

**JHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**  
**Meeting NOTES - DRAFT**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 2021 7 pm**

**Present: Annie Casson, Graham Arts, Susan Fitzky, Tina Drew, Jocelyn Apps, Katie Johnson**  
**Regrets: John Stephenson, Wendy Lahey Chelsea Donaldson**

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**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

(May)

1. Graham will post April and May PAC notes to website and PAC to approve minutes at June meeting.
2. Graham will share the *Risk Based Play Risk Benefit Assessment for Outdoor Play: A Canadian Toolkit* with the school's insurers for their review.
3. Graham will email Chelsea (Rainbow Coalition) about that workshop outline and timing.
4. Graham will provide an update at next PAC meeting on how the WITS anti-bullying program is being implemented at the school.
5. Jocelyn will email Bethany to see if she's interested in coordinating Treats for Teachers again on June 4.
6. Annie will follow up with Tina Drew about presenting about parent interest in JK bussing at the June board meeting.
7. Graham will send out survey to parents about JK bussing on Sunday.

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**1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes**

**ACTION:** Post April and May notes and approve minutes at June meeting.

**2. Quick Standing Updates**

**a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report**

- Current enrollment = 294; next year looking at 300 students (including 35 kindergarten/36 junior kindergarten (JK)). Every departure for next year will be grade 5s and families leaving the territory.
- Additional masking requirement has been challenging for some kids; but almost 100% compliance with masking. Staff doing a great job getting kids back in classroom. Paying more attention to additional mitigation methods in entry and exit.

- Current public health guidance remains in place. Graham is working on the plan for next year.
- PAC budget: no update, no expenses. Subway resumes tomorrow (first since April).
- New vice principal (M. Frédérick Sonier) starts in September.
- The school naming committee is meeting tomorrow; the committee is taking a comprehensive, considered and meaningful approach.

**b. Trustee's Report – Tina Drew, YK1 Chair**

- YK1 Chairperson Tina Drew attended the PAC meeting, primarily to answer questions about bussing for JK Students. (See JK bussing item below.)
- John Stephenson and other YK1 Board members were attending a presentation about the new Education Act. John provided his trustee report in advance.
- Board Meeting Highlights:
  - Recognition of Raymonde Laberge on her retirement after 17 years at ECE French Education services
  - Reports on activities related to school closures and Covid-19 outbreak
  - Re-appointment of Assistant Superintendent Shirley Zouboules
  - Approval of Capital Budget of \$400K
  - Approval of Technical Status Evaluation (TSE) of Nordic Arms up to \$25K
  - Approval of the Final Strategic Priorities - next step is to develop the measurement statements
  - Approval of Recommendations of the Board and Superintendent Evaluation Committee on Board Evaluations
  - Policies on Bylaws (#5) and Committees (#8) under review
- Next Board Meeting is June 8, 2021 at 700 pm
- Ratepayers Meeting is May 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm - opportunity for learning about and input into next year's budget for YK1. Info link on Ratepayers Meeting: <https://www.yk1.nt.ca/view.php?action=object&id=12596&stream=District%20Spotlight>
- ECE Initiatives:
  - Have your say on a Education Act Modernization and Curriculum Renewal: <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en>

**3. Hot Topics**

**a. Outdoors Committee/ Loose parts playground**

- Wendy and Graham have yet to discuss the loose parts playground. In the meantime, Wendy has some questions:
- Q. Will we lose the funding offered by YK1? R
  - . This is a question for YK1. Graham would like to discuss the philosophy behind deployment of a loose parts playground.
- Q. What are the barriers for teachers moving forward?

- R. Some teachers (in particular some who observed its previous deployment) have concerns about process, and maintenance of the playground.
- Q. Is there some type of professional development for the teachers that could help address the concerns towards embracing the concept?
  - R. Graham would first like to discuss further with Wendy and then have a productive discussion at PAC.
- Q. Did Graham have a chance to review the Risk Based Play Risk Benefit Assessment for Outdoor Play: A Canadian Toolkit, which was shared to help support the work of CEPA and a loose parts playground - what questions or barriers are there about this work? ([https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/portfolio\\_page/risk-benefit-assessment-for-outdoor-play-a-canadian-toolkit/](https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/portfolio_page/risk-benefit-assessment-for-outdoor-play-a-canadian-toolkit/)).
  - R. Yes, Graham has reviewed. He would like to float that risk assessment through the school's insurers to ensure it's an appropriate risk assessment tool. As a school, we need to see how it fits into the overall education plan of the school.
 

