PAC General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Attendees: Danielle L. (president), Taylor C. (vice-president), Stefanie S. (secretary), Heather M. (treasurer), Russ B. (vice-principal), Louise C. (teacher rep), Erin, Laura M., Stephanie L., Katelyn, Jennifer Dewolf

Regrets: James M (principal), Penny L, Emily B, Shannon B. (member at large), Sasha Y, and Darci V.

1. Land acknowledgement (Danielle)

2. A. Adoption of agenda (motion Stephanie, Taylor seconds: all in favour - unanimous)

B. Adoption of minutes from November 8th (motion Taylor, Laura seconds:   
 all in favour - unanimous)

3. Universal washrooms (Presentation by Jennifer Dewolf)

a. Teachers would like to add a universal washroom as a way of increasing inclusivity at PGE. The school currently has one universal bathroom, but it is not frequently used because students are uncomfortable using it, ( it used to be an adult bathroom) and it is quite far from some of the classrooms.

b. If existing bathrooms were retrofitted, they would actually become more private and could be used by everyone.

c. PGE would be the first elementary school in the district to take this step.

d. Open discussion

e. Jennifer will follow up and is happy to meet with parents who have more questions.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal report (Russ)

a. Lots of illness within the school this past month! There was up to 25% absence in the student body for a few days. A few classes had to be combined because there were not enough TOCs available. However, there are now a number of fresh UBCO grads who are joining the TOC list, so things should improve.

b. The food drive was great! Very generous support from the community. Thanks to Ms. Sarbit and the students for making this happen.

c. PGE is looking for some noon-hour supervisors. Volunteers needed from 11:00-12:00pm (pay is $22/hour).

d. Grade 5 volleyball just finished. PGE hosted all games this year. It was a great season and great to see the community come together!

e. PGE participated in a district safety audit and we have just received a certificate and an award of $4500!

f. Book fair is happening today and tomorrow. Kids are very excited. Also looking forward to the Winter Gathering tomorrow.

5. Gaming funds update (Danielle) – we are expecting a decision by February 2023

6. Update on teacher request to enhance common spaces (Jenn) – teachers have received pillows, curtains and cushions. The spaces are definitely enjoyed by the students. A big thank you for the items that were donated!

7. Update on the Winter raffle (Taylor) – We are currently at $2800. Winner will receive $1400. Lots of good promotion on social media. There will be a booth at the Winter Gathering as well. The $20 is definitely the most popular, so we will get more of these next year.

8. Update on Winter Gathering (Laura)

Things are looking good. Volunteers still needed for refreshments.

Candygram sales were amazing – we sold 770 cards! This raised $385. The funds raised will be given to a charity chosen by the leadership students.

9. Increasing parent involvement with PAC (brainstorm)

- Post on Classdojo – this seems to reach a wide audience

- posting a request for more volunteers in the newsletter, along with the meeting announcement, so that people realize *there is a need* for more participants.

- dispel the myths about PAC (that all we do is fundraise, that we are all stay-at-home moms…)

- having a parent rep for each class who attends PAC meetings. Jenn mentioned this was useful because teachers could also liaise with their PAC rep.

- incorporate info about PAC when meeting with new kindergarten parents

- providing child-minding, in order to allow parents to attend? Stephanie said this used to be done and was helpful.

- possibly starting at 6pm instead of 6:30pm?

Danielle motions that we move PAC meetings to 6:00pm moving forward. Taylor seconds; all in favour (unanimous)

10. Fundraising initiatives for 2023

a. True Earth – is easy to run and requires minimal work

b. Bottle Drive – one big day of work, but makes good money. Laura is willing to take the lead on this.

c. Krispy Kreme – Grenda is doing this in January, so we will wait until later in Spring so we do not take away from their fundraising

d. Growing Smiles – Danielle will take this on again in Spring

11. Written reports to be shared – tabled

b. Treasurer (Heather) –

Gaming account: $2,266.15

General: $6,405.57

f. Art cards made about $1500.

h. Variety Schools Grants approved. We will receive $1518.72, to be   
 used for Sensory Paths at PGE! Thank you Danielle for applying for the   
 grant.

12. Action items from reports - tabled

13. Unfilled PAC positions

1. Volunteer coordinator position is still vacant

14. French Immersion Discussion

a. Board meeting tomorrow. Please send in letters if you would like to support the initiative of bringing FI to GESS! We are also hoping to have some parents attend the board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00pm