

**Lord Tennyson Elementary School
PAC General Meeting
April 11th, 2022
via Zoom**

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Meeting is being recorded on zoom

Meeting agenda approved by unanimous consent

Previous meeting minutes (February 28th, 2022) approved by unanimous consent

Construction Update from Michael Rossi- District Principal Education Planning

- Michael's role- was previously an elementary teacher, moved into admin, then to district office
- Natasha (project manager) has expertise to liaise with project office, is pushing to get things done
- Communication goes through project manager, not directly to contractor
- Acknowledgement that project is dragging on and that there have been a number of different delays, many unforeseen, Michael has believed timelines and acknowledges that these have not been met
- Current labour shortages for trades and scheduling challenges, everything requires different trade
- Many outstanding items are weather dependent (concrete, rubberizing)
- Inspections which were to be easy were not, there was a slab under the concrete that cracked, couldn't put concrete on top, had to be cut further into street and needed to be reinspected, inspector was not working
- Looking at how project can be phased to get exterior areas back ASAP, everything doesn't have to be completed all at once, but as quickly as possible
- To be completed by end of April- light posts in parking lot, fencing and seeding of field, long jump area (plus time for curing and rubber), plants, basketball nets, lines painted
- Asphalt mobilization April 12- equipment will be there, working on base to compact the ground enough to lay asphalt, next week asphalt will be laid
- Playground- just reopened, will try to complete work around the playground area after school hours to keep the playground open, this may cause further delays, looking for different ways to work around playground including working during non peak hours

- **Questions and Concerns from Tennyson Community**

- Is there someone who can interpret timelines and realities of grounds then communicate to the school community?
- How is project office kept accountable and how can school community find out if the project is being pushed forward
- How do we get them to prioritize our project and empathize with students rather than with contractors, doesn't seem like project office has considered the impact on kids
- How do we put pressure and get accountability when there are no "consequences"
- Contractors should foresee and plan for delays such as weather
- Suggestion to look at the project in pieces, what can be prioritized and completed?
- Field seeding- concern around long term implications of missing deadline of field seeding, was to be seeded early April and would then be accessible in Oct/ Nov, if seeding is delayed then will access be delayed?
- When the basketball court and parking lot are available, will these be accessible? (fencing is required for safety- Michael said that when it's opened it will be safe and ready)
- Concern about the grass field- will it turn to mud? Sand base is supposed to be much better for drainage, has irrigation system

- **Updates from Project Office**

- How can the school community get regular updates? Updates are currently coming about once a month, concern from Michael that putting together updates would take time away from asking questions, he is committed to communicating delays immediately, feels that monthly communication is sufficient, doesn't want to take Natasha's time away from her communication with contractors
- Can contractors communicate directly with VSB/Tennyson so it doesn't take up Michael/ Natasha's time?
- Safety concerns are different than project updates- Michael has asked for heads up on these kinds of things, how can the community be alerted ASAP when these come up?
- Michael will talk to Natasha about what they can commit to in terms of updates

Principal's Report

- Mike gave some background on himself, his family, education etc. now that he is staying in his role at Tennyson for the rest of the term
- Enjoying his time at Tennyson as he gets to know students and staff
- Organizing for next year- student numbers and staffing
- Planning for Welcome to Kindergarten program, parents will be receiving notice of acceptance
- Letter being sent home about attendance at Tennyson next year
- Letter requesting input for placement in classes to ensure student needs are met (cannot be a request for a particular teacher, or to *not* have particular teacher)
- Looking at starting noon hour programs, working with space limits right now, gym being used to make more space on the playground, sensitive about staff comfort level about having outside instructors use their classroom
- Grade 7's off campus- wishes of parents have been heard, conversation is ongoing about how this might work
- Garden plan has been shared- waiting on approval, includes low fence with gate and planter boxes on top of limestone ground cover
- Point taken about the admin's response to sidewalk closure, Mike was out on sidewalk to encourage people to go to the end of street to the crosswalk, encouraged parents to help their children cross to school safely and set good examples, please use crosswalks, don't jaywalk

Vice Principal's Report

- Working with kids on educational and extracurricular activities, this month's theme is Earth Day, grade 7's as well as 5 and 6 kids are putting together a virtual assembly, assembly will be virtual as there is not enough time to rehearse enough to do a live presentation
- Basketball- had 4 games last week, kids are very excited to participate, parents have been able to come to games, great coaches, will continue until May 2nd
- Indigenous Pro D for teachers, 2 presenters for intermediate students, Tracy Heely presented on Indigenous weaving, students made looms from recycled pizza boxes, primary grades will have a presentation in May
- Amanda White, talking about social justice in April
- Sports Day- set for June 10th, half of Connaught Park has been booked, parents can serve lunch as fundraiser, individual portions preferable
- Track and field- not sure if it will start because of lack of space and logistics

Quebec Updates

- Quebec Futures- needs more members, need 5-6 people to have functioning committee
- Quebec 2021 has transferred \$36,635.86 to PAC (\$7500 will be redirected to QFF as voted on)
- Quebec 2022 is organizing trips for the end of year
- Quebec 2023 is fundraising, looking at brick fundraiser
- Quebec 2024 is on the radar, families looking for more info so they can have time to think about this
- Quebec 2021 had indicated that their preference would be to have their funds go towards an outdoor classroom, PAC would vote on this, (estimating doing this in Sept), currently looking at costs and what grounds will look like once everything is complete

Treasurer's Report

- Some funds have been approved by PAC exec but not spent
- \$18,000 budget spent, \$21,000 left to spend
- \$12,000 left in school equipment, looking at replacing ipads unless another need is identified

Key Updates

- **DPAC**
 - Moved forward with music working group (modeled after Tennyson noon hour programs) working on district wide extra curricular program that would include choral, looking for PAC support (Tennyson has indicated their support), would be PAC led initiative to ensure equity
 - Working groups- childcare committee, facilities planning committee (school closures, selling school land, long range facilities planning, consultation on closure of Queen Elizabeth Annex)
- **Diversity and Inclusion**
 - Flags- additional materials to hang flags (weights, eyelets) have been ordered
 - Resource Table- committee is planning a resource table for May (brochures, posters, coffee, pre-packaged treats)
 - Pink Shirt Day Funds- Mme. Devon is working with grade 7 students to vote on where the extra funds from Pink Shirt Day Sales will be donated

Funding Requests

Request for \$150 from the Accessibility and Inclusion budget line item for the Diversity and Inclusion committee resource table to be spent as needed, approved by unanimous consent

Next PAC Meeting May 16th, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm