

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting NOTES - DRAFT
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Present: John Stephenson, Graham Arts, Susan Fitzky (co-chair), Annie Casson (co-chair), Meghan Beveridge, Joslyn Apps, Julie Downes, Sarah, Katie Johnson, Chelsea Donaldson, Wendy Lahey

Action items

(September 2020)

1. 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.

(December 2020)

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

(January)

1. Ask a PAC member to participate and talk about the role of PAC at the JK/K orientation on February 11 at 7 pm.
2. Graham and Wendy will have a follow up discussion and discuss with Julie who can put together an order list, and bring back thoughts back to next PAC meeting.
3. Julie will send wording to Graham to ask parents to donate yoghurt containers.
4. Susan will ask CPF to add her to their distribution list. Remove CPF from standing agenda.
5. Annie will get logistics from Bethany and will provide wording to Graham before Sunday to do a wider call out to parents to help with Treats for Teachers.
6. Susan will contact Maggie Hawks at CPF as a potential source of funding for Camp de Neige.
7. Graham will provide an update on Campe de Neige costs at the next PAC meeting and PAC can discuss what it can support.
8. School/PAC will consider renting equipment at March break.
9. Graham will ask the bus company more about their policy regarding transporting JK students. Graham will follow up with the company, district, etc. depending on what the most appropriate path forward regarding other bussing issues raised.

Record of Decisions

1. PAC will contribute up to a \$2000 per year, \$250 per family for winter clothing initiative. At next PAC meeting, PAC can reassess amount depending on uptake.
 2. PAC will support up to \$500 for toques and mitts for CEPA program.
 3. PAC will support up to \$500 for seeds and soil. If more needed, email the PAC email.
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a. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes

- December 2020 PAC notes approved.
- Agenda approved

b. Quick Standing Updates

a. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham

- 293 students currently enrolled
- Mme Rachelle has moved to Range Lake School; Mme Jolyane is now in grade 2 class; Mme Jessica with grades 4/5 class.
- JK/K Orientation will be on February 11 at 7 pm (online). Teachers, EAs, principal and vice principal will be online and able to answer questions. The orientation will include an overview of programs, people from community groups (such as PAC), and showing pictures of the classrooms (because can't do classroom visits).
ACTION: Ask a PAC member to participate and talk about the role of PAC.
- Current PAC budget = \$13,959
- Winter clothing initiative – Some people have approached the JHS administration about making sure warm clothing is available for kids. Graham has talked with Weaver and Devore about having an open bill and family can choose what it needs up to a certain amount. Businesses to consider are Weaver and Devore, Overlander, Canadian Tire, Polar Tech, others? Could make opportunity publicly known and teachers can reach out to specific families.
DECISION: PAC will contribute up to a \$2000 per year, \$250 per family. At next PAC meeting, PAC can reassess amount depending on uptake.
- School has ordered items to be distributed among the classes (bins for equipment, balls, skipping ropes, etc.). Teachers distribute to students on the way outside.
- Loose parts playground items have not been ordered. As spring approaches, an order could be considered.
 - Graham voiced concern that items should have an appropriate level of risk and grounds should be kept tidy (because a shared playground). Don't want there to be undue risk, given that taking care of other people's kids and insurance costs. Independently researched information is needed because the school needs to answer to a spectrum of parents with different tolerances of risk.
 - Wendy could share research about the importance of children being able to take risks as part of healthy child development. An information session on the value of risky play could be hosted for parents.
 - As part of the CEPA program, there has been lots of loose parts play (tarp, wood, outdoor kitchen, fort building materials, etc.). These parts are also frequently used during recesses. Julie has a list of materials for a loose parts program. One tricky thing to manage is if they are going to be on the playground, or stored, for recesses, or only CEPA. Could create a list of moveable items and items that are not moveable (large logs). Julie has ordered chopping blocks.
 - **ACTION:** Graham and Wendy will have a follow up discussion and discuss with Julie who can put together an order list, and bring back thoughts back to next PAC meeting.

b. Trustee's Report – John

- A new collective agreement with NWTTA was signed. This one-year agreement included a 2.5% wage increase.
- An offer was made to a candidate for the YK1 superintendent position.
- YK1 Board is continuing strategic planning this weekend. Once finalized it will be shared.

