

## **Gordon Elementary PAC meeting**

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 6:45pm-8:45pm

Gordon Elementary Library

### **Attending:**

Ingrid Sulston, Heather Young, Miriam Grob, Avril Bain, Mal Finch, Linda Drozdowski, Collen Kern, Gail Johnson, Linda Shaw, Margaret Davidson, Roberta Stuart, Charlotte French, Eva Sereda, Elke Parter, Sheng Wu, Noreen Morris, Niki Blakely, Diana Schmidt, Tricia Wallace, Andrea Chapman.

### **Guest speaker:**

Les Smith from the Community School Team

Les Smith explains the programs they run. Pay if you can system for their classes.

Now on Mondays, there is basketball for 2nd and 3rd graders. Coming up is Wednesday afternoon classes for grade 4/5. Street hockey was suggested, and enthusiastically received by parents.

They rotate the activities around, including non-competitive sport, leadership, and more. They bridge the gap between Gordon and the community, for example partnerships with Big Brother and Big Sister study buddy programs. They are working with Kits Neighbourhood House and Kits Community Centre to work on an Olympic event, maybe a parade with flags of every country. Proposed timing is the Friday beginning the Olympics, 2-4:30pm.

Parent asks about the karate classes and whether they can come to Gordon.

Question on what classes are more geared for girls. A parent proposes vaulting, team sport, not very popular and not well known, offers to show videos about it. Another suggestion: cheerleading.

Margaret asks about a newspaper club, maybe working with the Community School Team on a memory book for all students. Elke is working on getting a newspaper club going.

Roots of empathy classes, not for this year.

Les can also help arrange parenting seminars. Possible topic is cyber bullying, internet safety seminar. Discussion on the speakers on this topic.

Question is asked about what homework clubs do. They have not worked well. Some students actually used it properly, but for many was a punitive action. Logistically, it is very difficult to implement.

### **Quick business:**

1. Approve Sept PAC meeting minutes. Moved by Heather, seconded by Roberta.
2. Still need a DPAC rep, a BCCPAC rep (could be the same person) to keep PAC in touch with district and provincial PAC news. Information will be passed to Roberta to look into. Still need a Kits Liason.
3. Call for School Planning Council members. Margaret elaborated on what that involves: looking at the school goals of literacy and social responsibility. There will be a vote next month for new members.
4. Vote on motions made last month:

\$100 for each teacher for special in class supplies (\$1900 total). Move to accept by Roberta seconded by XXX. 14 in favour 2 abstain. Motion approved!

Starbucks program is explained, if they get enough voluntary hours in, they get to make a donation to the school. Apparently there are issues of money, mixed emotions and opinions, and frustrations.

Loan to grocery card fundraiser (\$4000 in October and \$4000 in November, to enable a bump into a higher profit category, and sell Safeway cards into the Spring term). Niki approves the motion Charlotte seconds, approved unanimously.

### **Registering for schools for next year:**

Clarification of the kindergarten and French Immersion registration process

Margaret explains the new registration process. Registration starts Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. In catchment and siblings guaranteed a spot if they apply before Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Cross boundaries would be after March 31<sup>st</sup>. She asks all of us to tell everyone

of these new dates. For French Immersion, West of Main is catchment's geographic area. If we have more than 16 kids, a draw will be forced.

Information on applying for secondary schools.

Applications for high school are ready for grade sevens, some stay in French, and other possibilities are explained. A parent suggests to go to the open houses to understand better, get the feel for the school.

### **PAC policy on supporting school teams:**

A motion was made and tabled last May to set aside 25% of gaming funds for school teams.

Background information: this year we received \$3850 (half the usual amount) in gaming funds. We usually spend \$1500 on author visits and about \$1700 on music performances. See the table of the teams we currently have.

Should we set a limit to how much school teams can receive from our gaming funds? If so, should we divide it by the semester, so that different teams through the year all receive support?

