

## Queen Elizabeth Elementary – General PAC meeting

Thursday November 29, 2018 9:15 am – Staff Room

1. Meeting called to order, 9:15 am, Welcome & Introductions
2. Agenda Approved, Kristin McAllister makes motion, seconded Domina Jahzara. Approved by vote.
3. Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting, as posted on PAC website and provided in the meeting. Motion made by Rebecca Parry, seconded by Randa Ridgway. Approved by vote.
4. Principal from Strathcona – Jason Eng
  - a. Holiday Bazar raises approx. \$1500. This money gets cashed into Superstore gift cards that are given to Strathcona to disburse as needed.
  - b. Tier 1 inner city school – Main and Hastings - Partnership with QE PAC for many years – started with donations of Holiday Hampers and now Superstore Gift Cards as they have been more effective.
  - c. Principal Eng likes to have a personal connection with community partners to show appreciation for the generosity of the support given and to communicate that the resources really do support vulnerable students and make a difference
  - d. The gift cards allow the school to support the families beyond just the two week winter break. The needs continue to exist all year long. Strathcona has a very diverse community from many socio-economic backgrounds within the same geography. As a result there is a larger possibility to missing a vulnerable family.
  - e. The Superstore gift certificate in particular allows a broad range of support – food, winter jackets, other needs can be met and can be spread out over time. In the past the school have used the cards to purchase food for a parent cooking program that had an education component as well. The school tries to use resources to empower families.
  - f. Thank you for all of the years of support – the resources have a very meaningful impact and the support is well utilized.
  - g. Helene Morizur raised the possibility of Strathcona running a \$1 market for students to “buy” clothes donated by QE PAC or other community partners. This type of program may help with student engagement and ownership over the donated items while it would also allow for QE to place outgrown items and/or lost and found items otherwise donated elsewhere.
    - i. QE PAC to consider and to be in touch with Principal Eng on this possibility.
5. Principal’s report (Ms. Susie Car)
  - a. Newsletter expected early December
  - b. Choir performing 2 pm Friday December 14 in the Gym
  - c. School concert Wednesday December 19th – after drop off, all classes invited to contribute to the event- songs, poems, etc.
  - d. Lunch and Learn November 28th – teachers met with three educators – discuss what was working re the Communicating Student Learning Pilot (“CSL”) which is in its 2nd year & CSL reporting. A very effective meeting.
  - e. Permanent Student Record Marks (“PSR”) – does this make sense in connection with the CSL? The point of the CSL is to encourage students to love learning and try hard to improve. BUT need PSR - for applications to universities and other programs etc especially in other countries. So PSR’s will be done at the end of the year but will only be communicated to parents upon request.
  - f. Doctorate Students from Zhijiang came to visit November 28<sup>th</sup> to learn and observe (in partnership with UBC and Dr. Wang) especially regarding our Redesigned Curriculum, new CSL reporting, inclusion, diversity and teaching special needs students in an inclusive

model.

- g. Global Read Aloud – senior students participating – list of books is chosen each year based on children’s level – the books are usually based on big themes – this year book was *Refugees*. There is real value to listening to kids in other parts of the world and seeing that other people have other perspectives on the same theme.

*“A book is picked to read aloud to our students during a set 6-week period and during that time we try to make as many global connections as possible. Each participant decides how much time they would like to dedicate and how involved they would like to be. Some people choose to connect with just one class, while others go for as many as possible. The scope and depth of the project are up to you. In the past, frequently used tools have been Twitter, Skype, email, regular mail, Kidblog, Write About, Padlet, and any other tools we can think of to make these connections. Teachers get a community of other educators to do a global project with, hopefully inspiring them to continue these connections through the year.”*

- h. Computers ordered through VSB for senior classes – 12 computers – faster, lasting longer and cheaper. Used in the high schools.
- i. White Boards in 1 classroom (\$900approx.) – currently part of the school budget

6. Budget Update for 2018-2019 presented by Beth Harrop

- a. A few revisions given that we now know final numbers.
- b. \$31,000 for capital funding this year – increase of \$8,000 from previous budget approval
- c. Gaming grant higher than previous years
- d. Kristin McAllister motion to approve amendment, Domina Jahzara seconded. Approved by vote.

