

## VPS School Council Meeting April 6-2022 Minutes

### Attending

Attendees: *Andrea Dube-Goss, Jason McAlister, Carla Anderson, Tricia Radburn, Kristine Kozicki, Mark Hallman, Leslie Mifsud, David DiCenzo, Jillian Cockburn, Beth Anne Burgess*

1) Mark welcomes all. We tried to remember what we did on March Break! Seems so long ago.

### 2) Information items

#### **Chair Message (Mark)**

- Happy Spring, everyone! It's nice to say farewell to the white stuff and hello to the green stuff! We have some exciting things to discuss at this meeting - Subs, Spirit Wear and Slides!

#### **Principal Update (Carla)**

- Responding to request from last meeting Re: bunching in the kindie pick up/drop off area
- Carla observed and there was little bunching, maybe in part due to the snow mountain melting
- It's not an issue

#### **Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, Black Futures Bulletin Board Tour**

- Bulletin boards outside the classroom and a tour around the school

#### **Parcs Quote for Slide Repairs**

- We have been waiting a long time
- The quote was over \$10,000
- life expectancy of repair and structure

#### **Mulch Quote**

- council asked about how much we would get for \$1,000
- covers about 100m<sup>2</sup> with a 3" depth.
- Sentiment we needed more

#### **Empowerment Week**

- Grades 4-6
- Speakers with character education messages

### **Welcome Back Monique and Nicole Godreau**

- Monique teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> class
- Nicole accepted the 0.5 EA position

### **Kindness Assembly**

- Virtual assembly done

### **Severe Weather Drill**

- Completed

### **DancEd coming**

- Date looks like June 9<sup>th</sup>
- We don't know what it will look like yet
- "We will roll with it whatever way it goes."

### **Booster Juice**

- successful response and first round completed
- it went over well

### **Victory Garden**

- told it's up to the school
- teachers Mme Drumm, Mme DeRijcke, and Mrs Cadieux have volunteered to operate it
- they asked to share a letter with council and Carla did that
- provided a proposal...using half of the lots for students to be able to plant vegetables, herbs, and cultivating plants
- there are other ideas about collaboration with the Indigenous community, but it would be off-site, so that's on hold
- they asked some questions...communication point, equipment location, who will weed, are funds available to support it, etc...
- they are excited about it
- there was an additional discussion later in the evening about community liaisons
- it's complicated as some members who were involved with EPNG have stepped away from involvement in the garden
- Jillian found the official correspondence back in 2020
- Assumption that the school and council share responsibility for the garden
- Need someone to find the tools
- Council needs to have a point person with teachers
- Kristine suggests teachers connect with parents
- Beth Ann says put a call out in the Newsletter...Green Thumb Projects
- Great idea!

## Playground Opening

- we will wait for the April inspections to be completed
- request in for sand – to be paid through school budget
- Kristine asks why council is not responsible for sand
- Answer is unknown

## Treasurer Update (Beth Ann)

- See notes in italics below

*\$30,000 in Council accounts, of which \$13,686 is in reserve for playground repairs  
Still have appx \$8,100 in expenses budgeted.*

- *Can we encourage staff to please use their budget and get receipts in?*
- *Only \$1,275 in receipts submitted of \$6,400 budget. Can't confirm carry forwards to next year*
- *Biggest expenses to come: Dance Ed \$1,200, Forest of Reading \$1,500, Grounds \$1,000*
  
- Forest of Reading has taken place
- Dance Ed has not invoiced

## 3) Discussion items

### Principal Leadership Input (Council)

- Only way public can have input so it carries weight
- Achievement goal
- Three equity goals
- One is to collect data specific to VPS's students and families
- Points of emphasis for the school year
- Marks cites inclusion and equity
- Jason recalls a discussion earlier in the year on seeing everything through the lens of achievement, Carla adding specifically closing achievement gaps
- A link between the community and the school, particularly in this time of limited fundraising
- Carla mentions there has not been a big school-based initiative in each of the last two years, which is related to the pandemic
- Jason points out voice amplifiers, supporting new teachers, etc...
- Mark adds Forest of Reading
- The document is due on April 30...will go to Matt McCutcheon directly
- We will finalize that in the coming week