**ACTION:** Graham will move it through the insurers.
- PAC would like to move this item forward so that we're not in the same place in September as last September. PAC isn't clear on what the barriers are. PAC will keep this on future meeting agendas.

#### **c. Plant Sale and Seed Sale – Jocelyn**

- Plants are looking healthy. Staff putting in preorders.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> is first date for the sale, following weekend is plan B.
- It will be a pre-order and pick up style event.
- There are volunteers assisting pick up. Volunteer needs are getting boxes to hold plants. Jocelyn offered to develop a promotional poster/notice for website.
- Amount fundraised from the seed sale was about \$1300-1400. Propose having the seed sale again next year.

#### **d. Parent Information Sessions**

- Rainbow Coalition – Susan and Graham have discussed with Chelsea taking a two-pronged approach to support LGBTQ2S+ students: Workshop for staff to understand issues and better support. The new school will have non-gendered washrooms. **ACTION:** Graham will email Chelsea about that outline.
- The PAC received an email from a parent asking what is the school's formal approach to address bullying.
  - WITS (means Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) program (<https://witsprogram.ca/>) is the formal program the school follows.
  - How is this program being used with the students? Are students aware of what to do if seeing incidents in the playground? More discussion with students and parents could support the program's implementation.
  - **ACTION:** Graham will provide an update at next PAC meeting on how WITS program is being implemented at the school.

**e. Arts at JHS** - No update at this time.

**f. Treats for Teachers**

- June 4 is the next report card writing day.
- **ACTION:** Jocelyn will email Bethany to see if she's interested in coordinating again.

**g. Hot lunches**

- Next Subway is tomorrow (May 20).
- PAC will refund the funds paid for the weeks while school was closed. Funds are with PayPal and should be able to refund.

**4. Other Items**

**a. JK Bus update**

- The new bussing contract will not include bussing for JK Students. Tina is happy to answer questions about bussing:
- Q. RFP put out for bussing for next year included the option for JK bussing. What is the status of the contracting?
  - R. RFP has gone out (details are confidential). YK1 always sets up the bussing contract in partnership with the French and Catholic school boards to reduce costs. The French and Catholic school boards do not want JK bussing. Therefore, YK1 is looking into options for JK bussing. JK bussing would require a special bus, two people for the bus, assurance that someone is always able to meet them at the stop and at the school. Issues can arise if no one at the stop.
  - Policies, including regulations of seating for persons under 40 lbs (*Transportation Act*), and cost need to be considered. Costs could increase user fees. A separate JK bus would be logistically challenging and would have to offer to every part of the school district.
- Q. JKs have gone on field trips on buses (in multiple programs/organizations), which seems contrary to the seating regulations. Could YK1 clarify the rules for JKs on buses because there is some confusion.
  - R. Driver cannot leave their seat, as per the company's policy. So, would need additional person to buckle kids in, etc. For Camp de Neige, there is a second responsible adult.
- Q. What's the best way for PAC to advocate JK bussing? Surveying parents, writing letters?
  - R. PAC could present to YK1 at the June board meeting. JHS PAC could reach out to other PAC chairs. Present at this meeting, even if only JHS, then it can be considered and it would take about a year to sort out details. Could revisit in fall if not at June meeting. This will be a Board decision.
  - Are parents willing to pay for the additional costs? A JK bus would cost \$100 more per day per bus. Would need about 4 routes to make it feasible for kids.
  - Current bussing contract is going to double anyway, and insurance is increasing by 1000%. Parents need to be clear about what the tradeoff would be.

- In the future, the PACs could advocate to GNWT for JK funding.
- Annie has reached out to PAC chairs from Mildred Hall, Range Lake, and NJ MacPherson.
- **ACTION:** Annie will follow up with Tina about presenting at the June meeting.
- Mildred Hall bought a separate bus to ensure kids are getting to school and Elizabeth Brace might be able to share more information about a separate bus.
- Research what other school districts are providing the JK bussing and how they make it work.
- May 25 is the ratepayers meeting, where budget is approved. Could participate and have a look at the budget and potentially suggest where JK bussing should be covered instead of other items.
- **ACTION:** Graham will send out survey to parents about JK bussing on Sunday.

Next Meeting: June 9, online.