

Devon Gardens PAC Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 2, 2014

Opening:

- Welcome and call to order by PAC chair Keith Punshon 7:00 PM
- Sign in sheet of members present passed around
- Reading of last minutes and agenda

In Attendance:

Gina Moniz, Keith Punshon, Jessica Jensen, Dianna DeBlaere, Claire George, Dave Hope, Colleen Ryley, Jana Methven, Janelle Lindahl

- Approval of Agenda 1st by Gina Moniz 2nd by Jessica Jensen
- Approval of Minutes 1st by Gina Moniz 2nd by Jessica Jensen

Principal's Report- Claire Geroge

Student Led Conferences- Feb. 11 and 12, Wednesday and Thursday, will be student led conferences and there will be early dismissal.

Jump Rope for Heart and other events- We had a kick off assembly today and February 19 is the event. There has been a real increase in jump rope at recess. There is an Australian footie information assembly. Basketball is up and running. We are looking at April 11 for playground installation.

Rain Garden – There is a rain garden being put in on the left hand side away from school. It will stay away from where the old tree and clothing bin are. We have requested to have the municipality to put in trees from their program. The grade 4/5 classes will work as ambassadors to care for and promote it.

New Teachers- Valerie Sutter has taken over for Mme Schwarz. She is from the Francophone district. We have lost our counsellor Jason Saul and Adam Hayden has joined our school. He is working in the south end and at lacrosse school. His position is currently 0.12 and in September he will be .4. We have a priority to get other supports and people available to fill in and cover as needs arise. At the end of January we have gone from three to two Kindergarten noon hour supervisors. There is EA support in those rooms so there should be a good transition.

School Planning Council- More information will be coming near the end of the year. We have good evidence from past years. We are looking at our plan with staff to evaluate the direction we are going in. We may take the best of this model and mix it with new procedures.

New sexual identity and gender program- We are continuing to be a caring and safe learning environment for all students. We want to be caring and accepting of all people, make no assumptions, and welcome everyone no matter how they identify themselves. The goal is to make kids feel comfortable and safe.

Concern from staff- Student drop off and pick up at the beginning and end of the day has gotten chaotic. Parents are crowding closer to release doors. Teachers should be taking classes to the post

where they pick up classes in the morning to dismiss children. Suggestions include having cones, have Grade 2 and up kids come to parents, only stand by class line up area. Reminders will be given at student led conferences and in the newsletter and notices home.

Reports from Executive Officers

1. Chair: Keith Punshon

-no report

2. Vice Chair: Jessica Jensen

-The Delta trustees were at the last DPAC meeting. Some of the issues discussed were advertising Delta schools, communication between the district, schools, parents, and students, safety issues (ie. crossings), and community fundraising.

3. Treasurer: Gina Moniz

-see financial report

4. Secretary: Janelle Lindahl

-see minutes.

5. Gaming Representative: Michelle Jordan

-The gaming report for the 50/50 was sent in.

6. District Parent Advisory Council: Keith Punshon

-no report

7. Canadian Parents for French: Annick Lavender

-no report

8. School Planning Council: Keith Punshon, Carolyn Stanley, Annick Lavender, Janelle Lindahl, David Hope

-The SPC is changing. We have collected results from past years towards our school goals. We are now ready to evaluate the goals and whether it is time to make some changes. We may possibly take the best of current practice and add new goals.

9. Members at Large: Selene Adams, Carolyn Stanley, Elin Hoffman, Diane DeBlare

Reports from Committee Members

1. Emergency Preparedness: Keith Punshon, Gina Moniz, Jessica Jensen, Carolyn Stanley

-We are looking for more shelters and bleach for sanitation.

2. Special Lunch Coordinators: Selene Adams, Janelle Lindahl

-Taco Time was last Friday. We have popcorn day coming up and hot dogs at the end of the month.

3. PAC Classroom Coordinators: Elin Hoffman

-no report

Unfinished Business

-PAC is wondering about doing a whole school presentation this year. A theater company through Art

Starts is coming in April. We would like a workshop that includes all the students in music or art possibly. Next year there is a push with new provincial curriculum focus on Aboriginal themes. It could be something the school is moving forward on (ie. Technology) to contribute towards. People are feeling like things are crammed in this year so we don't want to add too much. There are lots of extra disruptions happening right now so it might be better to carry this forward into next year. Something like a whole school musical is a whole month of scheduling chaos. We could provide extra funding for busses for a field trip option this year. Because this is a shortened year, teachers are changing benchmarks and time is going so quickly. Administration is hesitant on pushing a global initiative as people are feeling crunched with time. We are cautious about proceeding and adding anything extra since we have a dedicated staff that are doing extra curricular where other schools are not running all that extra stuff. We have settled in since January with normal school routine.

New Business

-Kindergarten registration February 18. The district is doing a marketing campaign for Delta on radio for an enrollment push. There is a letter in the south end papers celebrating entrepreneurial and other activities and events and the importance of maintaining neighbourhood schools.

-There are major potholes in the lower parking lot. Grading is supposed to be happening but don't know when it will be. We will start chaining up lower parking lot.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 2

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Prepared by Janelle Lindahl