

**Lord Tennyson Elementary School
PAC General Meeting
February 28th, 2022
via Zoom**

Meeting called to order at 7:03

Meeting is being recorded on zoom

Meeting agenda approved by unanimous consent

Previous meeting minutes (January 17th, 2022) approved by unanimous consent

Principal's Report

Welcome to Mike McEwan who is stepping in while Bruce is away, thank you to all staff and students for the warm welcome

Construction Update

- Timelines are weather dependant
- Parking lot and basketball courts end of march
- Area between school and playing field, end of April
- Long Jump pit needs asphalt under long jump run up, 30 days for it to cure before rubberized surface can be installed
- Seeding field- early April, trucks will deliver 80 loads of sand needed for base layer of field, flaggers will be provided
- Truck schedule- there is not anywhere for trucks to line up to access the field, they can't block street, getting to school with Broadway line construction is challenging right now
- Once the field is seeded, grounds will determine how long until it's cured, anticipating October-November
- Rubberizing big kids' playground, end of March due to weather
- There was a surplus in PEP grant (this paid for the rubberized surfacing in the big kids' playground), grounds has collaborated with Dave from Habitat (playground construction company) to see what accessible equipment can be added, funding needs to be spent by end of March so equipment has been ordered and will be installed by end of the year, photos have been sent and can be shared

Playground Delays

- Questions and comments from parent community:
 - Why couldn't bad weather have been anticipated? Decisions are made ahead and there isn't much room to be flexible
 - Kids have nothing to do outside and it has been this way for year
 - Playground has only been open for a month and then was closed for rubberizing
 - Parents are frustrated with changes in timeline, everything was supposed to be ready by Christmas
 - Need an advocate and someone to keep construction company accountable
 - PAC is asking for weekly updates from Micheal Rossi/ Project office, and wants to review the upcoming schedule to see if there's anything that might cause further encroachment on outdoor space and whether this work can this be delayed
 - Mr. McEwan will communicate these concerns to Micheal Rossi and ask if there will be any upcoming disruptions
 - How can we improve what is there now i.e new equipment, making Connaught Park trips more exciting

Connaught Park and Recess Activities

- Interest from grad 6 and 7's has been low, it was decided that if there was less than 15 kids they wouldn't go, grade 4's and 5's were more interested
- Ball cage- can upgrade balls in ball cage
- Gym is available twice a week for recess, this is mainly for grade 7's so that they can make the most of the rest of their time at Tennyson, Kateryna will open the gym as much as she can
- Request for more supervision aides to help manage kids while our space is reduced, opinion that it is the VSB's responsibility to provide adequate space or extra people to manage limited space that we have

Vice Principal's Report

- Guidance from VSB remains the same, any overnight trips have been suspended, interprovincial trips have been suspended until end of June
- Anti Bullying and kindness- assembly was filmed and presented, Grade 5's made posters for anti bullying
- Earth Day is being worked on, this will be filmed, some students started a campaign to raise money to save oceans

- Grade 7 is Team Leadership but other grades are welcome to ask Mme. Kateryna to participate
- Buddy classes will resume, requirements to wear masks and keep the same buddies
- Peer tutoring can start again
- Mmes. Christine, Adrienne and Renee will be doing a science fair event this Friday, stations will be spaced out

Quebec Updates

- **Quebec Futures**
 - This is the guiding committee for each year's Quebec exchange, they hold the knowledge for how the trip is run and provide guidance each year for the year that is in planning stage
 - They manage the Quebec Futures Fund (QFF), this was originally set up to help with funding the exchange if the grant application isn't successful, if grant is not received, the cost doubles, the current balance is just over \$80,000 which is approximately the amount that would cover the grant amount for 2 years, depending on number of kid and costs
 - There is a lot of info about Quebec exchange on PAC website
 - Committee members have graduated, there are currently 2 or 3 people on the committee, more volunteers are needed, 3 meetings a year, low time commitment
- Quebec 2022 is requesting a vote to change the schedule, the funds are meant to be used towards the Quebec exchange as outlined and a vote is needed for any deviation from that plan, if these funds are not used they go back to PAC or to QFF to top up their fund, this money is raised primarily from within Tennyson community
- These are similar to the activities students would have done in exchange, it was difficult to find French led activities given staffing shortages due to covid, looking into hiring a speaker to talk about executive function, transition to high school

Voting Resolution

The Quebec 2022 committee, in lieu of The Quebec Exchange (VSB currently is not allowing any overnight trips), are requesting up to \$6,900 for curricular activities that include leadership, cognitive, physical and social / emotional benefits for the class of 2022. Proposed activities include: indoor volleyball, forest rope course, archery, speakers and a class BBQ. All activities still need VSB and teacher approval and will meet all VSB and PHO health and safety guidelines. The funding is requested to come out of the \$19,860 fundraised by the

Quebec 2022 families. Any unused amounts will remain in the Quebec 2022 bank account. The teachers are also planning to continue with the local field trips that typically happen on the Vancouver side for up to \$5,500 that would also come out of the \$19,860. The remainder would be \$7,460. Motion passed by majority vote.

