Lord Tennyson Elementary School

PAC General Meeting

April 20, 2020

via Microsoft Teams

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Approval of January General Meeting Minutes - Barbara Arenson and Karen Davies

Approval of February General Meeting Minutes - Karen Davies and Barbara Arenson

Treasurers Report - Nasser Esfahani

* we are OK financially - we have only spent about 1/4 of our budget to date
* we have some funds to allocate to at-home programs if necessary
* refunds for noon hour programs and hot lunches will hopefully be by e-transfer
* we are still on track to pay for playground and technology for new school

Key Topics

* Math-a-thon and Spring Fling - both cancelled
* Goodbye Tennyson - postponed until next fall
* Hot lunches - cancelled on a weekly basis, money will be returned as credit on Munch-a-Lunch account
* Noon Hour Programs - cancelled and money returned to Munch-a-Lunch account
* Families can then either leave money as credit or request a refund by e-transfer
* Parent speaker - Nicola Doughty April 27 7:05-8:30 going ahead via Teams
* We were to have Saleema Noon in May, but it has been cancelled
* nothing further is planned for speakers this year
* Playground resurfacing - we have a student coming into Kindergarten in a wheelchair -would like to have rubberized surface for the primary playground at least. We have applied for 2 grants, 1 we did not get and the other has been suspended due to COVID
* Tennyson Community Events/Programs - idea floated at PAC exec meeting to sponsor sessions of some sort over Teams - maybe yoga or dance - email will be forthcoming if/when this is put together
* Volunteer opportunities - always looking for volunteers!

Principal's Report - Doug Roch

* Thanks to parents for eveything you're doing for family and school communtiy
* Tennyson 2020- no update at this time, move date still scheduled for August
* Teacher's wish list for new building - they'd rather get into new space first and then build wish list based on experience
* Still awaiting staffing from district before we can look to create classes - need first to know how many divisions there will be
* We have 423 students now, with a wait list in all grades
* Please let office know ASAP if your children aren't returning in the fall
* Welcome to Kindergarten for Sept 2020 - will do something virtually to welcome incoming kindergarten class
* All district and school meetings are being held virtually now

Continuity of Learning

* This is the name of the new at-home instruction
* Challenging situation for staff to learn technology platforms
* Very challenging for kids not seeing friends and teachers
* Many families are overwhelmed
* By now teachers have been in contact with parents
* Teaching looks different from class to class and from school to school
* Teachers are working on BC curriculum with main focus being literacy and numeracy
* Grades K-3 5 hours per week is mandated by Ministry, some online and some paper based learning
* Grades 4-7 5-7 hours per week
* Priorities - #1 health and safety of staff and students, #2 Communication and connections

Question and Answer Session with Doug Roch

* Q - What if parents don't speak French?
* A - Definitely a challenge, don't be afraid to use online translation tools. Don't be afraid to ask teacher for help, usually teachers are able to provide help on the spot
* Q - Who decides when classes will resume?
* A - The BC Government and the Provincial Health Officer
* Q - What if a student needs extra support?
* A - Learning Assistance and Resource Recovery Teachers have been contacting teachers about certain students and reaching out to parents - Helen Ritchie, school councillor, is also reaching out to students via their parents, she is offering help to anyone who needs it
* Q - If parents haven't heard from regular resource teachers yet shuld they contact their classroom teacher?
* A - Yes, please don't hesitate to contact teacher at any time
* Q - Printers - is there a possibility of help with printing assigned materials
* A - Yes, let teacher know if you are having difficulty getting things printed, maybe there is an alternate way to submit work, or maybe school can print for you
* Q - Could teachers indicate what is essential work and what is supplemental?
* A - Yes, Doug will share feedback with teachers
* Q - Could teachers please communicate list of curriculum that is left to be covered this year?
* A - Yes, Doug will post link to curriculum
* Q - Grade 7 graduation - what will this look like ?
* A - There is a committee for the grade 7 graduation, but of course we don't know what will be allowed in June, maybe something while adhering to social distancing - time will tell what the graduation will look like but there will definitely be something
* Q - Will there be direct contact/check-in conversations with teachers?
* A - Yes, more so in primary grades but goal is for regular check in with all students - If you feel your child would benefit from this please let teacher know
* Q - Assessment - will children be issued report cards in June?
* A - Yes, most teachers use CSL but some use traditional letter grade report cards - Ministry says there must be final written summary reports - more information to come as it is available

Doug's final comment is for parents to reach out to teachers if they have any questions as you would normally do during the school year.

**Next meeting Mon May 25** Meeting Adjourned at 8:15