

Kidston PAC meeting Minutes January 5th, 2021

In Attendance:

Taryn and Rob B, Erica S, Robert L, Simone M, Debbie C, Christin K, Lara P, Anita L, Erica M, Erik N, Dom, Gareth A, Jeff S, Shawna, Natalie, Olivia B

Approval of agenda

Approval of December minutes

Speakers and Topics:

Introduction of **Gen Acton** – new chair of the board of trustees

Debbie Cullum – Principal's Report

-Michelle Lepin is retiring March 31st – there is a \$100 retirement fund – Debbie will follow up with teachers on ideas for a gift

-Jan 15th is new kindergarten registration and program transfers –there is an online form this year to fill out and then an assigned appointment to drop off documents. No need to rush for catchment children but transfers are more time sensitive. The form is on the Kidston website under parent tab – registration. Documents needed: proof of parent citizenship, child care card and birth certificate, and proof of address.

-communication with teachers – a reminder to parents for a collaborative approach, non-confrontational, keep it open, current, and ongoing

-my ed BC portal - ensure parents have access for upcoming February progress reports

- Outdoor Learning trust fund discussion: Discussion on whether to move approx. \$ 11,000 in designated outdoor learning /outdoor classroom funds from PAC account to central Kidston trust fund account. Several reasons to consider this: funds held in trust give donors security i.e. that funds will not be spend out until project (outdoor classroom) is fully funded and going forward. In addition, if the District does majority of building/purchasing of the proposed outdoor classroom, funds will have to be paid out of the trust account (not a PAC account). Disadvantages: There may be a time lapse on cheque processing from the trust account, therefore perhaps some funds should held in PAC account for payment during summer months etc. Discussion to continue, consider a future motion to hold a significant portion of proposed outdoor classroom funds in trust account.

-tether balls - still not installed, follow up with teachers on possible location for next meeting

-location of outdoor learning structure – Debbie to discuss with teachers for next meeting

Erik Neilson – Vice Principal and OH&S

-parking lot restrictions and reminders of 'no parking' zones went well

-reminders to parents reduce gathering after school hours, social distancing, mask wearing

Lara –DPAC representative - Saleema Noon Educators

-body science program dates:

-April 20th parent information zoom meeting at 7 pm

- April 27th – kids sessions and q&a
- Debbie to update teachers at next staff meeting

Dom – Treasurer’s Report

- calibra bags, mom’s pantry fundraisers generated \$ 1800
- currently \$35,000 in PAC account, \$19,000 is designated

Natalie - Snowshoes

- snowshoes – quote from MEC for MSR snowshoes was \$5270 plus tax, that includes 25 youth and 15 adult pairs, youth sizes 1-7, adult sizes up to 15
- survey done on shoe sizes on intermediates – that’s how youth/adult sizes and numbers were determined
- can still get them for this year at this group price if we order before January 17th
- \$ 2540 gaming money that could be used toward snowshoes.
- grant in spring’ td friends of the environment’ has to be outdoor learning focus but can’t be used for outdoor learning classroom, can we use it for snowshoes? Kristen waiting to hear back on this. Could apply to use for a second set next year.

Rob B and Erica S – Allen Brooks/Science Center Partnership

- Rob B and Erica S have been meeting with the Vernon Science center and the Allan Brooks Nature Center on an opportunity to work collaboratively on two programs:

- Outdoor outreach sessions with 2 members of Allan Brooks and Science Center staff, 1 hour each, focusing on nature ecosystems in collaboration with the teacher. This is a pilot program that would be initiated with Kidston elementary and could be expanded in the future. Ideally, it would be 4 sessions total in April/May that would then give the class a focus for inquiry in the classroom. Cost is \$1200 for 4 sessions per class.
- Fundraiser opportunity – Science Center monthly kit subscription. These would be STEM kits with different focuses linked to the curriculum for a certain age group (yet to be determined) Cost for parents would be \$20-\$25 per month with an 8 month commitment. PAC would receive %15 of sales for promoting these kits – ordering and delivery would all be through science center.

- Christin will add this to the TD Friends of Environment January grant proposal for the teacher education piece
- Debbie to share idea with teachers, see what teachers are interested
- Go grant is available for teachers - can apply – deadline Feb 1st or sept 1st

Jeff calls for a vote 3 motions:

Motion: PAC to support \$5550 towards purchasing snowshoes. **Moved:** Natalie. **Seconded.**
CARRIED (unanimously)

Simone discussed the ongoing efforts of OLC to move forward a vision to build a permanent outdoor classroom structure. The committee will be working on a significant proposal to Co-op

Community Grant due March 2021 in support of the structure. She requested the PAC consider a contribution this fiscal to show school support and increased the total funds raised to date to show to potential grantees that a significant portion of funds have been raised to date.

Motion: PAC to support a \$5000 commitment to the outdoor classroom structure. Should the project not go forward, this amount will be returned to PAC.

1. **MOVED:** Simone. **Seconded.** **CARRIED** (unanimously)

2. **Motion:** PAC to support \$2400 towards 2 classes of 4 sessions each for a pilot Outdoor Environmental Program in collaboration with the Allan Brooks/Okanagan Science Centre. Should Kidston's TDFE grant be approved for this program, these funds will be returned to PAC.
MOVED: Erica. **Seconded.** **CARRIED** (unanimously)

Simone and Gareth – Outdoor Learning Committee

- Ideas on how we can support Gramma D in her volunteer position at Kidston
- possibly Vernon science center would help with coordinating a position or program for her – in discussion with new director
- possibly landed learning funds if program going ahead.
- Debbie to follow up with staff on location of outdoor structure
- Garden volunteer activities/sign up to be posted on Kidston Facebook group next month
- interested parents to champion a garden bed

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

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