GENERAL BROCK PAC

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

**Opening:**

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

**Present:**

Total in attendance: 35

Ken Armstrong, Sarah Dumont, Krista Knight, Sami Wall, Aubin O’Brien, Debbie H, Dianne Mitchinson, Erin Boniferro, Jess Quan, Nancy Paget, Elizabeth Starr, Beth, Chantelle, Chelsea Miller, Erin Boniferro, Gwen Doran, J Morris, Janna Harowitz, Joanna Cook, Kalina Christoff, Kelly, Krista Knight, Laura Gentile, Gosia, Mike Kerfoot, Nick Bracewell, Pamela Hall, Scott Walker, Tara Landes, Wendy Boys, Wynona Gianassi, Rm Torres, Sheri Grahame

**Business:**

1. **Principal Report:**
* Thank you to the teachers who are joining tonight.
* Staff Update. Ms. Redkin is retiring. Ms. Tassy Beretanos is the permanent OA now (she started today).
1. **Covid Safety Update**
* Nancy continues to review protocol with staff. Health and safety has been evaluated in each classroom (students not sitting face-to-face and students are spaced out properly). Mask-wearing and hand-washing. All educators have disposable masks. Distancing outside. If kids cannot distance outside, they are told to wear masks.
* If your child is not feeling well, please air on the side of caution and do not send them.
1. **Functional Closure**
* Parents received information if we need to go online
* Questions:
1. Ken: Would we go online school-wide? Or could this happen in one classroom? Nancy: Functional Closure would happen school by school. It would be based on a shortage of staff. There might be some students who continue to learn in person, and some would be home (keep students until they can be picked up unless essential service or vulnerable). Teams is setup so kids can do online learning.
2. Noni: What would the communication look like if there is a functional closure? And does it come from you or the school board? Nancy: Functional Closure is a decision that comes from the school board management team. They monitor attendance every day. Parents will most likely be notified that day but kids may not all go home. We’ve never been in this situation, so there is a bit of unknown.
3. Sarah: Does a Functional Closure happen when 25% of students are missing? Nancy: Functional closure happens when there is not enough staff
4. **Odds and Ends**
5. CSL reports will go home on Friday.
6. You will soon be getting conference notices sent home.
7. February is a busy month. Black History Month, Pink Shirt Day, Lunar New Year. Diversity club will be making bulletin boards, skits, etc.
8. Our Robert Bateman artwork is on display at the VSB Education Centre and it has gotten a lot of positive feedback.
9. **Funding Projects: Guest Speakers**
* The PAC welcomes Ms. Doran (librarian) and Mr. Bracewell (music teacher) to let us know what they are seeking out in order run great programs at Brock.
1. **Ms. Doran**
* Program Goal: Learning Commons fosters confident lifelong learners. The foundation is the collection. If the school does not have current and relevant resources, it becomes difficult to create meaningful collaborations with teachers. Resources need to be there to support the learning (through inquiries in particular; interest-led). We need to have a variety and have it be quality. The other thing is having reading for joy. Student CHOICE (what the read, when they read, etc.) is the best way to improve reading. Having a collection that reflects students’ interests and diversities, while also opening windows to new experiences is so important.
1. Overview of the Brock Library and working towards a Library Commons model.
	* This is a whole school approach to building a participatory learning community. It is a physical and virtual learning hub for the school.
	* When Ms. Doran first arrived, the space was cluttered, and technology was dated. The library was only open 2 days a week. We have seen many improvements (that have come from support of the school and the PAC). So, Ms. Doran was able to make many changes.
	* She is now there 4 days a week and knows that the Learning Commons is valued. Ms. Doran showed us a “before and after” video that was quite eye-opening. The library was very outdated.
	* Ms. Doran did a book refresh. The average age of our collection was 21 years old. Especially old in the non-fiction.
	* Major transformations in the last two years… the walls have been repainted, new curtains, new tables (that flip up).
	* The space is now flexible and can be used in different ways.
	* She extended a huge thank you to Nancy and the engineers and the PAC for making the changes possible.
	* Ms. Doran showed us ongoing requests from students and staff.
	* She’s always considering diversity and how to improve our collection.
	* Currently, very white, and very male. It has gotten better but there’s room for improvement.
	* Would like to show different life experiences, abilities, race, sexual orientation, etc.
	* Nancy let us know that Ms. Doran also needs a proper white board. Nancy said she can get a quote, but it will probably be around $1500.
2. Current Project Goals:
3. Collaboration- connection is super important because we’re really lacking that.
4. District-wide Indigenous Focal Goal- removing outdated representation or racist materials.
5. Support Social Emotional Learning – wants to support the teachers.
6. Hard Data
	* Average price per book is about $23. This does not include plastic covers, bar codes, etc.
	* She could easily spend $8000 and that’s a lowball for 350 books.
	* She has recycled about 2000 outdated books.
7. Questions
	* Does the library accept donations? Yes. But she evaluates it and makes sure it meets the criteria and is appropriate for our collection.
	* Ken suggested a PAC donation book drive.
	* What technology would you like? Replace the projector and be able to have it mounted. We have laptops and iPads at the school but iPads are mostly used in the classrooms. She would love to have some in the library. We use laptops and iPads for different things. iPads for coding apps, scratch junior, etc. We are part of a collaboration with Science World; they gave us a set of microbits (basic mini computers) that can be programmed. They are really cool. You need an iPad or a laptop to write the code for those mini computers. Document camera would be very useful as well when presenting print resources.
	* Ken asked Nancy if she could put together a costed list to vote on for next meeting.
	* There were questions to clarify info for a book donation drive. Ms. Doran will write up criteria for donations.
8. **Mr. Bracewell**
* Thanked the PAC for the funds for the music program and let us know that they’ve stretched it far. We bought 9 marimbas, xylophones, djembe drums, Orff instruments, etc. Recognized how rare it is to have a well-funded music program in the VSB.
1. Current Program
	* He is currently running the music program by kids picking an instrument that inspires them. Intermediate groups are pitching their own songs. They choose what they want to learn, what they are passionate about, and they practice in groups. Mr. Bracewell vets the songs for bad words, etc. He has fun with it and says it’s a cool process. He is able to watch some students become leaders. We have also been doing some drama and hopefully we’ll be writing a film score for the film they’re creating (with the grade 5 kids).
	* There are some holes in the instrumentation.
2. Wish List
	* Recording equipment. We’re virtual now. Potentially $500-$600
	* Cameras. Maybe we can share with the library?
	* 2 guitars. Electric guitars, cords, amps, straps- Gibson at Long and Mcquade kids for $350
	* Sheet music- what we have is outdated
	* Microphone and little amp- prob around $300 (could also be used for school assemblies).
	* 6’ marimba. There’s a lady who makes them - $700. Could have 4 kids on those. They’re really fun, local and handmade.
	* Drums
	* Green screen. Prob around $100.
	* Looking at $5500-$6500 overall.
	* Nancy wants to add a projector (one that can be mounted) and wants to look into guidelines before instruments are donated (in case we want to do an instrument donation alongside the book donation).