Discussion on how much money PAC will have this year for team support – with the reduction in gaming funds, it will fall to about \$500 if we spend the usual amount on music performances and author visits.

Margaret is asked if in the past year any team was not able to attend an important event due to lack of funds. She said no. Discussion on the process used to choose the teams – DI came up again.

No decision made on whether to cap the PAC funds, whether to set aside a percentage of gaming funds. Tricia proposed to work with some parents to come up with a proposal to bring to PAC. This was agreed to be a good idea.

### **Direct Donation:**

We raised \$6785. Thank you parents. Wish list from the administration and staff will determine allocation of funds.

Direct donation total was surprising considering the tough economic times. It has been pledged to the parents that that money will be spent in benefit of the whole school. Comments from other parents on the direct donation have been mostly very positive. Margaret describes possible purchases that would be made with these funds: smart boards, LCD projector, speakers, printer for kindergarten room, sit cushions for active kids.

### **Introduction to Destination Imagination:**

Summary of the program by Andrea Chapman.

Non profit international organization. It is for groups of up to 7 kids, and they don't have to be from a school. It requires two or more parent facilitators to run a group, who meet often, generally weekly for about 1.5hrs, over a period of 3-4 months. Two tasks are 1. a "team challenge" that the kids choose from 5 options (science, literature music...) 2. an "instant challenge" that they are given to solve cooperatively, that they haven't seen before. The weekly meetings are working towards the large project, but also practicing small problems within a limited frame. The children have to guide every aspect. The parents are only facilitators. The overall goal is to use creativity and problem solving skills in a cooperative manner. Kids are empowered by these activities. In February there is a tournament, after that there are further tournaments. There are also instant challenges, teams work creatively in problem solving. Benefits: kids love it, they get to know each other, all teams want to do it again. Challenges: time consuming for facilitators.

\$50 dollars to join, \$150 dollars US cap for materials.

A parent requests to see a video of the activity, to understand it better. Margaret shows books of the instant challenges. Ingrid reads one example of a team challenge. The group did an instant challenge, moving cups with strings, controlled cooperatively by a group of 5 people.

Copied pages from the program guide ([http://www.idodi.org/09-10downloads/09-10\\_program\\_guide.pdf](http://www.idodi.org/09-10downloads/09-10_program_guide.pdf)) distributed to several interested parents. More information on the DI website <http://www.idodi.org/>

## **WEST 2 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TEAM**

### **Who are we?**

We are Vancouver School Board employees servicing a geographical area that spans from west of Granville Street and north of King Edward (excluding the downtown core). Our team consists of a Community Schools Coordinator (Les Smith); a Teacher (Kim Doge); a Youth and Family Worker (Lisa Janco); and a number of Activity Programmers (Mike Kulik, Janice Kwan, Serghei Pirau, Chelsea Calder, and Nicole Koeppell).

### **What is our mandate?**

Our purpose is to provide support to the schools in our area in the form of programs and services, with an eye for those students who need additional help. Each role on our team addresses this in specific ways. Our Teacher offers help to classroom teachers either through curriculum support, testing and assessments of students, or direct service to students when required. Our Youth and Family Worker offers one-to-one support for students, as well as working with groups of students on social and emotional needs. Our Programmers provide after school programs, leadership and volunteer opportunities, and lunchtime programs. The Coordinator provides administrative and logistical support, as well as liaison with Schools, PACs, Community Agencies, Partners, etc.

### **What are we providing at General Gordon?**

Currently, we are offering the following at GG:

- MoreSports Basketball Program (grades 2/3)
- Noon Hour Games Leaders (grades 4,5,and 6)
- Wednesday Afterschool Program (in planning)

### **What more can we do?**

This will depend upon what the needs are at General Gordon and if we are able to meet those needs. We are able to provide YFW support, plus Teacher support on a request basis. If you have a program or service that you wish to have, please contact us and we will see if that is something that we can assist with.

### **Contact:**

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