7. Update on PAC Spending

- a. Teachers are able to request capital resources at the beginning of the year: games, books, art supplies, robots for coding program, gym mats etc.
- b. Teachers have been asking for computers use in the class rooms. This year each grade 6 and 7 class will get 3 desktop computers for classroom resources. Also getting computers in the library. \$16,000 spend on computers.
- c. There may be some other technology spending and then after that will look into buying computers for grade 4/5 classrooms.
- d. Recess equipment – asking teachers to submit a request for what they would like – done by classroom.

8. Volunteer update (Domina Jahzara)

- a. Need a class parent for Div 2 (grade 7) – Beth Harrop has volunteered
- b. Class parent role: teacher gift, other commination as requested by the teacher

9. Parent Volunteer Openings

- a. Kristin McAllister is leaving after this year → Looking for someone to step in and be the other co-chair of the PAC.
- b. Sports Openings
  - i. Look for someone to help with x-country (Lise leaving)
  - ii. Sports coordinator leaving (Duncan)
  - iii. These are not huge jobs, but they are important

10. Fundraising events

- a. Scholastic Book Fair: raised \$2,000

- b. Hot lunch update, presented by Harper Hadden and Julia Whyte.
  - i. Four vendors: Subway, sushi, flying wedge pizza, Calhoun's. Potentially looking at another vendor for January. Can join any time, get in order 8 days ahead of lunch date.
  - ii. Decline in ordering in general. Lost 2 divisions.... Primary classes are not ordering, especially kindergarten. Considering better communication about the large range of options.
  - iii. Survey Results (67 responses. Last survey had 85 participants)
    - 1. Status quo is the best – generally just need to tweak things they are happy with
    - 2. Nutritional value seems to be number one consideration. May want to indicate general nutritional info on the website.
- c. Holiday Bazaar: Will be held Dec. 6, 2018. Money donated to Sister School (Strathcona)
  - i. Donations are great
  - ii. Volunteers still needed – Carmen Cho to send out another email request
  - iii. Question: Does the PAC want to ask whether people want to make additional donations to Strathcona as part of the Bazaar?
- d. Food Drive
  - i. in past years this has been done by the school
  - ii. also in past years has been done as part of the Holiday Bazaar
  - iii. maybe do it as part of the community event this year?
  - iv. Note that \$\$ donated to the food bank can actually be more meaningful with regards to resource use.
- e. Holiday program: Baby-Go-Round – Christmas trees (now laminated for re-use) will be hung in the classroom on the 4th. Children to pick an item, buy it and bring it to the classroom by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Delivery currently on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Each tree has 15 tags. Going to try and extend the date.
- f. Community Event – “Survey Said” an event (of any type) would be great on a Thursday.

11. Speakers:

- a. Saleema Noon will come do both a parent session and in-class session on Human Sexuality: Tuesday, January 22 at 6:30pm (parent session); and Wed and Thursday Jan 23 & 24 (in classrooms). Principal Car to send out information to parents.
- b. Racial Diversity Green Thumb Theater. This year doing anxiety – and fully booked. So looking to for next year.

12. Other Topics?

13. Meeting Adjourned, 10:30. Next meeting will be February, TBA.

**In Attendance:**

Carmen Cho  
 Jennifer Crook  
 Eliane Law  
 Claire McClean  
 Domina Jahzara  
 Rebecca Parry  
 Kristin McAllister  
 Susie Car

Helene Morizur  
 Julia Whyte  
 Jason Eng (Strathcona)  
 Randa Ridgeway  
 Bishan Wu  
 Carla Arayo  
 Kirsty Myles  
 Harper Hadden  
 Beth Harrop