Deep Cove PAC General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 21, 2015

Present: Deborah Rogers - Co-President

Kim Bull - Co-Parent Education Coordinator

Bridget Anderson - Christmas Fair Coordinator

Melissa Drolet - COPACS

Colette Hopkins - Volunteer Coordinator

Mikiala Christie - Co-Parent Education Coordinator

Mary MacKay - Secretary

Carly Scholze - Communications Coordinator

Amy Houle - CPF

Grant Franceschini - Principal

Steve MacGregor - Vice-Principal

Approximately 25 parents

Absent:

Julie Lobb - Co-President

Jazz Harding - Treasurer

Rebekah Hunter - Spirit Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order -7:06

2. Additions to Agenda

Deb - under new business, a discussion/vote on spending more $ on school clothing

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Melissa motioned, Kim seconded

4. Reports – Will hold all reports until General Meeting November 18

5. New Business

a) Clothing - Sue Adam; reported that we are almost out of school clothing that was ordered for the beginning of the school year; Sue went through what has sold and what is left; ex. boys hoodies are all sold out, sport shirts all sold out; parents and staff are asking for some as well.

Sue went through the numbers she had prepared to show what was spent, what has been made back and what is proposed for the next order; these numbers have been posted on the PAC board for past two weeks

Sue Adam made a motion to spend the proposed amount presented $4289.50 to purchase more school clothing to sell (does not including tax and shipping)

Melissa seconded; motion passed.

b) Special Funding Requests Approval

- Explanation & procedure – Deborah Rogers

Deb gave an overview of SFR process - how much money is available to spend, who can submit (staff, parents) and how PAC exec meets to go through the requests with administration who give information on the staff priorities in order of what they put forward; taking it all into account we then make a proposed budget to present and vote on at the General Meeting. Proposed budget must and was posted 14 days prior to the General Meeting.

Deb read the proposed budget out item by item.

- Amendment to budget posted (add $657 to Dance Club to bring budget total to $23,000)

- Open Floor for discussion/questions on any SFR items:

Parent - question about Reflex Math - would funds come from another area?

Grant - main decision from staff was that it would be beneficial to have Reflex Math or another program to support classroom instruction; main concern from staff was for very young children that it is not as appropriate; timed component was anxiety provoking; another staff concern was that after having it for a couple of years that some students are done and others are losing interest; they would like to shake it up with alternate programs such as Mathletics - another online program. Mathletics takes care of basic facts as well as processes of math beyond the basic facts ex. place value. It doesn't offer all the benefits of an individual program as Reflex but offers other things as well. Grant pointed out that they are working within a school budget as well so if it's a priority for students then it will come through the school budget not the PAC funding.

Melissa mentioned we could speak to the Mindfulness program only being partially funded by PAC; Grant spoke to the fact that PAC would pay half but school budget would pick up the rest.

Parent: options for the Mindfulness program ; what were they? Deb read the three options and the associated budgets for each.

Parent: given that it is such a large amount of money, could they not introduce it with the instructor for a short time and then the teachers could carry it out to save some money?

Grant - staff felt that having the opportunity to have the chance to do it with their class and the instructor would be best then they would carry it out next year on their own. Facilitator is happy to do information sessions for parents as well as have parents come in and observe. It supports another program that is being done in the school already - the Mind Up program - Grant had brought the book to pass around to look at. Sessions would be to help students to be aware of slowing their bodies down by concentrating on their breathing, looking at attitude and a happy, balanced outlook. Part of physical education program but also part of social emotional program.

Parents concerns: is this just a program targeted at children having difficulty managing their behaviour?

Grant - would argue that it is a program for all of us. Once a week with instructor

on classes doubled up with instructor for entire school year; after that the teacher would lead the strategies; Grant personally believes that the more we can help students be grounded then the more they will be successful. Other questions presented to Grant over last couple of weeks related to yoga or spiritual part of yoga; he explained that in school we do not teach religion so yoga on its own is not something we would focus on but this is more about breathing, getting yourself grounded and centred, Grant did talk to the instructor about it not being a spiritual thing - it's about the brain and body connection and having the student ready to learn.

Mary - asked an emailed parent question about funding. What happens with staff turnover for new school year? Would PAC be expected to pay for new teachers to have training?

Grant - teachers mentors trained this year would train new staff and/or facilitator brought back for a reduced fee to train new staff which school budget could cover.

Parent: as students have it in Primary, would they continue each year on up the grades?

Grant - yes, it would be done up the grades and staff would be comfortable working it into transitions/routines in the classroom.

Parent: Teacher support funds? Why is there no funding put forward?

Deb: This was just the 'increase' that was not funded; the regular budget has it in it.

Melissa - the 'must have' budget still has the main items that are a "given" each year - PAC has two budgets - an operational one and the SFR one.

Mikiala - genius hour - should we talk about it for new parents?

Steve: this has become a more action based lesson like family groupings and Deep Cove went about changing those pods to have them be theme based such as last year's "genius hour" where different programs were done with groupings of all ages. They are exploring whether we can get that going again in the Spring and how to implement it on either a smaller scale or one that is less labour intensive for teachers and more time efficient for students ex. transitioning to other classes or more popular choices that are offered in greater quantity. Something will happen but it may not look like it did last year.

