

JHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Meeting Notes - DRAFT

June 9, 2021

7 pm - Zoom Meeting

Present: Annie Casson, Graham Arts, Susan Fitzky, John Stephenson, Wendy Campeau, Katie Johnson

Regrets: Wendy Lahey, Chelsea Donaldson, Jocelyn Apps

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.
2. Wendy C. will write up information about Mabel's Labels for a future Cette Semaine. Graham will post to website and cross-post to twitter.

(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 – Have funding, risk assessment tool has been approved, some logistical items to discuss, proceed with an order. (Update action item as from June meeting)

(May)

1. Graham will email Chelsea (Rainbow Coalition) about that workshop outline and timing.

(June)

1. Graham will provide an update on sessions with Rainbow Coalition at next PAC meeting.
 2. PAC to revisit JK bussing topic in fall to see if interest in advocacy piece.
 3. Annie will provide information about the PAC by August 15th to Graham.
 4. Graham will look into social media options (such as Facebook) for JHS PAC.
 5. Graham will review procedural checklist and add share parent emails to PAC designate.
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1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes (April and May)

- April and May PAC minutes approved

2. Quick Standing Updates

a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham

- 295 enrolled this year. Next year looking at 304 students, 40 of which are JKs. There will likely to be more JKs by the time school begins in September.
- Graham will email budget update to JHS PAC email tomorrow. Graham confirmed that Kerry Wheler was paid for her art session with teachers. JHS hasn't received the Subway invoice yet.
- The Grade 5 farewell will be outdoors on June 23 at 2 pm. All grade 5s will attend along with some grade 4s. JHS usually provides a \$20 gift certificates to each student; would PAC contribute to this?

- o **Decision:** PAC will contribute \$350 towards the gift certificates.
- JHS is starting to organize classes for next year. The school tries to honour parent requests but with no promises; usually about 75% accommodation rates. There are a lot of factors to consider. The previous-year teachers help build class lists for the subsequent year.
- Subway – there was a concern with food arriving on time; It arrived it in plenty of time this week to sort out any issues.
- No school on June 21st.
- Report cards coming home on June 23rd.
- Approved school calendar for 2021/22 year is available online.
- For next September 30th, we would like to do more to acknowledge every child matters. JHS is working with a local designer with “Every Child Matters” in French and maybe Indigenous languages. Likely cost kids about \$10 per shirt. Graham suggests that we let parents know that asking for \$10 but not necessary. All kids will get a shirt. \$1,750 likely total cost. Would PAC like to contribute towards the shirts?
 - o Great proactive steps. Propose that PAC can purchase some outright for some kids.
 - o **Decision:** PAC will contribute half the cost and be reimbursed for cost recovery.
- GSA (Gender Support Alliance) initiatives will be discussed in August to determine which teachers will keep it going for the year.
 - o ECE would be a resource for whoever takes on that role.
- Bike racks are very busy; 3 additional double-sided racks have been ordered and delivered. Just need installation. Will be able to take advantage of double sides once return to former school sites.

b. Trustee's Report – John – highlights from June 8th YK1 Board meeting

- Recognition of the children of the former Kamloops Residential School with prayer, comments and statement by Trustee Rajiv Rawat.
- Presentation on new book for Indigenous Education called "How the Frog Brought Winter"
- Recognition of the pending Retirement of Superintendent Ed Lippert
- Approval of the budget
- Approval of Policy 5 Bylaws
- Delegation to the Superintendent for final approval of the five-year bussing contract
 - o Recommendations by John to continue to find ways to welcome JK children onto school buses
- Tabling of Policy Drafts - Committees and Nutrition
- Long-service awards at each school: JHS has its staff awards/recognitions/farewell breakfast on June 25th.
- Beam signing opportunity for the new school. There was an invitation to sign the (20 ft long) beam in the new school (although the beams will be covered) to the design committee, the naming committee, and a further offer was made to staff.
- Election this October 18 for YK1 Trustees, for one year. Information session for aspiring candidates on June 17, 7pm - more info from YK1 to come.

- John is available to be part of welcoming group/tour for any new teachers.
- Curriculum review underway by ECE - [see their website](#). ECE is seeking input from parents/staff.
 - The Alberta government is rolling out a new curriculum, with some push back. AB curriculum is our current model and their new curriculum will influence direction by the NWT. We take a long of high school, some elementary from Alberta. It will be interesting to see how much NWT will want to align itself.
- *Education Act* modernization process underway - [see ECE website](#).
- The YK1 Strategic Plan 2016 to 2021 ended this year.
 - A strategic plan is a key aspect of a school board's responsibility. The new strategic plan was approved at the last board meeting.
 - The new Strategic Plan will guide YK1 for next few years. There are 4 priorities. Staff are working on indicator statements with detail on how staff will measure success. Three priorities are similar to before (Indigenous education, health and wellbeing, and ??)
 - The new plan has a fourth pillar, called community – about environment, citizenship, and global thinking.
 - The Plan will roll out in the new year and will be the guiding document for next three years at strategic levels, including some direction to staff on focus, and guiding budgets.