**3. Finances- Mike Kerfoot**

- We had $47,000

- $12,575 needed to pay expenses from last year

- We raised $31,000 from Direct Drive

- It takes time to approve expenditures, which is why we have a bit of a surplus. So, we have about $66,000

- Nov 18 meeting we approved $15,000 in spending

- So far, we’ve spent $4,500 for Robert Bateman, about $200 per teacher for classroom funds for resources.

- Net cash available $56,762

- Remaining spending this year that has been approved is $21,731

- Uncommitted funds are $35,030

**4. Motions on the Floor for Spending – Ken**

1. Library
* Approved $2000 for books already. Want to top it off with $7000 to purchase books on Ms. Doran’s list. (So $9000 total for the year + projector and install – Nancy to get estimate)
1. Music
* $7500 for instruments and projector ($5,000 for instruments, scores, etc and 2500.00 for projector and mounting – see if more is needed once Nancy gets estimate)
1. White Board and install for Library - $1500 (Nancy to get estimate and if more needed will discuss)

$16,000 in uncommitted funds. We will then currently have $19,000 in uncommitted funds. Motions were passed. Next meeting, we will talk about funding for TECH.

**5. Hot Lunch – Jess Quan**

- Running great! Reminder about cutlery and Monday deadlines.

**6. Soiree/Fundraising – Erin Boniferro**

- No updates. Choose a time in the Spring.

**7. PAC-Sponsored Talks- Ken**

1. Counselor Kate was fantastic and so well-received. He wants to book ahead for April right after Spring Break.
2. Sarah mentioned that there is a school counselor named Adam. He will come to the next meeting. She said we can email him anytime… he is happy to talk and happy to email. Please reach out to the PAC if you want his contact info.
3. Telus Talks- Sarah
* We have some upcoming ones set up.

**8. Spirit Wear – Joanna**

- Still have a few items on backorder. Very close to being done.

**9. Seniors Cards – Sarah**

- Thank you from Little Mountain Place

**10. Cookie Fundraiser – Noni and Gosia**

- Raised $350

- Not a giant fundraiser. It was more in the spirit of community-building. Small but great.

- Thank you to Molly.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Jekubik introduced themselves at the end of the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** February 17, 6:30pm

**Adjournment:** Ken adjourned the meeting at 8:30

**Minutes Submitted By:** Sami Wall

Great meeting, everyone! ☺