

JHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Meeting Agenda - DRAFT

Thursday, November 12, 2020

7 pm - Zoom Meeting/In person (School Cafeteria)

Present: Graham Arts, John Stephenson, Wendy Lahey, Annie Casson, Susan Fitsky, Katie Johnson, Kerry Wheler

Action items (September 2020)

1. Graham will meet with Julie to discuss next steps for a loose parts playground.
2. Graham will reach out to Caroline Roux about organizing a literacy parent information session. – in discussion. With Caroline.

(October 2020)

1. Graham will follow up with the PAC about how it can support the process to select loose parts.

(November 2020)

1. Graham will add pictures of the wall tent to next Cette Semaine.
2. Wendy will check in with Julie about whether the CEPA program has enough extra warm clothes for students who might need them.
3. Kerry will review wording about wall tent donations in Cette Semaine to ensure no sensitive information is shared.
4. Kerry will follow up with Laura about the process to purchase gift cards from PAC.
5. Graham will speak to Julie about a feed the fire ceremony to officially open the wall tent.
6. Susan will ask Joslyn and Rachel about any plant sale updates before each PAC meeting.
7. Susan will follow up with Rainbow Coalition about doing an anti-bullying session.
8. Graham will talk with Jeff McConomy to contact Monique Marinier and with Tracy Bryant to see when could a session could be held with the teachers.
9. Kerry will create a simple list of art supply materials for teachers as a recommendation.
10. Susan would like to be added to all committees and thus know what's going on and can help as needed.
11. Graham will keep putting the link to the survey in the weekly Cette Semaine until it closes at the end of November.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes

- October minutes approved.

2. Quick Standing Updates

a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham

- JH Sissons (JHS) enrollment remains at 295.
- Current PAC budget is \$11,686 plus revenue from last two Subway days.
- John Stephenson the new Trustee for JHS.
- Treats for Teachers is ready for distribution tomorrow to teachers

- Wall tent was completed by Steve Ritsma. Pictures were sent to JHS PAC email.
ACTION: Graham will add pictures to next Cette Semaine. Budgeted \$6k; total cost should have come to \$10,260 but, through work with suppliers, cost was \$5,360 (mostly saving on materials). Kids out there almost every day.
- JK/K playground equipment will be installed once structure filled with sand. It was supposed to be done today but will be done very soon.
- No news on a loose parts playground equipment.
- As storage for toys, a full-size seacan is now set up by the portables and was funded by YK1. There is now extra storage for loose parts. JHS asked for 10 ft seacan, got 20 ft seacan.
- Mme Rachelle is leaving the third week of January to take a position teaching Post-Intensive French at Range Lake and Core French at Mildred Hall. Mme Jessica Gilbert's assigned class will be grades 4/5. Mme Jolyane will take over Rachelle's grade 2 class. Graham will send an email to parents tonight.
- Report cards will go home November 23rd. Parent-teacher interviews will be online. November 16th 6 pm sign up begins over the rest of the week and weekend. No school on November 27 (lieu day). No school November 16 when teachers will work on overall strategic plan.
- Report cards will look differently than in the past, given the gap in classes and learning last spring. Teachers are doing their best to address the gaps and get the kids caught up in all the subject areas. They have to assess the students based on the grades they're in. Lower marks than usual are to be expected but anticipate they will catch up going forward. Most meaningful will be conversations between teachers and parents.
- Following Christmas there is no plan for online learning, unless there is an expanded health emergency. Leave to self-isolate following Christmas has to be approved on a case-by-case basis; some leave has been approved. Teachers will let parents know if they are leaving the territory and will be self-isolating. There is no information about March yet.
- Graham has discussed with Scott about Elders participating in classes online. 2 challenges are identified: There may need to be in-person support the elder to use the technology; and not sure how elders would feel using these techniques. So just younger knowledge holders will be involved for now in outside settings.
 - Some PAC members feel there might be more opportunity here and it might be valuable to ask elders.
- JHS will hold off on pursuing an artist in residence because it introduces more challenges and teachers want to focus on their classes.

b. Trustee's Report – John Stephenson

- This is John's 12th year as a trustee. He had 4 kids at JHS and now 2 grandkids at JHS.

- The YK1 Board met on November 10th – Tina Drew and Satish Garikaparathi will continue as Chair and Vice Chair.
- YK1 undertaking a review of its strategic plan – four pillars being: academic achievement, inclusive education, Indigenous education, and health. It has been in place for many years, so the Board will be reviewing it. John welcomes input from parents or administration to bring to the workshop.
- YK1 will be undertaking negotiations with NWTTA soon, starting November 30th. These negotiations will be online. Expect it to be a one-year contract. Catholic and Francophone teacher association contracts recently finished.
- The next school board election will be October 2021, for one year. At that point, it would be in sync with municipal elections and the following election would be in October 2022 and thereafter 4 years later when municipal elections take place.
- Draft YK1 policies are open for comment. All available on [YK1 website](#) where policies located.
 - Policy 5 – Bylaw Policy describing how do business;
 - Policy 19 – Nutrition in schools;
 - Policy on harassment and respectful workplace; and
 - Policy on duty to report to support anyone to report illegal conduct.
- Superintendent Ed Lippert will be holding a PAC Chairs meeting soon (TBD) - in person (up to 15 people) or virtual.
- Resumed search (since pandemic started) for Superintendent. Job ad is posted with a closing date of November 20th.