Quebec Updates Continued:

- Any overnight or high risk field trips require approval of VSB outside of administration and teachers (swimming, snowshoeing, skiing, camp etc.), teacher and administration need to submit a form for this
- Quebec 2020- transferred their funds into PAC account \$1500 went towards grad 2021, \$8500 allocated towards new scoreboard in gym
- Quebec 2020-accounting bank statements have been received, transfer to PAC account expected in next few weeks, \$36,000 approx, \$15,000 will be paid forward towards Grad 2022, with remainder going towards outdoor classroom (pending PAC approval)
- Quebec 2023- is fundraising this year, interest in taking on brick fundraiser (1500 bricks reclaimed from old school building)
- Quebec 2024- time to start thinking about this
- Request for more communication around Quebec fundraising, there was some discussion around fundraising for something that may not actually happen (i.e due to cancellations because of covid), fundraising has to take place well in advance of an event and has to start at a certain time, 2020 fundraising continued optimistically, hoping that trip would go ahead, fundraising has been scaled back, this new alternative to an exchange shows that other possibilities can happen even if the trip can't go ahead

Treasurer's Report

- Kickstart- thank you to all families who have contributed, \$7867 rolled over from last year \$15,415 this year, total just over \$23,000 towards operating budget of \$39,000, currently have a surplus so haven't been pushing for more funds
- Two main fundraisers that make up operating budget, Kickstarter and Math or Spell A Thon (alternating years)
- Last year had Fun A Thon without fundraising
- Spring Fling, can be fundraiser for PAC or just for fun
- Math or Spell A thon this year- can be a fundraiser or a charity event
- Looking for volunteers for Spring Fling and A thon
- Would be great to get back to some of these traditions if we are allowed

Budget Expenditures

- \$60,000 projected surplus going into 2022/2023, \$36,000 from Quebec 2021, some leftover Quebec 2020 money, funds left from activities that couldn't be run due to covid
- PAC would like to put out a survey to ask parent community about priorities for using these funds
- Quebec 2021 legacy project- students would like to use funds for an outdoor classroom or community garden, other options include weather cover, sports training (professional coaching for basketball or volleyball) arts programming
- PAC Spending this year
 - \$3000 on additional stationary bikes for grade 3 and 4 classes
 - \$4000 for parent speakers which is not all spent
 - \$4000 to be moved into school accounts for teachers to spend on art supplies and musical instruments (based on teacher requests)
 - \$5750 in funds that go directly to teachers for them to spend on classroom needs
 - \$2000 for Je Lis Je Lis and Kids A to Z
 - \$12,000 allocated for school equipment but has not been allocated for anything yet, teachers are always asking for more ipads, if nothing else comes up by April funds will go to this
 - PAC budget can be viewed on website

Key Updates

- **Friday Lunch** for grades 6 and 7
 - there is interest among parents about upper intermediates leaving school grounds for lunch
 - Mr. McEwan does not want to make a decision in Bruce's absence, will revisit after spring break if it doesn't seem like Bruce will be returning
 - There have been reports of noise and vandalism by students leaving school grounds
 - Need to communicate code of conduct and expectations to grade 7's
 - Comment that students need to be able to fail and be trusted as high school will be tougher
 - Students have had a rough 2 years and lack of outdoor space has been an issue
 - Increased phone use on school ground (this issue and Tennyson's rules around phone use at school to be addressed at another meeting)
 - Suggestion to offer social/emotional programs to older students

- **Volunteers Needed** for Spring Fling and A thon
- **Noon Hour Program** (taking place in portable, chess, guitar) on hold until Bruce's return,
- **Sports Programs**- currently difficult with staggered lunch, gym is often used for upper intermediates to lessen amount of kids in limited outdoor space, basketball is happening but games are on hold, Friday teacher opens gym for kids to play ball from 8:15-9:00

- **Parent Speaker Series**
 - Safer Schools Together parent component is being offered by Kits High
 - Booking 2 more speakers (nutritionist and elder Kat Norris)
 - Remaining budget- only \$1000 of \$4000 spent, some speakers were offered by other schools to us without charge, looking at doing both parent and student speakers
- Halloween Howl boxes- Email howlcoordinators@lordtennyson.ca if you have a box you want to get rid of
- Earthquake Bin- waiting on new bin

Diversity and Inclusion

- Pink shirt day- 74 pink shirts were sold
- Small pin on pink shirts were made by older grades and given to teachers for students who didn't have a pink shirt and wanted to participate
- Reminder when promoting events/ sales that subsidy is available for any students who need it

DPAC Update

- Monday 7pm omicron meetings are ongoing, there is an excel doc with questions and notes on which have received answers, adding to it as new questions come in
- Multi Age Cluster Classrooms (MACC)- DPAC submitted a petition of support, had previously written to VSB regarding concerns about the consultation process
- Special presentation on February 24th with experts on neurodiversity and education on the topic of MACC programs and proposed changes
- Music working group- this group is advocating for equitable access to music across school board
- DPAC hosted David Greene, secretary of VSB, who presented on the 2022/23 status quo budget, a questionnaire went out, budget to be approved for following school year

- Links to recorded presentations and documents mentioned available on DPAC website

Volunteer Positions open

- PAC executive positions
- Email blast coordinator
- BlastMath/Spell A Thon
- Spring Fling

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07pm

Next PAC Meeting Monday April 11th, 7pm