3. Hot Topics

a. Outdoors Committee

- Loose parts playground:
 - The risk assessment has been reviewed. Positive review, so have the green light. JHS has the budget to begin planning/ordering.
 - Has meeting set up with Wendy and Jocelyn to discuss.
 - Will have a clearer articulation about the initiative.
 - Hope to have parts ready for school starting on September, depending on delivery.

b. Plant Sale and Seed Sale

- The sale seemed to go well. Most boxes were sold. Mme Julie was integral to that sale, especially with parents not being able to enter the school.
- **Recommendation for next year:** Do the seed sale again next year.

c. Parent Information Sessions

- Rainbow Coalition session – dates won't work in August (August 24/27) for professional development. But there's lots of value to explore relationship with Rainbow Coalition, we will be looking for a local facilitator.
 - Chelsea is available August 27 for virtual sessions. But the time required might be too much in consideration of other priorities.
 - **ACTION:** Graham will have update at next PAC meeting on this.
- Next year it would be beneficial to have a session on the WITS/DIRE program.

d. Arts at JHS

- No update

e. Treats for Teachers

- Treats for Teachers last week was well appreciated.

f. Hot lunches – Wendy C.

- A couple of weeks of late arrival. When sent in last subway order, mentioned that it's important that they arrive on time.
- Laura checking to see if parents getting their order.
- Last order is next week.
- We've made around \$8,200 not accounting for cost of the website. Online has been great! Less touches of paper, no counting of money, no sorting. It now takes about an hour to do, whereas it used to take multiple hours.
- Laura completed the returns of payments fairly quickly through reverse payments of PayPal.
- Thank you Wendy and Laura!

4. Other Items

a. JK Bus update

- The school bussing contract will be for the next 5 years, in collaboration with the Catholic and Francophone school boards. They are in final stages of contract negotiation. The superintendent will approve the contract.
 - JHS parents have a particular interest in bussing for JK and John pushed it pretty hard. However, because they are younger children, the service provider is looking to see how other jurisdictions provide service. The cost is very high and would require significant tradeoffs.
 - YK1 was previously able to convince the GNWT to support additional funding for JK (getting close to full funding for JK now).
 - JKs are now part of our responsibility; they have specific needs/ requirements/ teaching pedagogy. Bussing is just one aspect of this responsibility. John asked the YK1 Chair to keep it on the table with the Minister.
 - JHS PAC recent surveyed JHS parents. The survey was sent to other PACs but suspect it was not sent to parents. There were 24 responses, 16 of which who have JK children next year. About 1/3 of incoming students would be interested in bussing.
 - Tina Drew gave clear explanation and direction to pursue further action. No parents stated they wanted to pursue further advocacy at this time.
 - A key discrepancy remains about kids under 40 lbs having to have a car seat based on the *Motor Vehicle Act*. Who weighs the kids? There are preschool programs in the city that use school busses. Therefore inconsistent.
 - Scenarios: separate JK busses, but modifying existing buses didn't seem to be explored. As well, other school boards were not supportive.

- o Encourage advocacy, writing a letter (could be short a sweet). Would like busses to welcome all kids to bussing to school.
- **ACTION:** Suggest revisit in fall to see if interest in advocacy piece.

b. Year review and plans for next year

- Continue the seed sale
- Continue online ordering of subway
- Once confirmed, in-person assembly is easy but continue virtual participation.
- Recruitment to PAC as would like to have more people involved. Usually choose officers for year at September meeting. Informational items will start posting items in late August.
- It will be useful to let teachers know what the PAC does and what they can reach out to the PAC for. Graham putting together a staff “handbook” on an internal website; would be useful to include information about the PAC. Will discuss the website/resources in late August.
ACTION: Annie will provide information by August 15th to Graham.
- Ski rentals
- Information sessions
- **ACTION:** Graham will look into social media options (such as Facebook) for JHS PAC.
- **ACTION:** Graham will review procedural checklist and add share parent emails to PAC designate.

c. WITS/DIRE update

- French translation for WITS is DIRE. There is not much being done to promote the program, something has been lost in translation. In late August, 2 days will be set aside for professional development about the program. We will spend a few hours during this time to go through the resources, what language we’re using, how to talk about it, etc. In the past, we’ve had assemblies with the students. We hope to be able to do that again soon. The program will be tied more explicitly with the positive behaviour support system (PBIS) to track what’s happening, what we’re seeing, patterns, and messaging used and see if the program is successful. Might adjust supervision, etc. and monitor if seeing more positive behaviour. Want to make sure kids are safe and we’re using the language.
- The WITS website is a great resource for families and could be promoted the program and resource to parents.
- A promotional event could to kick off the program.
- Weekly reminders could be included in staff newsletters on specific themes.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2021 at 7 pm in person and virtual.