

Trafalgar Parent Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes 14 May 2013

12 Attendees

Cheryl Gravkin, Kate Power, Victoria Lorieau, Adele Tremblay, Karen Sadler, Nicole Mordant, Gord Lau, Holly Yoos, Lorie Srivastava, Stephanie Campbell, Kathy Groves, Norma McPhail

Call to order – 7:15 pm

Approval of agenda: Kathy, 2nd Holly

Approval of previous minutes – Gord, 2nd Nicole

Principal and Vice Principal Report – Victoria Lorieau, Adele Tremblay

School organization for next year – Similar numbers of total student population this year and next year. There are 21 Divisions this year (8 English, 13 French) but demographic results in decrease to 20 divisions next year (13 French and 7 English) unless there are additional children moving into catchment over the summer.

Temporary staff – a few of the current staff are on temporary contracts that end in June. It is hoped that most of the current temporary staff will be rehired again for the coming year.

Gr 7 Quebec Exchange – students from St. Pascal were hosted here for very successful week in mid April. Trafalgar students go to St. Pascal in end of May. Three teachers from Trafalgar will go with the Gr. 7 class.

School Plan for next year – includes 3 goals for enhanced focus next year - Aboriginal culture, Writing, Social Responsibility.

New Immigrant Families – welcoming and orientation sessions are planned for early September to help involve new students and their families in the school and community.

Track and Field – first competition was today

Theft/Break-in to school last week overnight – 5 iPads and 5 cameras were stolen. Entry through door that may not have been fully closed/locked.

Chair Report – Cheryl Gravkin

PAC Next Year - Call for new volunteers to take on PAC executive and other positions

International Dinner – coordinated by Bronwyn McLean – was a big success.

Lice checks – volunteers were organized to check all kids in the school

Chess Sets – New chess sets will be purchased by PAC for Chess Club.

Motion: To increase chess budget by \$300 to total of \$650 to purchase 15 Chess sets and to move the additional funds from Wooden Spoon line item – Stephanie, 2nd Lorie

Future Playground – Existing wooden playground is scheduled for demolition in 2015. PAC is has already set aside \$30k towards new playground with additional funds allocated each year. New playground similar to that at Kitchener school would cost \$150k. Grants and fund matching will be required to cover costs. Proposed to have a PAC subcommittee next year to plan ahead and investigate grants etc. Karen Sadler volunteers to pursue.

Fruits and Vegetables program will be renewed next year.

Treasurer Report – Stephanie Campbell

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements to 13 May was handed out and reviewed.

Maturing GIC's will be rolled over

Total of \$72k balance of funds of which \$40k is allocated to specific purchases (\$30k for future playground, \$10k seed funding for next year's PAC)

Upcoming expenditures: Geering up Program and Author series

Technology budget - Proposed purchase of new iPads will not happen until next year (per previous meeting minutes). After discussion with school, the budget allocated for computer purchase this year will be applied to purchase of new PC's for classroom use.

Motion: to transfer the \$6700 allocated for purchase of used/rebuilt computers and iPads to instead purchase new PC's for classroom use – Kathy, 2nd Holly

Motion to approve \$100 for M Ely to provide reading prizes (will come from Volunteer Tea and Pizza Party budget line item). Cheryl, 2nd Kathy, approved

Motion to approve \$1,000 to cover Earthbites program funding shortfall – to be transferred from the Mural budget line or from general funds – Karen, 2nd Lorie

Motion to approve \$130 funding for purchase of Ultimate Frisbee Discs for school team. Funds will come from underspent existing budgets or general funds. Cheryl, 2nd Karen

Motion to approve \$600 for purchase of additional soccer balls and basketballs for classrooms for use at lunch/recess. Funds will come from the general budget Lorie, 2nd Stephanie

Motion to approve the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements to 13 May – Cheryl, 2nd Holly

Discussion of Parent Suggestions

Field Trip Fees - Parents are writing numerous cheques for small amounts throughout the year for fieldtrips etc. Is there an easy way to administer an option for one larger cheque and a drawdown account? Discussion: difficult for school or PAC to track, administer, and reimburse unused amounts etc. Decision – no change to current procedure at this time.

Daily Hot Lunch Service - Some parents utilize private catering services to have bag lunch/hot lunch delivered to their children at school. Some other parents are also interested and enquired if school or PAC would coordinate a school wide program to coordinate optional daily hot lunch delivery service at school. Some other schools offer similar programs and Gord Lau checked into general logistics of this for the PAC. Discussion – PAC provides periodic hot lunch as a fundraiser and as a social fun activity for the children. Daily hot lunch program is largely a commercial venture for service providers. Coordination of a daily program would be onerous for PAC volunteers even if this is a fundraising option. Private companies that are coming onto school property should not be entering school building without first reporting to school office. Decision - No change to current, periodic hot lunch program format.

Motion – To convey formal comment to school from PAC indicating concern that private hot lunch service providers are entering school without reporting to school office – Kate, 2nd Lorie

Gym programs – parents and students are requesting more variety in the programs and activities offered in the school gym curriculum. Programs such as tennis, badminton or other activities and more variety of basic indoor/outdoor games etc. School will take this into consideration in program planning for next year.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:45pm

Next Meeting – 11 June 2013

Minutes prepared by: Kathy Groves, PAC Co-Secretary