

## **Strathcona PAC Meeting November 7, 2018**

Lord Strathcona Elementary School cafeteria

6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Meeting

Notes taken by Krista Sigurdson, PAC secretary

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### **Old Business**

#### **Review of minutes from 2018-09-26**

We don't have minutes from last meeting to discuss. We've added some new PAC board members.

- Current board is:

Alec Smecher	Chair
April Rose	Vice Chair
Lena Chen	Treasurer
Erica Xu	Treasurer
Allan Williams	Aboriginal Liaison/Elder
Kennedy Goodkey	Communications
Eva Sam	Communications
Michelle Wing	Volunteer Coordinator
Vicky Huang	Member At Large
Katie Schindler	Member At Large (chair of playground committee)
Krista Sigurdson	Secretary
Andrea Glickman	Member At Large

Two PAC events: Spring fair and Movie night.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Message from the Vice Principal (Janine Lamb)**

##### ***Communicating Student Learning***

Janine Lamb gave an update on communicating student learning (CSL): the purpose is to align our reporting with the other schools. If your child is in one of the divisions that is doing it, you will have gotten a letter. Eventually, all will be enrolled. Move towards formative assessment. CSL will involve two formal reports – one December, one June. Good ways to pull families together about learning. All schools in the province will be using this model. No letter grades anymore. Will be happening across elementary and high school. Mini schools will

understand that no letter grades are being piloted. Won't have any impact on mini school applications.

### ***School Grounds***

Janine gave an update on School grounds. They are aware of concerns about overnight usage, debris being left around.

- Leaves being left in lower yard are being cleaned up this week.
- In an urban environment: education of kids is key. Kindergarten kids got educated. Need more for primary and secondary kids.
- We've noticed more graffiti. If you see anything, let us know. We don't always know about it.

### ***Remembrance Day Assembly***

Tomorrow is a Remembrance Day assembly.

### ***Movie Night***

Movie night tomorrow night. Janine to send out reminder email.

### ***School Website***

Parent asked about improving school website and communications with parents. Janine told PAC that website is being redone in November and currently can't even update it.

## **2. Intersection Safety Keefer/Jackson**

Parent raised issue that there is no 4 way stop at Keefer/Jackson. Had put in request with city for 4 way stop. Discussion of whether there is a crossing guard program. There used to be a volunteer crossing guard program but Janine reported there was nothing last year. Janine to ask about revitalizing program.

## **3. Walk + Bike + Roll Grant**

Presenters (Judith/Debra) not in attendance. This is a city grant to foster multi-modal transportation.

## **4. Presentation on Britannia Secondary School; IB / Venture Programs (Kim)**

A community school involves a team of teachers, wrap around services. Students at Britannia can access gym, pool, ice rink, day care, also affiliated with senior center etc. Venture is a mini school: Kids held together as a school and blended together with larger school. Our goal is to go wide and deep. E.g. if they are learning surface area, would need to make a robot and incorporate measurements/covering for surface area with premeasured materials. Use evidence based grading. Bring projects that best reflects their learning. "I think this demonstrates my knowledge". Venture goals: create a group of students who are lifelong learners. Should you apply? Yes, if, you have a kid that would be interested. There is a test and an interview and a "grit" test to find out what your perseverance is. Many schools will only look at certain school. Our philosophy is different. Still worth sending your kids to do test.

- Need to register for test is tomorrow. Deadline to actually apply is Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Application to be filled out by student. Should come in their handwriting.
- Parent: I found when I went online to register for test, I had to designate 3 schools. I found this a barrier.
- Kim: agree. Please give that feedback to regional coordinator.
- Venture is grade 8,9,10. If they are interested in IB, students have to apply. Not actually an IB but does help get in.
- IB is a program where in grades 11 and 12 you do 1<sup>st</sup> year university level courses then get credit for them.
- Kids can continue to apply into Venture in 8, 9 or 10.

### **5. Playground Committee Report**

Jason has been at both sub-committee meetings. Looking at different models of what a school redesign would look like. Developing an action plan: identifying things we would need funding for. Involving small scale fundraising, and corporate fundraising. Now at stage where we are figuring out what we would want to even do. Will have much more to report in next meeting. Are getting artist renderings.

- Parents interested in contributing to playground committee are invited to do so by contacting Andrea at [andraglickman@gmail.com](mailto:andraglickman@gmail.com)
- Parent: is there any green or gardening area? Small area.

### **6. Relationships/equity between French and English**

Concern expressed by parents that English program kids have fewer extra opportunities (specifically field trips) and that intermingling between French and English seems to be minimal. As kids get older, could be more intermingling between programs.

- Parent: was told by a teacher that fewer field trips in English classes was a safety issue.
- Janine: not necessarily an issue of getting chaperones. Maybe an issue of different teachers with different classes not feeling like the kids are ready to go out.
- Parent: what about starting with getting a PAC rep from each class.?
- Parent: Is there a way to have a database to sign up with volunteer. Maybe so they could volunteer in other class, other than their kids' own class.
- Parent: does PAC have ability to email parents?
- Alec: Yes, through Janine.
- Parent: We should brainstorm ideas in a further venue.
- Alec: Let's strike subcommittee. Suggested name: "equity sub committee". Summary of ideas: develop volunteer pool, equity sub-committee, integrate PAC representatives from each class, buddy system between kids.
- Layda will facilitate a brainstorming session. Andrea will chair equity sub-committee.

## **Wrap-Up**

- Movie Night, November 8th!
  - o Contact Michelle if you're able to volunteer! Need volunteers: Food at 5:30, movie starts at 6:30.
- Next Meeting December 12