## Food Orders (Jason)

- Great to do Booster Juice and kudos to Jason for getting Subway on board
- Jason chatted with King George to discuss how they do the Subway orders
- Working with Subway on Eramosa, a location that is vetted with the Board and run at multiple schools
- What day?
- An electronic order form, as well as a hard copy
- Need to print stickers, drop off at Subway
- Jason will collect that info
- Cost is \$3.99 + tax per sub, but we should get the tax back (Beth-Ann, is this correct?)
- Price: \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00?
- Jason thinks \$6 is too much so maybe \$5.50 works
- More of a goodwill gesture that students enjoy rather than maximizing the fundraising
- Should we do it and if so, who will run it?
- Kristine asks how much King George is charging
- Mark likes the idea of charging cost, which is \$4
- Namely because we are in the black and might not get much anyway for two months
- Kristine points out we should charge the normal price so there is no sticker shock when we get back to fundraising
- Jillian relays her King George receipt and it's \$6.50
- Noting it's not feasible for everyone, Jillian was happy to do it because it was something her daughter could be excited about
- Jason looks at things we've supported in the past that we could put the money towards...Maker Space, Carnavale, Home Reading, etc...they are all big hits with students
- Carla says there is very little left in outdoor equipment and now that kids can play outside, they need more
- Having something to get behind could be valuable
- Beth Ann likes Carla's suggestion of outdoor equipment
- benefit is it is needed immediately rather than always telling parents we are funding something for the future
- students would get on board with that
- agreed we put that out there as our fundraising goal
- back to price
- Andrea says \$5-5.50 sounds more accessible
- Profit would be \$1.50 per sub
- Estimate up to \$800-1000 in funding
- Who can take it on?
- Mark offers to organize
- He will chat with Jason offline about logistics
- Let's do it quickly and coordinate with the newsletter
- The day will depend on Mark's availability
- Beth Ann offers to help, as well
- It's good we can support funding outdoor equipment

### Grounds Update (Carla and Beth Ann)

- Mulch to order- appx 800m2 for all council responsible grounds
- Can we get more? Carla says there is no harm in asking
- this seems like a lot but in line with 2018 grounds cost \$5,655
- cost now is \$1,000 for 100m2
- Recommend skipping the Northside in both kindie and main yard
- Beth Ann proposes a max of \$4,000 to cover front of school grounds and stage area...\$1,000 is not enough
- Hope to have coverage until fall 2023 when we have some more permanent solutions planned out
- **Beth Ann makes an official motion to increase the existing mulch budget (top-up in the front of school and kindie island) from \$1,000 to \$4,000 immediately, seconded by Kristine, Mark in favour (and appreciative of Beth Ann's measuring and math to figure that out!)**
- **Vote: Passed**

### Slide Repair (Carla)

- it's \$10,000 to fix that crack
- Very steep!
- Inspection coming
- Carla notes two people have said they can't repair the crack
- The problem is you can't replace the lone slide...it's part of three things together and a connecting hood
- Carla is passing on contact info for companies that provided quotes
- Sent to Jason
- Jillian asks about available grants to address that
- Carla says there are not (internally) and that structures have to be fundraised
- Jillian asks if there are external grants
- She will look into it
- Jason reached out to Phil Alt
- He recommended Rotary Club or the Community Foundation
- Beth Ann is involved with the latter and she suggests it wouldn't happen
- Structure is currently closed
- Beth Ann says "in good conscience" she can't recommend paying that much for the repair
- It could be damaging financially going forward
- Carla wonders if it could be asked to tear the structure down because it's "unsafe"
- Kristine says we don't know enough
- Beth Ann says we do need to take action on the repair based on the live quote
- **Beth Ann makes an official motion that she does not support paying \$12,000 to repair the slide. Seconded.**

- **Vote: Passed**
- There needs to be a sustainable plan going forward
- This structure has been great but it's at the end now
- **Action item: contact the quote providers**
- Tricia offers to help Beth Ann on this project

#### **Cleanup Date**

- TBD before mulch arrives
- Community cleanup is April 23rd
- How about April 24<sup>th</sup>?
- Staff is unpacking
- Carla says pots and pans found
- Custodian knows Little Library is around
- Get it in the Newsletter
- And ask for books, pots, and pans

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

- UGDSB does not support the screening of this film any longer
- Possible alternate screen time session to be offered by UGDSB - stay tuned

#### **PIC funds option with King George (Jason)**

- Awaiting update from their meeting

#### **Equity Bags (Jason and Carla)**

- No updates

#### **Nutritious Snacks (Carla & David)**

- No updates

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

- Exciting
- Price is per unit sold
- Money available for kids who can't afford to buy them
- In Facebook group
- It's on Cash Online
- Carla can post on school site and email staff
- The flyer is in the agenda
- Taking orders until the 22nd

#### **4) Newsletter**

- Mark will circulate an email to get a list of items compiled

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

- Beth Ann adds her email to connect about Grounds

#### **6) Adjournment**

Have a good evening, folks!

-----