

Trafalgar PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2017

Attendance:

Annie Liu	Tanya Ney
Cristal Egan	Eve MacGregor
Harjot Sidhu	Haley Barton
Jo Duyzer	Rup Kang
Christian Malcom	Tze-Wo Leung
Jacque Lavoie	Cristal Egan
Hanif Virani	Andy Garfield
Steve Cawood	Jill Jordan
Tracey McLeod	Alison Scarlett
Juliet Dong	Ellen Tsang
Madame Ashley	Madame Aimee

1. Motion to pass November Minutes

Motion to pass: Hanif Virani, Cristal Egan seconded.

MOTION PASSED

2. Motion to pass November Financials

Motion to pass: Rup Kang, Hanif seconded.

MOTION PASSED

3. Update from Admin

Jacquie gave a brief description of what is going on around the school, all can be found in newsletter, staff is thankful of the open dialogue with the PAC.

4. Update from Hot Lunch:

A Survey Monkey was done to see what people wanted kept and removed. Subway, Panago and Rocky Mountain are all among contenders to be removed however some people liked these choices and some wanted more options. Most people said that everything was great; people requested more sushi, pepperoni pizza, butter chicken and Jamaican patties. Patties are an unknown in regards to VSB food guidelines. Majority of people wanted some type of pasta to be offered (ie mac n cheese), we will be trying mac n cheese in the future - teachers in attendance said that the mac n cheese was very difficult (cheese hardened, hard to dispose of, lid was hard to open, portions too large). We are currently doing on week of Panago and one week Rocky Mountain with pizza. Will revisit with a pasta option in 2018.

5. Technology Discussion

Madame Michele started a dialogue with PAC wondering what we could do with the computer lab which is incredibly outdated. There are numerous complaints about the computers - they're known as "the bricks" and they're not usable. The school does not have a short or long term plan for technology. Tracey and the tech committee went to a meeting with the district principal, she informed them that there are many exciting leaps in technology but we are being offered no money from the VSB. Trafalgar is one of the lowest schools in terms of technology devices even compared to schools on the east side. Some east side schools are 1:1 or (1:3 is average) and Trafalgar is 1:6. It is up to our parent community to raise money for any technological updates. The parent community has to decide what they want the computers to be used for, ie, games versus bookreaders, etc. We currently have two sets of 15 iPads. And 25 laptops for use. Many teachers with homerooms will be given laptops this year.

A questionnaire was given to the teachers, a sampling of some of the questions are as follows:

Q: How would you use the ipads?

A: For their own work, research, teaching coding and digital portfolios, use at assemblies, photography

Q: How would you use the laptops?

A: Research, Raz, library for collaborative work, photography, google docs

Q: What frustrates you about our technology?

A: Our wireless is not great!

Hanif gave a talk about how the student devices have a massive imaging process where they're held in a server room or back at the VSB on limited bandwidth. The VSB IT team is setting up computers to use VSB Cloudbooks, which are not proving to be fast, and they don't work very well. Are we willing or allowed to pay Telus monthly? We are waiting to hear what the VSB says in response to that. How do we fix that and if we put more tech into the school can the bandwidth even handle it? If students were to bring their own devices, they could log in and use it likely not all at the same time. We are looking at possibly using chromebooks. When a non VSB device is up and running the wifi is working fine. The iPads currently are only being used for a small amount of time because work is not able to be saved. Many unknowns in regards to VSB's rules.

Teachers in attendance mentioned that the cart of iPads is very heavy and the iPads often shut down. And many of the laptops don't work in the lab. Teachers and students are very frustrated.

Most teachers said they'd use a computer an hour a day.

A “perfect world” would look like:

Resource: 6 iPads

laptops for teachers (4)

Library: 1 laptop for librarian

More iPads: 1 cart per wing

More laptops:

1 cart per floor

Lab:

Interactive board

Perfect World:

interactive boards in in classrooms (but very \$!) like in the Surrey district.

Madame Aimee mentioned she doesn't have enough time to learn the technology in order to teach it so she isn't sure that the primary grades would get much use of it.

Is it possible to get a remote viewer for fixing broken iPads - or is it blocked from VSB firewall?

Many questions arose about information being stored outside of Canada on servers.

Office 365 is already available currently for the students.

“Bring your own device” discussion:

There is a guideline for “bring your own device” in order to not fund all new computers. The conversation will now need to take place if the grade 6 and grade 7's can bring devices to school which takes the load off the school. It is not a free for all, you are not to play games, facebook,

etc. Madame Ashley (Grade 7 teacher) recommends not bring your own device, she worries about social hierarchy and measuring, and families should make decisions about their own guidelines for technology.

Hanif mentioned that most grade 8's will be on their own device to highschool, should we allow a grade 7 to learn more, and will an early introduction to technology aid in that? Madame Ashley says that the social repercussions are not worth it.

Perhaps everyone has a prescription for what devices can be brought?

Do the teachers even want to teach it?

Seems like most people want to get rid of the computer lab and replace with laptops. Perhaps a cart in the library - removing the old computers in the library and using those desks as collaborative spaces. A 5 year plan might be a good idea so that we start now and make a plan where we add more, replace, update...

Financials for these upgrades: we have \$20,000 in a capital fund (former playground fund), Kitchener did a massive fundraiser campaign for a new computer lab, suggesting more from direct appeal (ie Kitchener asks \$125 from their families).

Fundraising versus capital fund GIC Discussion:

In order to gain money for tech advances, it would have to be a recurring thing, it has to be palatable, it shouldn't be a one off fundraiser as technology needs updating so we need to be able to afford to it. Would we ask up to \$200 a family for direct appeal? Do it by term? Feedback seems to be to use our existing capital. If we increase to \$125, for example, we need to make sure all parents are aware of the dire need for it.

A **VOTE** was taken in room for the use of the existing capital up to \$15,000: everyone in room voted to use the existing capital.

Tze Wo gave a presentation on lego robotics. Viewed a CBC newscast on lego robotics and the importance of tech in the schools.