Grant: it may be something like a few grade levels offer things and there may be less choices but easier to organize one group at a time to do it rather than the whole school at the same time. Idea is that the offering might be more substantial and easier to manage.

Parent: question about Christmas concert and the timing of that; commented that we have a lot on our plate at that time of year and is this the best time to do it? Why not a concert in the Spring?

Tess Town spoke to this: she had idea two years ago and last year was the late start to school year with Job Action, so there was our usual Christmas assembly with carols on the screen; Tess remembered doing concerts that were the highlight of the year when she was in school so had the idea of bringing it back to the school and have it the last week of the school - proposed date currently is Dec 15th; an afternoon and an evening performance

Parent: liked the idea of the concert but doesn't want it and parent volunteer involvement to take away from the Fair.

Parent: why don't we do a Spring Concert given that some parents have already said that they would not be participating as just too busy a time of year.

Tess - they had talked of doing one during the day so that some could come then.

Parent; can appreciate that some may not be up for it but for those that can then they will come.

Tess - kids get really excited about it and it has nothing to do with bringing funds in; it is just for fun.

Melissa - is excited to do it and get the stage back for school use not just used as storage but worried about people volunteering for Fair and concert and burnout for it.

Tess - has talked to Bridget and shared that even with a large parent population that the same parents come out to volunteer for everything and she also does not want to pull support away from the fair. First meeting is being set for next Tuesday and she will update from there.

Parent: love the idea of Christmas concert on our own stage, thinks it is an awesome idea and that it is crazy to do it same month as our Christmas Fair but change is

good, see what it's like and go from there.

Parent: if whole amount to fund Christmas Concert wasn't approved tonight, would it still happen?

Tess- most of the money is for art supplies and a few costume rentals - Grinch theme - and for a few supplies; actual budget was higher but Tess didn't feel comfortable asking for all of it.

Parent: to Grant, where are the staff at? Are they feeling they can pull it off?

Grant - yes, basically have unanimously said they can support it. If it was a spring musical it helps time constraints but Tess' theme is of the Grinch so the teachers supported that.

Parent: the other thing is with the Fair then the families that don't celebrate Christmas would have something else to do if the concert was in the Spring?

Parent: question to Tess; you will do a call out for all those interest and give times set for when parents can commit and ask if they can for both shows to perform and then once you have that commitment, what is the problem then? This parent stated she is really for it, thinks it's an excellent idea and will give students confidence to perform. To Tess; do you have a draft plan of what the concert will look like?

Tess- yes, have put together pods of students/classes to perform together. Some are dancing, some are doing poetry, some are singing and some are acting...many types of areas covered; there will be a Christmas committee of kids that would work at lunch hour to help organize.

Kim - in terms of volunteer hours - if there are 2 reps per class - what does that look like?

Tess - in classroom help; it can be anything that the teacher would need help with ex. create a stocking and do a poem to go with it so teacher may decide to have a helper but will depend on the teacher and what they decide to take on. Outside of that it will be for crafting at home, donating materials, music people to help; it just really depends on position - a letter from Tess to class reps with list of roles and what is needed will be given soon.

Deb - whether concert goes forward or not is not what our discussion is about tonight - it's to vote on the funding requests; called for any other questions

related to budget.

Bridget - can you speak to the Growing schools issue and what the maintenance staff has to do with it?

Deb - 2 requests were given for natural play areas - one was a parent request and one was a staff request; Grant confirmed that there is currently a problem with building new nature-scapes for the District maintenance crew and how to maintain the fields etc at this time. The other part of funding request is for garden development that ties in to a curriculum piece with a person (Mr Organic) who comes in to facilitate and will need new garden beds to do it. Grant - what the whole program looks like is somewhat dependent on what is available to use such as courtyard area.

Parent: grade 4 leadership activities - was this amount approved last year as well?

Deb - Yes, it was.

No more questions so proceeded to vote on submitted items.

Deb - presented each item and group voted on each by a show of hands.

All items passed as presented - SFR budget approved!

6. Upcoming Events

Haunted House - Kim - this is her last year to do it and has enough volunteers for this year but if anyone wants to make anything that would remain at the school that would be welcome. This year there was a small budget to spend so a few things have been purchased to remain at the school and a few parents have made things that store well for each year. If anyone would like to donate items, they can and others can bring things, labelled with their name that can be used once and returned at end of the day. It's on Friday, Oct. 30th. The volunteer group spend the whole day decorating stage and at end of day when on the costume parade the kids walk through; it is 'toned down' for younger kids and 'ramp it up' for older. Any child may opt out of doing it.

CPF – Bonne Nuit & Magazine Drive

Amy Houle - magazine drive - trying to put it all online this year; all the $ goes back

into school for FI and for FSL programs. That will happen in November

Bonne nuit - scheduled for November 25th

7. Next Meeting

General Meeting – November 18

8. Adjournment - 8:39