

September 12, 2016
Devon Gardens PAC Meeting
Attendees list attached (see bottom of minutes)

Opening:

Welcome and call to order by PAC chair Keith Punshon 7:05 PM
Sign in sheet of members present passed around
Reading of last minutes and agenda
Motion to open the meeting and adopt agenda –moved and accepted (Diana and Carolyn)
Motion to accept past minutes – moved and seconded (Diana and Carolyn)

Principal and Vice Principal Report

Last name: Duongchan – some find this hard to pronounce – referenced “du-ong-(the wrong) chan (nel) – try this to remember how to pronounce the name

Welcomed all the parents

Vacancies – Grade 7 French; Grade 1+2, Grade 4 Montessori - Principal Duongchan indicated that for the most part, classes were assigned as of late last week and the District requested that they reconfigure classes – it is an unusual circumstance to have vacancies at this time of year - the District requested Devon to look at French classes and to open up an English class - there are nine (9) students looking for Montessori. – current vacancies are in French immersion and Montessori – they are currently looking for staff that are able to manage these programs and interviewing and reviewing applicants currently. Madam Jeffrey has developed the curriculum and is working with the teacher(s) on call – where possible, teachers on call were booked for a longer duration to gain some continuity.

Open house and BBQ on September 22nd – starts at 5:30 – volunteers needed – parents are reminded that this is a meet and greet with the teacher – if more in-depth or specific discussions are required, parents should discuss at parent teacher meetings or with the teacher at another time. Parents are also reminded to supervise their children while at the Open house and BBQ and to clean up after themselves.

PAC Wish list – briefly discussed with teachers and administration – wish list will be forthcoming soon - hoping that PAC will provide the same funding as in the past for each teacher/class – one idea being considered is a cultural (Aboriginal) event which is tentatively booked that financial support may be requested for.

Parking lot and front of school – observations and parent help needed keeping the front parking lot clear of children playing (scooters, bikes, etc...) and as clear as possible for vehicles to get in and out of the parking lot. A quick reminder to parents that there is no parking or dropping off of children in the staff parking lot. Also, as there are a very limited number of handicapped parking stalls (2) and these are fully utilized by students, parents and guardians who are picking up children are asked not to use these spots unless absolutely necessary.

Links in School communications – please be advised that the inability to open links seems to be with certain carriers – those who are encountering difficulties should discuss with their internet carrier.

Paperless School – PAC and school will try to not utilize paper as much as possible. Please ensure that you are checking on the website, parent connect, etc... for updates. Parents are also reminded to ensure that they update Parent Connect information and permission forms.

Keith (Chair) report

Benches – were installed in July

Water fountains – still waiting an update on these – two bottle filling stations are replacing older water fountains so that the children may fill up bottles as opposed to getting a quick drink from the fountains.

Entertainment books – are on the way – all books for all schools were delayed in delivery this year – should be out in end of this week or next.

Vice Chair (Jessica) report – N/A

Treasurer (Carolynn) report

Fund raising schedule – will be posted shortly

Financial documents – reviewed - net profit from fundraising \$15,910.57 – approximately \$23,000 in bank account however yearly funds are yet to be allocated for expenses (e.g. teacher fund, grad luncheon, etc...)

BC Gaming grant – applied for however, it has specific parameters for use (e.g. school jerseys)

Ideas for school improvements/PAC actions, etc... *are welcomed from parents*. All ideas considered and the PAC Executive will review and approve final expenditures. Past ideas have included playground upgrades, sports items, library improvements, teacher funding, water fountains, school performances, etc... Ideas should be emailed to Keith

General Discussion

Food and dietary restrictions – parents are asked to be mindful of restrictions other than peanuts. Children can have all types of sensitivities and allergies and while it is a nice idea to be bringing a treat for the class, it is not fun for all children if they cannot take part. Parents are reminded to ensure that they discuss any restrictions with the teacher and if requested, for broader communication to the class. Suggestions also included bringing a treat box for your child and leaving with the teacher in the event that what is brought is not able to be shared, the child can still have a treat like the other children, baking/bringing in items that fit the dietary restrictions, bringing in non –food items to share with the children

Safety on 112th and Russell Dr – while there is a yellow flashing light near the cross walk that operates during school hours – traffic is still busy and can be fast – community police presence has been of help in keeping drivers to the speed limit through the school zones but more needs to be done. Liaison and contact officers to be approached for further thoughts and suggestions in how these areas can be further highlighted for student safety. New cross walk training to take place with Police for new school monitors shortly.

Secretary (Janelle) report – NA

Gaming Representative (Jessica) report – Gaming grant application made

DPAC (Keith) report – next Monday (19th)

Canadian Parents for French – no representative on this as of yet. Focus on other events that highlight French not just as a language but as a community and culture. Looking for interested parents (French is not a requirement to have)

Members at Large (Elin/Diana/Jenna) report – newsletter coming out – plan to have fundraiser listings out so parents can see what is coming up and when and as well, what they can plan to volunteer for. If parents have ideas of fundraisers, these can be reviewed and added in as necessary.

Dragon's Breath – informal Principal note – this will not replace the regular newsletter

Reports from Committee Members

Emergency Preparedness (Keith) – inventory needs to be taken and there will be a bin fee this year to refresh supplies –**Shake up BC** – drill will be held in October and there will be an optional early (half hour) release – emergency information must be up to date with correct contact information – if daycare providers are designated to pick up your child(ren) this needs to be indicated on the emergency release information on parent connect.

Hot Lunch (Selene) – questioning whether to continue with hot lunch planning and the intent is to move ahead with planning hot lunches – on line registration will be available but those using this service will need to re-register; Popcorn day this Friday (16th) – volunteers always welcomed! Discussed the possibility of adding to the online registration system for items such as planners, emergency bins, etc... however, these are school items and not optional so they will be handled differently at this time.

Unfinished business – installation of the water fountains to take place

Yearbooks (last year) – available at the office if interested

Raingarden – looking for a volunteer parent to work with the kids and maintain the garden – criminal record check required - if interested, please contact Ms. George

Ms. Coelho – has left to work on her Masters as a teacher librarian and is currently working on this at another school in a part time capacity

Water – are the fountains safe to drink from? Yes they are – a couple have regular flushings happening and the bottle filling stations are replacing others

Library – query of the content in the library and if new resources will be forthcoming – Ms. George advised of the upgrades and updates to library resources that has occurred in the recent past - books that were very aged and where there were concerns of glue and ink deterioration were culled. Donations are more than welcomed with the proviso of not being more than 5 years old, relevant, topical, and age appropriate.

Meeting concluded

Next Meeting October 3rd – 7pm in the Library

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Smith

fac meeting sign in Sept 22.
Email

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