

GES PAC meeting via Zoom video (link provided to all parents to participate)

March 2, 2021 7 p.m.

Present: Deb Small, Deborah Luporini, Jane Seyd, Martial Guillaud, Lorena Ruth, Christina Crosby, Sandra Squires, Emily Doyle, Pam Ruth, Rita Koutsodimos and others.

Adoption of agenda: Debbie Small first, Sandra Squires second. None opposed

Approval of minutes: from February 2021 PAC meeting. Sandra Squires first, Debbie Small second, none opposed.

Open mic: n/a

4. Reports:

a. Principal's Report: Deborah Luporini. See principal's report for March 2021.

- Report cards go out this month and parent interviews are happening online.
- Student learning survey is for parents of students in Grades 4 & 7. Ministry of Education ties it to FSA tests.
- KinderSpark for families of kids starting kindergarten in September. There will be 2 or 3 modified sessions offered outside for up to 6 families at a time, starting in April. There will also be a Zoom night for new Kindergarten families in April.
- Alex Wells has been hired as a new, extra crossing guard at the school.
- Sue at the community school is looking into how we might be able to offer Home Alone and Babysitter courses for upper intermediate students.
- The t-shirt design for the school done by students has been chosen.
- The school lunch was well-received by students and the community school is hoping to do another one in April.
- Raincity Housing advisory committee. There are about 12 community members chosen by Raincity (recommended by Town of Gibsons) including Stacia Leech from the school district and Deborah Luporini from the school. First meeting is expected in April.

Sandra Squires added the health unit has some limited ability to give kindergarten vaccines out if families want to call the health unit. HPV vaccines for Grade 6 students will be done by pharmacists at London Drugs.

b. Treasurer's report: Debbie Small. Please see Treasurer's report for March 2021

c. Trustee's report: Pam Ruth

- Trustees are doing virtual school tours
- Hiring process is underway for a new superintendent

- Parents are welcome to tune in to school board meetings and email their questions.

d. DPAC report: Lorena Ruth.

- There was a discussion about a Family Smart program for families of teens who are dealing with mental health or drug abuse issues. Program includes parents who have been through his offering support to others.
- There is a new for-profit space called Ideas Space that has opened near the Kube offering some robotics and Lego STEM-type programming for kids.
- DPAC still has funding available for parent education.
- Online SPARK transition programs are being offered for parents of kids going from elementary to secondary school.

New business:

- Rita attended a Min of Transportation meeting as a parent for a discussion on the possibility of protected bike lanes and protected sidewalks near the school. MOT is planning to do all the easy areas but not the critical area nearest the school and had no timeline for when the other areas might be addressed. So it was disappointing. They are also not planning to include actual physical separation of the bike lanes although separated bike lanes are much safer. It is worth a follow-up letter to indicate we think it falls short of what's required. It would also possibly help our cause if it came from multiple families
- Sandra is reviewing the "Safe Routes to Schools" map w feedback from the students and is looking into possible coordination with other schools. She is buying sports equipment for classes that helped out. We will look into a launch to coordinate with Bike to School Week.
- Backpack buddies. The community school has been doing a program this year to provide food for kids who would normally access that through programs that aren't being offered in the same way at school. There was discussion about wanting to possibly continue the program through the summer months in some capacity. We will see if Sue from the community school wants to come to a future meeting and discuss in more details how PAC might want to help/be involved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.