GENERAL BROCK PAC

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021

**Opening:**

Ken Armstrong (PAC Chair) hosted the Zoom meeting. Meeting began at 6:30pm.

**Present:**

Total in attendance: 27

Ken Armstrong, Sarah Dumont, Krista Knight, Sami Wall, Aubin O’Brien, Debbie H, Dianne Mitchinson, Erin Boniferro, Fraser, Jess Quan, Lisa D., Nancy Paget, Penny McCleery, Scott Walker, Sheri, Stephanie Clark, Wendy, Wynona Giannasi, Brooke, Laura, Gosia, Mike Kerfoot, Desirae Salmas, Anusha, Jen Wong, Chantelle Poon

**Business:**

1. **Previous PAC meeting minutes were approved from Oct. 7** (posted on the website).
2. **Principal Report:**
3. Nancy’s List:

* Thank you for the sandwiches for the staff
* SPEC and Nature Sketch- students and staff are loving the programs. They are seeing a connection between the two; they are intertwining.
* Nancy gave an update on Library Commons and spoke to the goal of the learning commons. There are many great things going on such as hearing from local writers, a virtual book fair, etc. Ms. Doran has begun collaborative units with the teachers. Mr. Butcher’s class is learning about Indigenous peoples.
* There is a planning community to celebrate and honour diversity.
* Excitement around Diwali activities.
* There is a non-instruction day coming up and the focus is on Indigenous education.
* Nancy extended a huge thank you to Debbie for hot lunch food and safety. And to Jess who is the hot lunch coordinator. Nancy did the food safe program this summer for the fruit and vegetable program. She is hoping the hot lunch program would be back. She needed to look at the food safe requirements for food delivery in the classrooms, etc. Our plan is very detailed and successful thanks to Debbie.

1. School Playground

* Many parents are wanting to be able to utilize the school playground after school so Nancy addressed this topic.
* Nancy explained that the playground is open after school hours after supervision has ended. Community and school protocols differ in some regards. Classes are brought out to the primary playground for dismissal. It needs to stay safe for students and staff so can, therefore, not be used for gathering. Staff need to safely and effectively supervise children until they are picked up. Staff supervision ends at 3:20. It may be shorter if everyone is picked up and accounted for. Once everyone has safely cleared, people can make their way onto the playgrounds.
* We respectfully request that parents do not enter the buildings. Please respect covid safety rules.

1. Wish List

* Schools develop a wish list. Principals typically develop the wish list with the teachers. They take a lot of time to think about what they need to support their teaching and student learning. After discussions with the teachers, Nancy puts together a formal request. The wish list is staff-driven:

1. SPEC Gardening

Total cost of the program- $11,000

Grant- $8,300

PAC- $2,700

* 1. SPEC has become part of the program at Brock. We are in partnership with the Riley Park community gardens as well now. It teaches ecological literacy.

1. Robert Bateman Nature Sketch
   1. Only the intermediate students were able to do it last school year.
   2. The primaries were supposed to get it this fall. But, in fact, all the kids were able to receive the program this fall.
   3. The cost was $11,000. We had a $3,600.00 grant. Total was just over $8,000.00. This was not correct. Our cost is actually $5,400.
2. Activities
   * When teachers were asked, most wanted DANCE. At this point, we are not bringing groups inside. If protocol changes, we could be looking at this for the Spring. The next most wanted activities were CIRCUS WEST or RUGBY.
   * Most teachers want to continue with NATURE SKETCH. 6 week, 10 week or 16 week? Teachers said they wanted 6 weeks. 75% wanted Nature Sketch. Nancy recognizes that it is a lot of money for one program. If the Nature sketch is too much money, we can consider just extending it to the primary divisions. 7 divisions at $925 each = $6,475 and maybe Nancy can get a grant.
3. Brock Tent
   * We have one big Brock tent. It might be nice to have some more. They are great for going to sport events.
4. Updating the P.E. Equipment
5. Library Book Collection
   * The collection needs to be built up. There was a book drive but it might be nice to increase the amount.
6. Science/Math Materials
   * We received K-3 science kits but we need more equipment. They were lacking when they went to build machines.
7. Technology
   * We have $5,000. We might be okay for projectors and we bought 50 white boards. Ms. Doran is starting to do coding with the kids- she might need some technology to support that.
8. Water Fill Station
   * They are about $3,500. Nancy thinks we could cross this off the list as there are other items that are more important.
9. Classroom Funds
   * $200 each- if teachers need additional items like stickers, charts, etc.
10. Resource Team
    * $500- this benefits the whole school
11. Music- Bluetooth speakers
12. Voting

* Ken asks if we can bring some of these items to a vote. And some we will leave for now.

