month; Friday, February 6 will be “HAT Day!” The whole school, weather permitting, will be on a Winter Walk that day. (During the national Winter Walk on Feb. 4 our Junior/Int. students will be at the Marlies hockey game. To celebrate Valentine's Day (Red, Pink and/or White day), there will be a dance on February 12. More information to come.

Clubs and Teams

Student Announcers are going strong; Grade 8 students showing great leadership around the school

- Boys Jr./Int. Basketball team: Practice for Intermediates on Mondays, 3:20 to 4:30 and Junior boys on Fridays, same time, with Mr. Stevens. From now until further notice, games are played during week, schedule yet TBD.
- Badminton - Wednesdays after school (3:30 to 4:30) with Mr. Wong and Mr. Des Rosiers; Gr. 4 to 8, ending at March Break

- Craft Club - was on Wednesdays, ended January 26, 2015 (with Ms Tam).
- The Girls Club – Tuesday after school, 3:20 to 4:20 with Ms Tam, Ms Bunting, Ms Kowalski and Ms Moudgil, until March Break.
- Homework Club – Ms Tam's class, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3:20 to 4:20.
- Knitting Club - Thursdays at lunch with Mrs. Concannon, Ms Williams and Ms Krastins; many primary students (as there were no age restrictions), experienced knitters are leaders.
- Scrabble Club – Wednesdays after school (3:25 to 4:00) with Mrs. Kowalski; Grades 5 to 8, ending June 17.
- Primary Yoga – Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch in the gym with Ms Stefanoff and Ms O'Neill.
- Primary Lego Club – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Library with Ms Galley, Ms St. Aubin and Ms Krastins. Primary students could sign up for two days (Wednesdays were added on because there was such a high demand).
- Boys 2 Men - Mondays 3:20 to 4:20 with Ms Moudgil and Mr. Shields starting Jan. 26 to the end of this school year.
- Movie-Making Club – coming soon... with Mr. Koch and Ms Bunting
- Music Update - Gr. 4 students are now on wind band instruments! Exciting stuff!

Upcoming Dates for 6/7/8 Concert Band:

- Workshop with Dr. Gillian MacKay: February 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis Toronto Music Festival Competition: February 27, 1:00 p.m. at... Sir John A MacDonald - parents welcome
- MusicFest Nationals: May 11 - 16, University of Toronto (2 day event) - parents welcome to attend competition (hoping to supplement)
- The final pricing for Nationals, Music Fest will be approximately \$79 per student and \$579 per ensemble. It's going to cost us around \$1400 with buses, kids will need lunch money etc. This is for two full days downtown at Nationals (no overnight) - I'm interested to know if parent council would be willing to supplement some of this.
- New trombone: approx. \$400 should be here in the next two days. THANK YOU School Council!
- \$2500 Grant proposal: 3 P-bones (lighter weight trombones for Gr. 4's), 4 new-used flutes, 3 new-used clarinets, one used sax, 2 used French horns (hopefully)

TENTATIVE: Music Monday: May 4 - There will be an outdoor mid-morning performance open to the public, weather permitting.

Fundraising:

popcorn sales - Popcorn sales generate a substantial amount of money for the school. Parents want to launch it again. There was discussion about the child with the allergy. Would it be fair to ask for a doctor's note? Lois will talk with the mom.

Pizza lunch - There are concerns about student behavior. It is very loud in the lunchroom. Volunteers are having a hard time hearing the names of the children. It was suggested to send pizzas to the classrooms before lunch.

There is attitude from Anne Marie towards the parent volunteers. She barks orders and rushes the volunteers out. Volunteers are afraid to ask her of anything because of how she'll react. This behavior is affecting school climate. Lois will speak to her or mail info to her boss.

Kindergarten update:

Sub committee met. Elaine brought in a measuring tape and measured Ms. Stefanov's room measures 769 sq. ft. Mrs. O' Neill's room measures 849 sq. ft. (Outside to outside wall). Bill 8 passed. Elaine filed a complaint, however, the government had yet to set a date for the Ombudsman's new jurisdiction to take effect. New submissions will need to be made once this takes effect. The group discussed about making several submissions and that Elaine will assemble a template to help others file a complaint. Elaine spoke to TDSB Property Services regarding Wexford daycare. Wexford daycare has a lease that will never expire & the city of Toronto pays their rent. They are held to a "higher standard". They are responsible for maintaining playscapes and are responsible for repair and maintenance. They have the right to exclude us. It was suggested that maybe we can pay the maintenance fees and therefore George Peck can use the space. Research states that 1200 sq. ft. Should be the minimum

standard. Star contacted Shaun Chen and has a telephone appt. tomorrow. There are worries regarding the fire exits. Ms. Stefanov's class doesn't have a fire exit.

Next steps are:

- Ignore trustee Smith
- get in touch with Stacey's superior Manon Gardener
- Discuss with Shaun Chen
- work with media to get the story out
- Pursue minimum room standards with Ministry of Education to 1200 sq. ft.
- Put daycare debate on hold

Other items:

Question was asked regarding the criteria about reporting accidents .

There are concerns about soap and paper towel availability.