

**Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting NOTES - DRAFT
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
7 pm - Zoom Meeting, in person in the cafeteria**

Present: John Stephenson, Annie Casson, Graham Arts, Susan Fitzky, Chelsea Donaldson

Action items

(December 2020)

1. Susan will follow up with Chelsea at Rainbow Coalition to explore options – one session for teachers and one for parents – as a consultation. – ongoing
2. Wendy C. will write up information about Mabel's Labels for a future Cette Semaine. Graham will include this information once a month. – ongoing

(January)

1. Graham and Wendy will have a follow up discussion about loose parts and discuss with Julie who can put together an order list, and bring thoughts back to next PAC meeting. – ongoing

(April)

1. Susan will reach out to Wendy about Subway lunches dates.
2. Graham will meet with Wendy L. about loose parts playground by next meeting.
3. John will find out more about the JK bussing issue/contracting and share what he can with Graham, and what would be the best way to approach the issue from a PAC perspective.
4. Once hear from John/Graham, Annie will let the PAC know if there is an opportunity to advocate for JK bussing. Could write a letter, reach out to other PACs, etc.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes

- March Minutes approved

2. Quick Standing Updates

a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham

- Current enrollment 292; new registrations for 2021/22: 29 JK so far; K-5 = 6 new registrations. A reminder email will be sent to parents seeking intentions for next year.
- PAC budget is currently= \$12,003.97
- Camp de Neige was successful this year. Each grade level had an opportunity for one full day. Either the principal or VP were on site at all times. Julie Downs did a fantastic job working with staff and parent volunteers to set up. More than enough snacks. Hoping for changes next year with next restrictions. Ski Club is already booked for late March 2022.
- School naming committee has been meeting and will likely be meeting every 2 weeks moving forward (except over summer). The committee is trying to get a sense of community values, so reviewing previous consultation on the school. Likely
- Last Friday was a feed the fire ceremony to open the wall tent. The ceremony involved 4 Yellowknives Dene First Nation drummers, elders attended, bannock and rabbit soup

(from rabbits caught by Mme Heidi) was served. Mme Heidi's grade 5 class represented the school

- The school's public health measures and rules are not expected to change for remainder of school year, even if the territory moves to phase 3. School has been asked to submit plans for next year by May 31st, but the school won't be able to speak to the plans until approved by the Chief Public Health Officer.
- At the next meeting of the Indigenous Learning and Languages committee (which helps with use and visibility of local languages, staff support for using Indigenous ways of learning, Indigenous games for grade 5s, etc.), members will be putting forward a comprehensive Jordan's Principle application to access learning support and cultural activities for Indigenous students.
- Graham is taking over from Mme Danika (while on maternity leave) to liaise with the ECE LGBTQ committee.

b. Trustee's Report – John

- April 13, 2021 was the monthly YK1 Board Meeting. Agendas, minutes and reports are available on YK1 Website.
- The Board approved in principle the Draft Strategic Plan Priorities. Final approval of the Priorities will be at the May 11th Board meeting. Measurable results will be developed by Administration. Considerable work has been undertaken to produce the plan.
- 2 Policies were approved last night:
 - Harassment Prevention and Resolution Policy
 - Duty to Report Policy
- New Ad Hoc Committees were established at the March Meeting:
 - Facilities
 - Pandemic Review
- Returning Officer (Mona Durky) has been contracted by the Board to oversee elections on October 18. Legislation to change terms of office for Board Trustees is being introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The next term will be for one year (October 2021 to 2022) then four years to match City elections. Another election in 2022 will start aligning Board Trustee terms with municipal elections.
- YK1 Websites being revamped - Administration working with a contractor, School Bundle, to create new, improved websites to be working by end of June.
- Opportunities to have your say on GNWT initiatives:
 - **New Education Act** - GNWT is working to modernize the *Education Act*. One question is continued support of elected school boards. Have your say: <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/have-your-say-education-act-modernization>
 - **Action plan to improve student outcomes**. This is related to curriculum review. So far no plan to move away from current model (following Alberta curriculum). <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/action-plan-improve-jk-12-student-outcomes-nwt-->

- Arctic Winter Games is postponed to 2023, end of January-first of February. (Ages typically older than 12; adults participate only in traditional games.) International Arctic Winter Games Committee decides on timing. Canada Winter Games is in March 2023.

3. Hot Topics

a. Outdoors Committee

- Mitts and toques were purchased recently.

b. Plant Sale and Seed Sale

- Seeds arrived and delivered; not sure of final amount raised.
- School has selected plant growing locations; planting by classes has started.
- Sale on May 20 or May 27 (outside).

c. Parent Information Sessions – Susan

- Building a safe community at school session to be run by Rainbow Coalition; offered to parents/staff in separate sessions. Information about the session will be shared once logistics are sorted out.
- GSA (Gender/Sexuality Alliance, formerly Gay/Straight Alliance) being sorted out at Sissons - Graham attending training this month.

d. Arts at JHS

- Kerry ran a session for teachers. It was recorded and is available to teachers as a resource and guide.
- Art supplies are available to the teachers to use with students.
- **DECISION:** \$300 plus supplies.

e. Treats for Teachers

- No update. Likely not until June.

f. Hot lunches

- Wendy will provide next dates. **ACTION:** Susan will reach out to Wendy.

4. Other Items

a. Ski/snowshoe rental update – above

- Ski and snowshoe rentals in March totalled \$960; \$530 for rentals in December.
- Families really appreciated the opportunity to rent the equipment.
- Kerry sent notes about next time.
- Related: will create a cheat sheet of roles on PAC.

b. Loose parts playground update – deferred

- Concerns about loose parts in shared play ground
- **ACTION:** Graham will meet with Wendy by next meeting.

c. Bussing discussion

- Chelsea hasn't heard back from the district office about being part of a committee about JK bussing. Graham had a follow up discussion with Tram (district office) to establish a parent committee to look into this issue. At this point, JK bussing is not in contract and no budget for this.
- JK bussing is still a concern by some parents. If kids are able to take the bus, they should be able to take the bus. Is there a way that the PAC could advocate on behalf of the parents? A letter, meet with district office, or others?
- John hasn't received any update as a Trustee about the JK but knows that the contract has not yet been awarded. **ACTION:** John will find out and share what he can with Graham, and what would be the best way to approach the issue from a PAC perspective.
- **ACTION:** Once hear from John/Graham, Annie will let the PAC know if there is an opportunity to advocate for JK bussing. Could write a letter, reach out to other PACs, etc.
- It would be helpful to discuss what the options are for JK....early morning drop off can be as early as 8 am and there is afterschool care available.
- Staggered pick ups were required this year because of COVID; not sure if this will be a requirement next year. Communication for parents with JK next year could be improved.

Next Meeting: May 12