

**MINUTES OF ECOLE DOROTHY LYNAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
HELD June 19th, 2013**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Kirsten Bradshaw	Cheryl Learmonth
Lisa Hammermeister	Karen Birch
Craig McMahan	Patti Stewart
Suzanne Siemens	Karen Barnett
Mahesh Liyanage	Leila Kauko
Yael Drinkle	Joan Martins
Tracey Chapman	Arlie Thompson
Susan Kanaoya	Shaireen Merali

**MEETING**

1. Call to Order – 7:00 meeting called to order by Craig
2. Agenda adopted
3. Approved Minutes from May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting
4. Joan Martins: Introduction of Arlie Thompson who will be the new Principal at Dorothy Lynas. Arlie comes to us from Highlands Elementary in North Vancouver.
5. Chair Report:  
Acknowledgements - The PAC recognized Joan for her dedication and leadership at Dorothy Lynas during her role as Principal. She was honoured overall for her:
  - Organized and structured leadership
  - Skills of caregiving – always making sure all students were taken care of
  - Crisis management skills

And more specifically as per Cheryl Learmonth (SPC –School Planning Council)  
Joan has shown herself to be a passionate educator who has looked thoughtfully at the learning needs of our children. She advocates for our kids to the district office relentlessly - she understands that our community has a range of wealth and needs. She is a caregiver for families and the children in need in our community, providing food to those who come hungry and care packages at Christmas.

**Reading/Writing**

- Supported having parent/elder readers in the primary classes and brought in the PAWs program (reading dog) to support struggling readers
- Encouraged a school wide write that took place last year to draw attention to the reading-writing connection
- Worked with teachers looking at reading assessment tools
- Dedicated substantial sections of each newsletter on home strategies for reading support

#### Student Behaviour and Support

- Advocate of peer counselors, ensuring that each year is well trained and that the counselors are available for the kids
- Support for the Kindy full day transition - the circle of adults and peer counselors who supported the kids during play and recess times
- Revision of our former 12 page "code of conduct" to clarify it and to help students learn what is expected of them and to the plant seeds of a safe and caring school
- Empowered teachers to work with the student and the family to improve classroom behaviour, rather than having a regular crew of visitors to the office
- First year of a student council that has taken the issue of bullying to the students
- Assemblies which focused on a virtue and involving students in the presentation of the virtue
- Worked with children who need extra behavioral support -providing each child with strategies and tools (like the wiggle cushion)

#### Students with Learning Support needs

- Enhanced the IEPs of students with learning challenges
- Overseeing the careful identification of students needing learning support, advocating for that support to be staffed (funded), and the noticeable presence of support teachers in the classroom. She questions the funding that comes from the board office and provides the district admin with thought provoking questions and challenges.

#### The School Building and Grounds

- Canada flag in the gym - a testament to her attention to citizenship and respect
- Hopscotch and square ball painting refreshed - making the most of what we have and respecting the commitment that parents made to outdoor play
- Recess equipment: balls, skip ropes and the peer helpers to be responsible for these items

#### Grade 7 Transition to High School

- Worked with Seycove and Windsor to support the transition of our 7s to high school - intake meetings looking at each student, grade 7/8 teacher meetings, more opportunities for the grade 7s to visit and get comfortable, peer visits from secondary students band/choral presentations, surveyed grade 7s

Joan was presented with flowers and tickets to the Arts Club Theatre on behalf of the entire PAC.

#### 4. Principal's Report

a) Technology Security – continued thefts require we revisit security and lock up procedures. A question was raised whether or not security cameras could be installed on site but this is not allowed by the District due to privacy issues

b) Important dates: June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 Gr 7 Grad Ceremony  
June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:25 dismissal – report cards will be sent home

Note: For parents who are not here on the last day of school, report cards may be picked up at the office July 2-5 and August 26-30 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm or you may leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope at the office and it will be mailed home

c) New classes for 2013 are in the works. To date, we have 560 kids registered. If anyone knows of new families moving into the area, please tell them to contact the school to get details on registration.

d) Track and field season is now over. Thank you to Lisa Reid and her team of coaches this year for their hard work and dedication. Dorothy Lynas won the spirit award at the recent Swanguard meet for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row.

e) KM Club ends Friday June 21st. Thank you to the Parent Volunteers, especially to Cheryl, Karen and Susan for their support and commitment to this program.

f) Budget overspending – \$1918.70 Action Item given to Mahesh.

g) PAC Meeting dates for 2013/14 have been approved – Action Item – Shaireen to give dates to Natalya to post this to the PAC Website.

h) Welcome Back party date of October 10<sup>th</sup> for 2013/14 conflicts with a Jessie Miller session at Cove Cliff - Events Committee will suggest a new date (possibly October 17<sup>th</sup>) for review. To be confirmed in September 2013.