- The draft 2021-22 calendar will be shared soon for public consultation, staff, and administration.
- In March 2022, Wood Buffalo Municipality in Alberta will host the Arctic Winter Games, meaning March break will be March 6-12.

c. Hot Topics

a. Outdoors Committee – Wendy

- Julie has a request for toques (8 Taiga toques - \$25 each) and mitts (7-8 pairs of garbage mitts in varying sizes) for CEPA. Julie has ordered fleece (from CEPA budget) for students to make and keep neck warmers.
DECISION: PAC will support up to \$500.

b. Plant Sale and Seed Sale – Joslyn

- The school has limited space in for the plant sale, but with modifications it can go ahead. Some teachers are interested in participating. Julie and Joslyn are discussing logistics.
- West Coast seed sale is going well. Would the PAC be willing to buy seeds for the plant sale? Joslyn suggests \$200. Soil purchased before spring break last year is missing. Canadian Tire might be a generous donor of supplies.
DECISION: PAC will support up to \$500 for seeds and soil. If more needed, email the PAC email.
- Light stands are likely in one of 8 seacans at the JHS site, or WMS site. Joslyn or Julie could take a look about easy access at JHS site (none were found in WMS seacans). Erica Janes has light bulbs for the stands, if the stands are found. Or ideally storage for the lightbulbs needed. Due to space, teachers prefer something on windowsills, rather than adding bulky light stands.
- John has small pots for plant sale.
ACTION: Julie will send wording to Graham to ask parents to donate yoghurt containers.

c. Parent Information Sessions

- Susan waiting to hear back from Rainbow Coalition.

d. Promotion of CPF

- No update. **ACTION:** Susan will ask CPF to add her to their distribution list.
ACTION: Remove from standing agenda.

e. Arts at JHS

- Arts with teachers is a go and have supplies ordered. Once have supplies in hand, will set up date for the evening,

f. Treats for Teachers

- Bethany will coordinated the next treats for teachers. February 11 is the best day (Feb 12 is report writing day).
ACTION: Annie will get logistics from Bethany and will provide wording to Graham before Sunday to do a wider call out to parents.

g. Hot lunches

- Wendy C sent list of dates to Graham, who will confirm.

d. Other Items

a. Camp de Neige

- Camp de Neige is booked for March 29-April 1 (immediately before Easter). The number limit is 25 people inside (split between floors) and 50 gathered outside. Ski Club rental is about \$1000-1500. Bus cost is about \$4500; Graham will confirm with the company. Total cost is about \$5,500. CPF could be a source of funds.
ACTION: Susan will contact Maggie Hawks at CPF as a potential source of funding.
- Graham is willing to put forward the same amount as previous years; could use COVID funding possibly for additional costs; and PAC could cover some costs.
ACTION: Graham will provide an update at next PAC meeting and PAC can discuss what it can support.
- Could have volunteers outside. Providing snacks. To confirm.

b. Ski rental - report & March break

- Ski rentals (Thanks to Kerry and Julie!) – 18-20 families took advantage of the rental opportunity and \$530 was raised, and will be set aside for maintenance and replacement of outdoor equipment. Lots of positive feedback and appreciation and requests for repeating this in March.
ACTION: School/PAC will consider renting equipment at March break.

c. Screen time

- Parent questioned there was school policy for how much screen time.
 - There is no school policy and likely no district policy. It's a balance between using computer resources for educational purposes and giving opportunity for students to explore further.
 - If a parent has a concern about the amount of screen time, they should reach out to the teacher. As a further step, contact Graham.

d. Issue with adding JK students to bussing/other issues with busing

- Parents would love to have JK students on bus if have older sibling. There was supposed to be discussions about this. It would eliminate trips to the school by parents (less congestion, etc.). What is the best approach for parents?
- There was lots of discussion when JK added to schools, about safety, etc. However, the bus company's current policy is to not transport JK students, unless on a field trip with their teacher.
ACTION: Chelsea and Graham will have a phone conversation to discuss further.
- At least one family feels the bus company is singling them out for issues; other issues have occurred in other families.
ACTION: Graham will ask the bus company more about their policy for transporting JK students. Graham will follow up with the company, district, etc. depending on what the most appropriate path forward.

Next meeting: February 10

