

## **Kitchener Elementary School PAC Meeting**

September 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Staff room in person

Attendees: Tracey, Anna, Melika, Sukhy, Elaine, Daniil, Ashley, Andrew, Alireza, Elaine, Sally, Mahnoor, Abdullah, Gang, Erica, Mathew, JueXiao, Hesam, Faranak, Zohreh, Jocelyn

Staff Attendees: Dino, Mike

### **1. Welcome and Call to order @ 6:35 pm**

Vote on last meeting's minutes- Due to Lisa's absentee and majority of attendees being from K-level, this was not voted on.

Roundtable introduction of PAC Executive and School Administration. Due to number of parent attendees, a full roundtable of introductions was not done.

### **2. Principal's Report**

- Mr. Klarich has been principal for 15 years in the district and past 3 years at Kitchener. Before that, he was teacher and he is very passionate about Kitchener since he taught at the school many years ago.
- Due to development and growth of the neighbourhood, school's enrollment has reached an all-time high of 489.
- There are two portable classrooms getting installed and will accommodate grade 6 and 7. There is discussion with the district on adding more portables for expansion (potentially Before and After School care would go to one of these future units).
- Several new teachers joined Kitchener. Mr. Kenney currently uses the Big Gym as a classroom and Ms. Tai teaches grades 1 & 2 split.
- EA's (Educational Assistant) has increased to 17 this year. Also, number of ELL (English Language Learning) staffing has increased as well.
- There is a family settlement worker in the district, Ms. Miriam, who can speak Arabic as well. She is at Kitchener 1x per week to help and support new families connecting them to resources and make them feel connected and part of the school.
- Ms. Marzitelli (school's Secretary) regularly updates school's website and parents are encouraged to visit the website for all updates and news regarding schools' programs and events. Kitchener also has a Twitter and Instagram account.
- School's 100 Year Event is scheduled for 2025.
- Reporting and assessment: school is reviewing and discussing and adopting new ways on this to help meet the needs of children for evaluation and assessment reporting. More information will be provided in the Fall.
- For children in grades 4 & 7, the Foundation Skill Assessment testing will begin in October to show information on children are doing.

- School emphasises on involving children in different activities. In October, students will have opportunities to learn Tennis through “Tennis is Fun” with Mr. Markus Anderson for total of 3 weeks approx. 6-7 sessions per class.
- Outdoor events: school’s vision is to get children involved in outdoor activities. For children in grade 7 there is planning for camps and for younger students it would be events in the park or school grounds.

### **3. DPAC Report (Tracey)**

Its on second Monday every month and next one is October 4<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to contact Tracey to be representative of our school at the meetings. There are PAC 101 and Finance 101 which Tracey and Anna attend. This can be great opportunities for learning on budgeting and what gaming grants can or can not be spent on.

### **4. Treasurer’s Report**

- Anna explained and reviewed the financial reporting.
- School’s earthquake supplies have been expired and needs to be replenished.
- Gaming fund from province is \$20 per student. There is a 3 year time limit for the fund to be used and if it is not used in this period, funds need to be returned to province. (Example of Gaming Fund usage: Field trips, School wide activities)
- PAC distribute Classroom funds from general fundraising and give to teachers. Each full-time teacher received allowance to spend \$200 per year (pro-rated for part-time staff).
- Budget moved and approved.

### **Fundraisers**

- Sun-Oka Fruit (Apples)
- Mabels Labels
- Tru Earth cleaning supplies
- Return It Recycle depot
- Purdys Chocolate
- Poinsettia plants
- Little Reflectors – small business selling reflector tag for kid’s backpacks, etc.

We LOVE volunteers!

### **School WIDE EVENTS**

- Parents As Partners meetings on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> ( schedule will be emailed for parents to sign up); this is an opportunity for teachers to know your child and parents.
- Welcome back Hotdog Day – Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-5 PM

- Terry Fox run in support of Terry Fox Foundation will be at Willingdon Park on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2:30 pm
- Halloween – activities TBD
- Remembrance Day assembly under consideration due to size of school

### **Traffic Concerns**

- With embracing changes to our community comes challenges to traffic safety. Everyone needs to be mindful of traffic at drop off and pick up. There are visual cones for traffic safety, so please be proactive and not reactive. There is a project planned for sidewalk upgrades in the Summer of 2023. School encourages everyone try to walk to school as much as possible.
- There is an RCMP officer designated for our school but it is not their responsibility to enforce school zone safety. Please be careful when driving and slow down on school zone. Don't jay walk and don't park in someone's driveway.
- Traffic on Gilmore Ave has been an issue for many years. PAC has taken this matter to the City and pleaded their case for a traffic light in front of the school. School and PAC is requesting any parent or students to report any accidents or "close-call" experiences to the principal or community police. By reporting the danger, it helps brings awareness to severity of this safety concern.
- A parent asked if older students could assist with road and traffic patrol. Because Gilmore is a busy road (with no paved sidewalk), there is a lot of risk involved, Principal would not risk any student's safety, and this is not as option.
- A question been asked about speed bumps being added to Gilmore Avenue. Mr. Klarich explained because there is a bus line on Gilmore this is most likely not possible.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM

Next meeting November 10<sup>th</sup> ,2022, might be virtual, TBC