1. SPEC has been at Brock for many years. For the $2,700 it seems to be good for the kids. Ken put forth the motion to continue with that. Vote passed.
2. Robert Bateman.
   * This is a great program but there is a general concern about the lack of physical education for the kids. Speaking as a parent, Ken thinks that more kids deserve the opportunity for physical education as a key component (decrease anxiety, obesity, etc.). Direct Drive may be able to support all three things (physical education, Robert Bateman, and dance).
   * Nancy- teachers are responsible for physical education. The Robert Bateman program provides movement outdoors.
   * Ken- when lacrosse was brought in, he thought that was great. And he thought maybe 3 or 4 teachers were interested in rugby. The PAC would be open and interested to talk with teachers who are interested.
   * Sharm- her kids really miss the team sports (they had done track). It would be nice to have that back.
   * Nancy- team sports are up and running for the intermediates.
   * Brooke- wondering about sports for the younger kids. She’s heard it’s happening at other schools.
   * Ken- we can’t move forward with dance because it’s an indoor activity but outdoor sports would be great.
   * Scott- maybe we can table the Robert Bateman for next month. But Nancy has to book it pretty soon.
   * Ken- asked Nancy if she would be okay to have another meeting in December to give the PAC more opportunity to discuss Robert Bateman.
   * Nancy- how long do you need? Ken- first week in December? Nancy will keep us posted if we are in jeopardy of losing the program.
   * Although the PAC wants to support the Robert Bateman program, many parents would love to see more physical education.
   * Noni- maybe we can vote on all these big buckets… P.E., arts, etc. Wondering if there’s something we can do for parents to vote. Not all programs cost the same amount.
   * Ken- the PAC raised 3 x more money from direct drive this year. There is desire for programming.
   * Erin- it seems the desire for P.E. is consistent amongst the parents. We are happy with P.E. in class. Wondering if Nancy thinks it will be possible to have extra-curricular sports available in January-June. It might help the parents and the PAC have a better understanding.
   * Nancy- volleyball has started. We do have teams and practices for that. We have 4 teachers coaching. The district has opened things up so next available sport would be basketball. Later on in the year, there’s track and field which has opened up. We have also opened up the Monday after school program for grades 2s and 3s. It’s running. Next term we can keep offering – A reminder - plans/protocols/guidelines currently in place are subject to change at any time due to the COVID-19 pandemic
   * Krista- basketball and volleyball are just for intermediate. There’s nothing for the little kids. And we missed the timing for track and field. Physical education seems like a higher priority for the parents. There’s not much available from district for the younger kids.
   * Ken- would like to table the Robert Bateman sketch.
   * Well within the PAC’s ability to provide outdoor education
   * APPROVED on the vote for everything that was not being tabled.

**3. School Safety** (Ken)

- We have been policing ourselves. If you see someone deliberately interfering with the kids at pickups, please say something.

- Nancy- when the staff have spoken with some people, they have not been met with respect. If a staff is asking to respect boundaries for safety, please be respectful. And if you see someone heading into the building, please advise them that this is not allowed.

**4. Hot Lunch** (Ken)

- Thank you again to Jess Khakiquan, Debbie Horkoff and Kate Fleck, who has a child in the French program and runs the hot lunch at Mackenzie.

- Update out soon. Local vendor: Bittersweet Kitchen.

**5. Direct Drive** (Ken)

- We didn’t bring in as much as we were hoping for, however, we received 3 times as much as we normally do. This shows what parents are hoping to get from the school and that’s awesome! It was approximately $25,000.

**6. Pizza Night** (Erin)

- We had so many families participating and connecting. It was a huge success!

**7. Pumpkin Patch** (Ken)

- Ken does not want to do it again as it was too stressful. Next year it needs to be done earlier because grocery stores run out of pumpkins and it is very stressful. Perhaps someone would like to take over.

**8. Brock Staff Thank You** (Ken)

- Thank you to Natasha Winestock for the thank you lunch!

**9. Fund Raising: Soiree** (Erin)

1. Livingston

* We will not be doing the soiree with Livingston this year. This is due to COVID as well as both schools having growing communities.

1. Heritage Hall

* There is COVID protocol: the event would need to be seated so it would be quite different this year.

1. Reaching Out

* Erin welcomes more mind and bodies involved.
* With the restrictions from Heritage Hall, we’re wondering how the event would look and if it will happen. We need creative solutions.
* Ken: maybe we can push the soiree to the first week in June?
* Erin would welcome an outdoor Springtime event so people can mingle.
* Lots of people chimed in with excitement and interest in this idea so we will look at Springtime.

**10. PAC Sponsored Talks** (Ken)

1. Telus

* We had Telus come in and discuss internet safety. Sarah set that up and it was a success.
* Sarah- spoke with Nancy and they have courses for kids and we’re going to try to get those happening in the new year.

1. Counsellor Kate

* Last year we had Counsellor Kate and her webinar was a huge success. It was recorded and passed along to other schools. Very well-received by parents.
* She is booked for Dec 8 and in Feb (I didn’t catch the date)

1. Dealing with child anxiety and stress
2. Connecting with your child.

* These are $450 each. Ken needs authorization from the PAC to book this. It is so nice that Kate lets us record her webinar so parents who cannot attend can still view it. It was very well received.
* Ken will email Kate for the zoom link so Noni and Penny can circulate it.

**11. Spirit Wear** (Joanna)

- Joanna sent in the orders

**12. Senior Cards** (Sarah)

- Cards are heading out. Many teachers helped and it was a huge success.

**13. Cookie Fundraiser** (Gosia)

- Gosia had technical difficulties with Zoom so Noni jumped in to explain the cookie fundraiser idea. Gosia thought it would be nice to bring people together for Christmas. Molly has a baking company; she can make sugar cookie kits packaged up with hot chocolate. People can buy them for themselves or as gifts.

- We could add a small markup. But the event is more about connecting people and community building, similar to the Pizza Night In.

- Wendy- we also talked about doing a raffle or 50/50.

- The parents involved will discuss and figure out all the details.

**14. New Brock PAC Website** (Krista)

- The new website is: brockpac.weebly.com

- It’s pretty straight forward with a few links to important things

- The hot lunch post is on there.

- If anyone is interested in the admin side, everything is there.

- Weebly is owned by Square. We have used PayPal in the past, but it would be nice if someone knows Square and how we can move over.

**Next Meeting:** quick one in December; just 15 minutes.

**Adjournment:** Ken adjourned the meeting at 8:00

**Minutes Submitted By:** Sami Wall

Great meeting, everyone! ☺