3. Hot Topics

a. Outdoors Committee – Wendy

- Q. Is clothing a challenge for CEPA program?
ACTION: Wendy will check in with Julie.
- Tent – On behalf of PAC, Kerry will follow up with a card and photo to those who donated materials or time for the wall tent. Graham will share the information with parents in Cette Semaine.
ACTION: Kerry would like to review wording to ensure no sensitive information is shared.
- Would PAC support a \$100 gift certificate for Steve due to his quality of work and networking with suppliers that went over and above what a contractor normally would do?
Decision: Approved. **Action:** Kerry will follow up with Laura about process.
- Q. What will happen to the wall tent once JHS goes back to old site? Unclear at this stage.
- Idea of feed the fire ceremony to open the wall tent.
ACTION: Graham will speak to Julie about this.

b. Plant Sale

- Teachers are supportive.
- Joslyn and Rachel are the PAC leads.
ACTION: Susan will ask Joslyn and Rachel about any updates before each PAC meeting.

c. Parent Information Sessions

- Graham is discussing a literacy session with Caroline, as well as consulting staff about planning and delivery; but trying to be mindful of current pressures on staff.
- Top three topics from the PAC survey (so far) – inquiry-based learning, bullying, building French literacy in the home.
 - Bullying: Rainbow Coalition, Little Rainbows program is an option. We would want to make sure the language used in the program aligns with JHS for consistency.
ACTION: Susan will follow up with Rainbow Coalition about a session for parents.

d. Promotion of CPF – John

- CPF had AGM on November 10th. It's free this year to sign up. CPF gives parents access to resources. Website link was in last PAC's hot topics.
- Kieron Tetsart is the executive director.
- Membership fee usually comes back to the NWT and YK1 projects. By CPF existing in NWT, we have national funding for executive director and other initiatives.

e. Arts at JHS

- Teachers are interested in arts night.
ACTION: Graham will talk with Jeff to contact Tracy Bryant and Monique Marinier to see when could hold a session with teachers. PAC to approve the same amount as what was spent last year.
- Arts is one of the measures in the YK1 strategic plan.
- PAC could consider a financial contribution to some materials, unless already budgeted – good quality paper, good ink, other recommendations to add to existing arts supplies.
- Classroom budgets do allow for teachers to make some of these choices, but JHS also has a bit of a centralized budget. Depending on Monique's recommendations, could cost-share.
- Tracy Bryant is also another good resource who has lots of experience working with kids, and a variety of mediums.
- **ACTION:** Kerry will create a simple list of materials for teachers as a recommendation.

f. Treats for Teachers

- Tomorrow. Individually packaged treats provided. Easier than a served lunch. List from PAC survey for those interested.

ACTION: Susan would like to be added to all committees and thus know what's going on and can help as needed.

g. Hot lunches

- Online system working well. Updates will be in Cette Semaine. November 26th is the next Subway day.

4. Other Items

a. PAC Survey update

- 29 responses so far. Open until end of November.

ACTION: Graham will keep putting it in the weekly Cette Semaine.

- Results are on the PAC Drive, spreadsheet of volunteer committees.
- One person identified that they are an author and would be willing to assist in classes. Another indicated they could provide information on nutrition. Another interested in leading a food drive. Another requested 2 weeks of online learning after Christmas. Questions about the playground – maybe include information in a Cette Semaine?

b. Who does psychoeducational testing?

- This testing is a limited resource in NWT – currently only 1 person who does it in Yellowknife (Merril Dean). Only 2 cycles occur (fall/spring). Usually done in grades 4/5 and then right before graduation. Right before graduation It helps them navigate college, etc. with information about individual learning disabilities.
- No pre-graduation assessments happened in last spring (pandemic) and so there is a backlog. Right now secondary and former secondary students are being done first. Those with most demonstrated need will be assessed first. This could be why some people are saying there no elementary kid assessments being done.
- Merrill sends out a checklist that teachers/support teachers/parents can do and other supports that could be tried before a psych-ed assessment. The intent is to get a full picture of the student and try other supports before a psych-ed assessment.
- If parents have benefits, can use own benefits to do this, although not cheap. It would be Merrill as part of her consultancy time.

Next Meeting – December 9th at 7pm