

## VPS School Council Meeting March 2-2022 Minutes

### Attending

Attendees: Beth Ann Burgess, Jason McAlister, Carla Anderson, Tricia Radburn, Kristine Kozicki, Mark Hallman, Leslie Mifsud, David DiCenzo

- 1) Jason welcomes all. Ice breaker: The snow is fun.... but what are you looking forward to doing when the snow is gone?

### 2) Information Items:

#### Chair Message (Jason)

- King George PS has reached out to share the spending of PIC money Some of PIC \$ has been used for the newsletter Bulletin board going up near the main office, Unlearn will be posted there See Agenda for Principal update notes Equity survey to be sent out to families Additional Chromebooks being purchased Sibling picture day? Nothing firm that is planned Who deals with sidewalk snow/ice clearing - it's maintained by City
- Carla and some parents have called City about this; attention will be hopefully paid soon to address drainage issues

#### Principal Update (Carla)

- 1. February's UnLearn Activity
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- 2. Parent WHY Survey (Junior Students and Staff have a survey also)
- 3. Embracing Snow sent to the Board Office
- 4. Equity Accountability Audit -prioritizing goals
- 5. Temporary Remote Learning not available after Mar. 10
- 6. Technology Refresh Ordered
- 7. Report Cards accessible on Feb. 17
- 8. Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 23
- 9. Celebrating Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, Black Futures: Afro Beats Dance instruction and Bulletin Board Tour
- Discussing the issues with pick up and drop off

- Beth Ann mentions that even when the snow is gone, there will be people waiting on the road...lots of cars parking, too
- Jason asks for use of a secondary gate so parents can congregate in a different part of the parking lot by the dumpsters
- "like a concert" at the end of the day
- Carla requests some time to sort
- Suggestion of French gate and English gate?
- The general space isn't big enough
- Carla will explore...good news is there are options...she certainly does not want people bunched up on the road
- A good discussion and good input...appreciated

#### **Treasurer Update (Beth Ann)**

- No change, no transactions
- It looks the same as last month

### **3) Discussion Items**

#### **Principal Leadership Form/Slide Repair (Carla)**

- Carla shared principal leadership input with Mark and Jason
- Annual request to provide input from council...aim is to see in the event a principal transfer is required, what is the parent community looking for?
- Deadline to the superintendent is April 30
- Jason asks, what can we do to help?
- Carla shares Board document
- Goals: equity and achievement
- We can bring this to the April meeting to coincide with the April 30 deadline
- The Board takes a lot of time to see who would best serve a school's community
- Moves are infrequent...a request or a big need at another school
- When a vacancy is filled, past experience is critical
- We should take some time and think seriously about it because it's the only opportunity for an outside voice
- Can we bullet point those questions on the April agenda?
- **SLIDE**
- Update on quotes?
- Called PCI and we're in the queue
- No, is the short answer
- Concern

- Beth Ann suggests testing the water because if we have to pull the trigger quickly, we need to do it quickly
- Costly
- A parent suggested that we should fundraise if necessary
- We need to be prepared...or it could lead to frustration and confusion
- Maybe we can take it out and put something in that was low maintenance?
- What could that be?
- Carla mentions there would likely be a charge for removing the existing equipment
- Have called several times
- Kristine wonders about something like a balance beam?
- Cost from first quote was over \$10,000
- Concern there might be too much invested in just one slide when there might be more things to repair
- Carla notes the slides are connected...you cannot just replace one at a time
- \$10,133.43 for all of it
- That instills confidence knowing the whole thing would be repaired
- Can we get an estimate of life expectancy of the slide in the spring?
- We should ask
- The system can be frustrating because what does it mean for future councils?
- Carla suggests we might be able to get that life expectancy from the company as opposed to the inspector
- How old is it?
- There might be a date on the structure
- Leslie notes it is at least 10 years old
- Jason points out 12-14 week lead time...breaks down costs of the estimate
- We get some of the tax back...unknown how much
- Carla asks how we would like her to proceed?
- Ask life expectancy of the repair and structure itself
- What is the warranty on parts and labour? And what is the current replacement value?
- Will fuel costs impact shipping? The original quote was from November
- Valid for 30 days...quote needs to be redone
- Revised quote is part of the request
- Decision needed soon given the lead time...hope for installation in September
- User Report says slide was between 5-12 years old?

