

Carisbrooke Elementary School
Parent Advisory Committee (CPAC) Meeting Minutes
Date: February 15, 2012
Location: Carisbrooke Elementary Library

In attendance: Collette Ostler, Colleen Little, Stella Ying, Heather Branchi, Dawn Russell, Karen Bullock, Lucy Cayuela, Tanya Kalashnikov, Ruby Willems, Judy Clarke, Alannah MacPhail (Principal), Tim MacLeod (Vice Principal),

7:05 p.m. Call to order. This is a joint Executive and PAC meeting.

Minutes **Approval of January Minutes.** Moved by Colleen and seconded by Collette. **January Minutes approved.**

Reports

**Alannah
MacPhail and
Tim MacLeod**

Alannah MacPhail provided some background information on the Social Responsibility Survey results (attached). She mentioned that because of the job action there is no data to follow up on and School Planning Council (SPC) have discussed the opportunity to set a goal surrounding Social Responsibility.

The School District had prepared a survey that Alannah MacPhail took to grades 4 to 7. She explained to the students the necessary definition and assured their anonymous answers. The results provide interesting information (overall good news). She asked the PAC to circulate the survey and ask for parents' feedback, either by email, written information or a response to the Blog she will write. The feedback provided will serve as guiding line to SPC in preparing appropriate goals in this area.

As a direct result from the survey, Alannah MacPhail and Student Council are working together regarding preparations for antibullying day.

Because Alannah MacPhail explained that she works on a daily basis resolving students conflicts around teasing/bullying and perceptions around it, Collette asked her whether she would be interested in doing a presentation to parents as to how to best help our children in conflict resolution. Parents' knowledge of language used at school may give consistency to children and will provide parents with skills that are an invaluable asset. The PAC has asked Alannah MacPhail to ask whether the Stand by Me program for kids could include a parent information night as well.

Tim MacLeod confirmed that he was able to purchase 24 iPads rather than the original 21 plus an extra macbook. Teachers still have approximately \$2,000 in funds to be used as necessary to complement technology being introduced.

Tim MacLeod confirmed that teachers continue to be engaged with technology, that they are encouraged to try out Apps (with no restrictions as to what they could purchase – because of the low cost and because they provide iTunes cards). Teachers have been taking iPads home at night to continue to familiarize with them. Tim MacLeod confirmed that this new technology is promoting collaboration between students and is allowing a whole new way to teach. Students are engaged and teachers as well. Primary and Intermediate students are enjoying the opportunity to work together with iPads as well.

Treasurers Report

Tanya provided an update on the budget explaining that the goal set for this year is well underway and will very likely be met. Fundraising this year will still include Spirit Wear, Spring Flowers and BBQ before year end.

Teachers have not yet spent the full amount assigned to them and committees have also money available.

Tae Kwon Do teacher wants to donate the money generated by this activity back to the PAC. It was explained that the best way to do it would be to cut a cheque to the instructor and then he could cut a cheque to PAC who would then be able to provide a tax receipt.

Fundraising

Collette relayed information provided by Heidi that Sprit Wear seems to be a success and that adult items have been requested and added to the products. Kids will wear products next week to promote sales which will close on February 28.

Spring flowers will be on sale after spring break and delivered in time for Mother's Day. Same provider as poinsettias.

Lunchtime activities

Colleen reported that these have been a great success and Alannah MacPhail confirmed that she was very grateful to the

parents because these activities have provided opportunities to many students to meet other students and to have various options. When asked if the various activities should continue through May, Alannah said that she would be very happy if this could continue. Colleen, Rebecca and Alannah MacPhail will confirm dates of future activities.

Chess opportunities for next year will try and accommodate all students interested since there seems to be a way to accommodate students and get more instructors.

Alannah MacPhail did put out that parents could think about some activities that would engage grade 7 students. She explained that this group feels the need to bond in anticipation of their leaving the school.

Spring BBQ

Heather was happy to report that there has been a great response to organizing the event. Lots of ideas and lots of volunteers willing to help. The theme will be "Country Fair"

Fundraising will not come from food since it is a bit pricy and will be provided to community at cost, however, fundraising will take place through selling lemonade, apple tarts, cakes, karaoke recording booth and other activities. There will be a silent auction and classroom baskets.

The event will be family oriented by providing families with a "passport" which will allow them to participate in various stations.

All is looking good, information to come out to school when more participation is required. Next meeting will take place next week.

Emergency preparedness

Karen confirmed that she attended NVPAC meeting about Emergency preparedness and very good things have come out of this. She explained that she expects to have a 5 year plan in which priorities will be taken upon first.

There was talk about getting grade 5 students involved by taking a First Aid course which will enable them (when they become grade 6) to volunteer in the emergency field.

There was talk about updating the list of comfort kits and what should be in them. The need to have crowbars in, at least, every two classrooms. The emergency container requires shelving which will be requested to the school district, if not available, then a request will be but out to the community. However, it was noted

that the NVPAC has funds available to emergency preparedness and CPAC could request some assistance there.

Flashlights have been ordered and reflective vests for teachers will also be a part of the emergency gear. It was suggested that Class Reps. will be asked to help, as part of their duties, to put together emergency kits at the beginning of the school year.

NVPAC

Judy confirmed that the meeting tomorrow will focus on new technology being used in schools and how different the approaches and realities are. There will be some sharing of experiences and she will provide results to our next meeting.

She mentioned that at this time, it is the NVPAC position to take no position regarding the teachers' job action and that there was discussion at NVPAC as to how grateful parents are to administrators and administration staff regarding their support and extra workload at this time.

She also mentioned that NVPAC has grant money available for Family of schools events; speaker education and emergency preparedness. Requests should be addressed to NVPAC treasurer. She also mentioned that there are a couple of awards that are granted to parents whose names are put forward by their PACs in recognition of their contribution to their school.

8:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.