Deep Cove PAC General Meeting

September 14, 2016

1. **Call to order: 7:02**

2. **Additions to Agenda:**

   -Shelley Mc Cliggott proposed to reinvest leftover monies from playground equipment (slide) into G.I.C.
   - Lisa Makar motioned to approve, Lisa Tonken seconded

3. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting:**

   -Shelley McCliggott motioned to approve, Mikaila Christie seconded

4. **Approval of new timelines for SFR Process:**

   -The previous September deadline for SFR's (Special Funding Requests) was deemed unacceptable, given that September is already a very hectic month.

   -The new timelines will allow parents more time to participate, and give teachers and administrators more time to organize and prepare.

   April 19th- SFR's due, and can be dropped off to the office.
   May 17th- Draft SFR budget distributed for review.

5. **September 30th – Deadline for last year's funds to be disbursed:**

   Brown bag lunch program- check to see if items need to be replenished.

   School In Need- Lisa Makar has reached out to COPACS to determine appropriate candidates for funding.

6. **Volunteer Opportunities:**

   Volunteer Co-Coordinator Collette Hopkins discussed "The Package" being sent home in the next few days containing sign-up forms for parent volunteers. This is parents' opportunity to get

involved in the various programs, celebrations, and fundraising efforts that help to make our Deep Cove School community such a special one. Whether you have the time to coordinate an event or program, or can spare an hour intermittently, there is a place for you to contribute.

In particular, we are in need of people to step up for:

-**Walking Wednesdays (Bonus! You get to wear the spectacular dolphin costume!)**

-Toast Club

-Recycling Program

-Class Reps (liaisons between the classrooms and the PAC)

7. Discussion Topics:

PAC priorities for the coming year:

-Parent Education

-Building School Community

Parent Education Coordinator, Mikaila Christie, opened a discussion about the prevalence of anxiety and other mental health issues in modern society, especially among children. She has been reaching out to various social workers and mental healthcare specialists with the aim of providing more support to parents and their children, who may be struggling with these issues. Other districts have recently hosted lectures on the topic of childhood anxiety, and were met with overwhelming interest from their communities. Mikaila wondered whether there would be enthusiasm among Deep Cove parents to host a lecture here, or to perhaps create a broader base of interest through COPACS. A survey was suggested as a possible means of gauging interest. A conversation about finding balance in our complicated, digitized, world ensued.

Books by Deb McNamara, Gordon Nuefeld, and Richard Louvre were recommended for anyone wishing to explore this topic further.

A reminder that there are parent resources available at our school library.

Administration's Report:

Grant Francescini was pleased to report a very smooth start to the year, with 317 students attending, and a stable and enthusiastic staff!

Our Birthday board near the main entrance to the school is becoming our “Beliefs board”, and a TV screen is soon to be installed in this location to highlight upcoming events, etc. As part of student leadership initiatives, children may be able to earn “announcement priveledges”.

Under the guidance of Mme Burke, students are learning a special school song, which will be performed for parents at an upcoming assembly! We are also excited to begin our multicultural dance sessions, leading up to a performance by the whole school. Our mindfulness program continues this year, and we look forward to including parents by offering tools to bring mindfulness home.

We are continuing to emphasize “Learning by Inquiry”, and have plans to expand our gardening program.

Teachers’ focus this year is on numeracy: Exploring the big ideas of math!

There will be a handbook for parents, regarding the new curriculum. Core skills remain paramount, and our school is at an advantage, as our teachers have been implementing the curriculum changes for more than a year already. Additional information is available on the School District 63 website.

Reminders:

Terry Fox Run is Thursday, September 29th. Come out and run or cheer for a great cause!

Thrifty Foods Fun Run is October 9th. Join your Deep Cove Dolphins team online, and share in our community spirit!

Adjournment: 8:13