### **Bookshelf Update (Tricia)**

- Nothing to report...will be taken off the website
- Tricia will follow up

### **Screenagers Update (Mark)**

- Jenny Marino from the Board
- Prescreen of the video a few weeks ago
- Plan is to not sponsor the film anymore
- It's not aligned from an equity and wellness perspective
- Can still be shown
- Mark suggests it is American-centric and focused on teenagers
- Moderators are no longer available
- If we did screen it on demand, we would be on our own...no panel to address questions
- Discussion was fruitful last time
- Board will try and identify needs in screen time realm and generate a webinar
- Council to discuss and get back to Board
- Watching on our own could lead to more questions than answers
- Focus is on questions and not so much on solutions
- Disappointing because we haven't had the chance to gather as a community, especially for such an important topic
- Is there a Canadian alternative?
- Webinar could be good
- Mark wonders if we should just screen it but in a different format, with disclaimers
- A shame but Board's POV is understandable
- Mark might reach out to Screenager organizers and see what options might exist for Canadian audiences
- The teen focus could actually prepare us parents with younger children headed toward that age range
- Beth Ann is comfortable sharing the link and adding other Canadian options
- Disclaimer that it is "adult viewing"
- Target April or May
- Additional correspondence needed...maybe another backpack newsletter with a UG Connect blast
- Should we open the doors to other schools?
- Sounds like we will still go ahead in some manner...good!
- Support there

### **Equity Bags with PIC Funds (Jason)**

- Carla looked into this
- Drawstring bags with Victory logo for new kids/families
- Also an equity book
- No bulk price available
- But just \$5 a bag...reasonable
- Do we want to pursue this?

- Jason thinks it's a nice idea
- PIC money should be used between school and home and this fits
- Like spirit wear
- We talk about Victory and community
- A nice way for kids to go home with info all in one bag
- Books to bags for all JK/SK students could be pricey
- Around 50-75 needed
- Will we use this for agendas again?
- Carla recommends no to the agendas
- We communicate due dates differently anyway
- Leslie says we have done it in the past
- Nice token for the initial visit
- Can books be donated?
- Crayons, books, activities in the past
- This would be a little different...bag and equity book
- Lots of options
- Old version came from school funds
- PIC money would therefore be for newer families
- Can we do both bags and school supplements?

### **Food Orders (Jason and Dave)**

- Dave Kelly is in BC and not immediately available...he will talk someone through it if we find someone interested
- Jason initially suggests waiting until next year
- Or a small fundraiser attempt before this year ends?
- Leslie says King George has started pizza and subs
- Students will be trained to deliver the food there...grade 7-8 kids
- Volunteers would be needed here and that's an issue
- Carla says parent volunteers can come in for food delivery
- Vaccines needed
- But things change quickly, and often
- Carla hasn't heard about more change since that last info
- Need someone to coordinate it
- Weekly would be unlikely because of volunteer availability
- Maybe final week of the month?
- Subs?
- Mark supports the idea of trying to do it
- Many local options that provide food for schools
- Subs could be the most simple option
- Mark offers to help with roll out

- Jason and Kristine could help on Thursdays
- Second break at 12:50 or 1:10
- Those two times would make it less chaotic
- Carla will pass on Subway information
- Who is the point person at King George?
- Leslie will find out that info
- "A little piece of normalcy"
- Get in a newsletter

### **Nutritious Snacks (David)**

- It would be helpful to have access to some healthy snacks for kids who need it
- Overall, not a significant need at Victory
- Apple program missed? Yes
- There was some food available in the past
- Leslie was familiar with other programs at another school...Food and Friends
- She might have some kids that could use this
- Apples would be tough given COVID, despite however beneficial it was
- Food and Friends would require a point person
- Health and safety requirement
- Great program but it requires some work
- Maybe apple sauce containers?
- We can do food deliveries now...pre-packaged
- Can we rinse or peel, so the kid can eat a part that wasn't touched?
- Did clementines before
- Could be two different routes
- Healthy granola bars in the office
- It's a bit of a challenge
- Leslie says some of the kids who need the supplementation WANT fresh fruit
- Beth Ann says it should be in the budget...small expense for a huge pay off
- Carla offers to investigate
- Jason suggests starting small
- Leslie points out kids only eat in classrooms...can't walk down a hall with the apple

### **Spirit Wear (Kristine)**

- Talked with a local contact on Wyndham
- Supply issues with children sizes
- Have them ready for May would make a nice end to the school year
- Minimum order is \$25...should not be an issue
- About \$10 a tee or more for a hoodie
- No mock-ups right now but hopefully soon
- Then get the go ahead

- Going more of a nature look rather than sporty
- Kristine will send an example when she gets it
- Change is good
- The sooner the better so they have it for the rest of the year
- Order in April?
- Turnaround is only 12 days once order is in
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#### **4) Newsletter**

- Yes
- Great things for it...Screenagers, Subway and Spirit Wear...SSSSSSSSSS!
- Jason attempting the content
- Before March break? That could be tight
- Could get lost during break
- Do it for when they get back

#### **5) Other Business**

- Anything else?
- No!

#### **6) Adjournment**

- See y'all!

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