

JH Sissons (JHS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting Notes - DRAFT
Wednesday, Oct 14, 2020

Present: Graham Arts, Al MacDonald, Wendy Lahey, Annie Casson, Raynor Look, Kerry Wheler, Wendy Campeau, Katie Johnson

Action items (September 2020)

1. Graham will meet with Julie to discuss next steps for a loose parts playground.
2. Graham will give update on process for wall tents at next meeting.
3. Defer discussion of the plant sale until November.
4. Graham will reach out to Caroline Roux about organizing a literacy parent information session.
5. Graham will ask teachers at the November staff meeting about interest in another teacher training in art projects.

(October 2020)

1. Graham will talk with Scott Willoughby (YK1 Indigenous Language and Culture Education Coordinator) about using videoconference technology to include elders in school programming.
2. Consider in a few weeks or by next PAC meeting sharing as a hot topic information about the period following Christmas and March break when more information might be available.
3. Graham will discuss with Julie the option to involve younger knowledge holders in CEPA programming.
4. Wendy C will send email and Graham will put in dates for Subway lunches in the JHS calendar and the weekly parent bulletin (or separate email) to ask parents to set up again.
5. Graham will follow up with the PAC about how it can support the process to select loose parts.
6. Graham will contact Tram Do about locally sourcing a storage option.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes

- June 2019 approved in June
- September 2020 approved

2. Quick Standing Updates

a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham Arts

- Current student enrollment at JHS: 295 students
- Current PAC budget: \$11, 686.71
- Oct 23 is a PD day. During that day, staff will be reviewing the school's long-term strategic plan in the morning; and in the afternoon staff will be looking at online reading tools and other online tools should we need to go back to distance learning. They will discuss a more standardized process as suggested by PAC last month.

- **ACTION:** Graham will talk with Scott Willoughby (YK1 Indigenous Language and Culture Education Coordinator) about using videoconference technology to include elders in school programming.

School renaming committee

- The YK1 Board newsletter included an invitation to be on committee. The intent is to make sure the committee is broadly representative and has appropriate representation of Indigenous groups on whose traditional territory the school sits. School renaming is under the purview of Superintendent (Ed Lippert), who has delegated to the principal establishment of the committee as the first step.
- Once established, the committee can recommend whether or not to rename the school. A final decision would involve the Board. If renaming, the committee would determine a process to come up with name; final decision with the Superintendent.
- Graham would chair the committee and the committee should have broad-based representation. Graham will ensure the PAC is well-informed as the process moves forward.
 - o Q – In the spring the PAC had identified a process for selecting committee membership; two parents came forward. Suggest following up with those parents for their interest.
 - o Q – Wendy sent an email to Graham and Ed Lippert about an approach for engaging Indigenous communities. She suggests more relationship building needs to happen prior to sending a letter to the local chiefs to invite a representative to sit on committee. It's important to start the relationship positively/meaningfully; it's about acknowledging the land we're on.
 - Scott Willoughby has forwarded some local contacts to begin informal discussions to ask how to go about this in most appropriate/meaningful way.
 - Jane Arychuk is another possible contact
 - Could ask YKDFN to help open the wall tent, acknowledge the land we're on, and help make sure we're doing this in a good way. This could strengthen relationships.

b. Trustee's Report - Al MacDonald

- Substitute teacher list is now at 70 (almost double what it was last month). JHS now has all areas for subs covered. After a teacher is off for more than 5 days, YK1 district picks up the cost for sub.
- Buses – two buses have arrived and two more by end of month. YK1 is working on finding and training (as needed) drivers. Two of the 4 buses are for high school students. It's not clear yet if there will be route changes that could affect JHS students.
- Additional \$2.3M (federal/territorial) funds are available for new teachers; but buildings are full and changing schedules is challenge. YK1 is working with ECE on how best to spend the funds (subs, etc.). YK1 is a good financial situation this year.
- SJF had to change its school year calendar to align with JK/8 school year, except for two days (in Nov/Feb) due to conflict with early dismissal days.
- YK1, ECE, etc. are working on a schedule for teachers following for Christmas and March break in NWT communities. Not reasonable to stipulate teachers don't travel during holidays. Teachers can't afford to self-isolate for two weeks with no pay (taking time off would affect pension, etc.). Parties are exploring various solutions (e.g., 2 weeks of virtual schooling, covering with subs). Some solutions might be easier in Yellowknife than in smaller

communities. Parents might make travel plans accordingly if know that there will be supply teachers.

- **ACTION:** Consider as hot topic in a few weeks or by next PAC meeting when more information might be available.

3. Hot Topics

a. Outdoors Committee

- Construction of large wall tent is underway by Steve Reitsma. Steve has worked with local businesses for lower costs, so overall cost will likely be lower than anticipated. Kerry has been assisting Steve.
- Smaller wall tent could be brought over with forklift, or loaned to ski club, depending on whether JHS can run a full outdoor program with just the one.
- All the items (stove, etc.) at JHS school site has been moved over.
- What is the plan for CEPA this year?
 - CEPA teacher there to help teachers develop their skill set. CEPA teacher also supports logistics of land-based learning.
 - Younger knowledge holders could support CEPA program for outdoor activities.
ACTION: Graham will discuss with Julie.

b. Plant Sale

ACTION: Graham will discuss during November staff meeting.

c. Parent Information Sessions

- Google classroom session held the other week, run by Martin Male. More sessions on Google Classroom can be organized.
- Graham will talk with Caroline Roux about a literacy session.

d. Promotion of CPF

- CPF – membership is free. Hope for parents to sign up and can attend virtual meetings.

e. Arts at JHS

- Graham will talk with staff about fine arts training at November staff meeting.

f. Treats for Teachers

- Jeff McConomy has been setting dates.
- Jocelyn will sort out any allergies, and other restrictions (pre-packaged, and/or single server)

g. Hot lunches

- Subway lunches system ready to go. Wendy sent dates on Monday for Graham to review. Hope to start next Thursday (Oct 22, Nov 5, 26, Dec 3, 10).
ACTION: Wendy will send email and Graham will put in calendar and in weekly parent bulletin (or separate email) to ask parents to set up again.

4. Other Items

a. Playground update

- Playground – JK set will be moved over soon from JHS.
- There are lots of loose parts projects currently on the grounds. Kids are making good use of what is out there. But looking at options for purchasing new loose parts materials. YK1 is supportive and will cover costs of additional materials.
 - o **ACTION:** Graham will follow up with the PAC about how it can support the process to select loose parts.
- JK/K toys have arrived. Storage near the portables will be really useful for these toys, and for CEPA as well. Although Ecole Allain St Cyr has offered a storage shed, it would be helpful to have storage near the portables. A pre-fabricated option (e.g. from Canadian Tire) might be easiest, or a small seacan, or shed.

ACTION: Graham will contact Tram Do about locally sourcing a storage option.
- There have been conversations with WMS about a sliding hill; not yet resolved.

b. PAC Survey update – Annie

- PAC survey – Graham is happy to send out once finalized. If any specific things to add to survey, PAC members should let Annie know.

c. School budget – Graham

- Budget total: \$238,527 (including surplus from last year)
- Many items are fixed costs (photocopier, phones, etc.)
- Some items carried over from last year (healthy food (for kids who need it in classes), Aboriginal education supplies, Drop the Pop, Mindfulness, etc.)
- School surplus from last year (because often hold off on some spending until later in year, then COVID).
- Added some to school-paid subs. So far, only 8 days needed. If teacher is off for longer than 5 days, covered by YK1 district.
- Each class gets \$750 for classroom expenditures.
- Library only \$3k this year because it's full, would only be replacements not new books.