## 5. Teachers' Reports

a) Patti Stewart – iPad Update: The Potential for Group Projects

- Demonstrated the use of Videoliscious to create mini video clips narrated by the students.
- Other great Apps to share with parents & students: ShowMe (Math), Google Earth (Science), TapQuiz (Social Studies), Videoliscious (Film/Media). Also haikudeck.com (presentation software) and My Story (bookmaker for kids).
- All teachers have an iPad in their classroom.
- iPad Peer Program is a possibility here for Gr 6/7's to buddy with younger grades

b) Wireless issues in annex – more bandwidth has been requested. It was suggested we request a second wireless access point. Action Item for Joan to follow up.

c) DL Parents who are have computer expertise – please let the PAC know as we would be interested in offering tech education and training to parents

6. Events Committee: Spring Carnival had a great turnout. The Carnival has always been considered a Spirit event. This year the Carnival raised approx. \$5,000.

- All were in favour of a motion to have the proceeds from future Carnivals go to support outside groups and causes as decided each year.
- All were in favour of a motion to put \$1,000 of this year's total towards future and continued grief support services/counselling for kids in need of help after this year's crisis.
- All were in favour of a motion to put approx. \$4,000 of this year's total towards the Memorial Fund for Zarah Norman-Miller.
- All were in favour of a motion to use any future earning (if any) towards local community support and not keep any proceeds as revenue.
- Yael and Leila have offered to organize the Carnival again next year if another team can take on the Welcome Back Night and Family Fun Night. Interested volunteers please contact [DLPACChair@gmail.com](mailto:DLPACChair@gmail.com).
- Craig gave thanks to all the Volunteers for their support and commitment to make the Carnival a success.

## 7. Memorial for Zarah Norman-Miller

- a. A scrapbook has been created for Jaynie Miller.
- b. Students have made birdhouses to put in the Primary forest area in Sept - approx. cost was \$400
- c. A mural has been created in the school.

- d. Astrid Lalonde made a large ruler that all of the grade 5 FI students have signed (it can be seen in this year's panorama photo) and it will be placed above the mural in the hallway.
- e. Outdoor Memorial- Glen Anderson will be creating a Nature Stepping Stone area - kids will apply mosaic tiles in Sept – then plant berries and flowers in that area. The District has given the approval that this PAC Project can go ahead.

We have had a strong response to the Memorial Fund from PayPal and have agreed to extend the donations deadline date to August 15, 2013.

8. Pilot for September Teacher Collaboration/2 pm dismissals

The PAC has created a DL Gym Activity Centre for parents who require childcare during the early dismissal in Sept.

- There will be no fee for the Pilot
- The session will run for 1 hour and will have a parent volunteer at each of the 6 stations and possibly volunteer student leaders from Gr 7
- Pre-registration is mandatory. Forms will go out in September 2013.
- A gym rental fee about \$35.00 is the only anticipated cost to the PAC.
- The gym must be rented from the District. There are no insurance costs. A rental contract will be signed.
- The PAC will report back in Sept. to determine the need for the program during the October 2 pm dismissal.

All were in favour of a motion to proceed with the Pilot in September.

Parents interested in Volunteering at the DL Gym Activity Center please contact

[DLPACChair@gmail.com](mailto:DLPACChair@gmail.com).

9. Treasurer's Report – Mahesh Liyanage

- We had targeted \$59,000 as a fundraising goal but are at \$48,000
- We will spend \$48,000 next year
- In the past 2 years, we have been spending at a fast rate in order to catch up with a backlog of requests and expenses. Given the general economic conditions this year, we must be conservative with our spending.
- Cash still needs to come in for the Seycove Auction.

All were in favour to pass a motion to approve the Budget for 2013/2014.

10. Suzanne gave thanks to Craig McMahon, the PAC Chair, for running a productive set of meetings this year.

Action Items to follow up:

No	Responsible	Description	Due Date
1	Natalya	Add list of educational apps to the web site	June end
2	Natalya	Shaireen to forward list to Natalya Extend donations to mid-August on website	Immediately

Meeting Adjourned.

Next PAC Meeting will take place Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Multi Purpose Room.