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### **Minutes for TPAC General Meeting: September 14, 2022**

**Attendance:** Danielle Parandah, Tuire Tammilehto, Anna Olson, Stacey Fraser, Dianna Watson, Teresa Bubela, Marc Breitemstein, Jennifer Yi, Sharon Rai, Devon Windsor, Liz McMaster, Emma Marley, Julena Lovegrove, Jasmine Haere, Ada Bello.

**Call to Order** at 7:01pm.

Land Acknowledgement by Danielle. Adoption of meeting agenda by Devon and seconded by Teresa.

**Opening Remarks:** Greetings and Introductions.

### **Standing Items**

#### **Communications Update**

- **Executive Role:** We are still seeking a Vice President. Ada Bello volunteers and is unanimously supported by the membership. A big Thank you and Welcome to Ada!
- **Annual Donation Drive:** A newsletter went home to families this week about the Donation Drive. This initiative eases the need for active fundraising efforts throughout the year. Funds are used for our yearly budget, including the classroom delivery. Any and all contribution amounts will help! (Suggested donation of \$40/child, \$70/family.) Thank you so much for your support!
- Stacey recognizes that September is a busy (and often expensive month). The donation drive will stay active with another mention in November.

#### **Financial Update**

- **Budget Review from Treasurer:** Anna revisits our 2022/2023 budget, approved in June 2022. It was kept similar to last years, with the exception of the fun lunch profit. It is set higher as fun Lunch days will occur weekly this year.
- Julena shares that Grade 5 celebration funds from last year were not fully used. (Approx \$800-1000 remained). She would like to see this used for a gift to Torquay from past students.
- A parent asks how grade 5 celebrations are funded. The budget allocates \$300 and additional fundraising occurs by parents, ie Easter Purdy's sale, Popcorn Sales, Freezer sales, etc.
- Our chequing account currently has \$38,500 and gaming account had \$4,200.
- For those new to the Torquay, the gaming account funds can only be spent on specific items. This money comes from government grants and we need to account for purchased items. It is to be used to benefit the entire student body such as sports equipment, playground equipment, woodworking kits, etc.
- Emma asks if parents are working towards a fundraising goal.
- Danielle conveys that currently there is not a specific goal in the minds of parents.
- Surveys were sent out last year to try to identify a goal. Some options presented were playground structures, nature spaces, community building events such a the Halloween Howl.

- Devon researched play equipment companies over the summer. She now needs specific instructions from the school on size and possible placement before formulating estimates.

### Event Update

- Welcome Picnic: Come join us on September 22 for an informal gathering. There will be snacks and refreshments. Meet your child's teacher and your fellow Torquay families! Hope to see you there!
- We encourage you to bring their own picnic and blankets. Hope to see you there!
- Liz shares that "Meet the Teacher" will be two sessions, for those with two or more children.
- Each teacher will decide on the structure of sessions for their classrooms.
- Fun Lunches: Angie Jansen is organizing four vendors. White Spot and Booster Juice are confirmed. She is hoping to secure sushi and pizza. **First Fun Lunch is White Spot, beginning September 28.** Please remember, **deadline for orders is one week prior to each fun lunch day!**
- Halloween Howl: Sharon and Jasmine are thrilled to bring back the Halloween Howl, a fun family event that has been a hit in previous years.
- In order for it to be a success, they need your help. Please consider lending a hand! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44adaa22abf5c70-halloween>
- They hope to have a photo booth, the Wheel of Terror, a DJ, pizza, a cupcakes/treats table, games, decorations, and glowsticks.
- Save the date! **October 28th**. Presale tickets will be available online.
- Devon asks if bake sales will be allowed this year.
- Also suggested for fundraising: movie nights, pancake breakfasts, winter dance, joint bottle drives with Lambrick, Gordon Head or Hillcrest.
- Spring Fair Discussion: tabled until next meeting.
- Spirit Wear: Opening soon! Samples will be available for sizing this year. Ordering will be online.

### Administration Report

#### Liz McMaster, Principal

- *The first week of school hit us like a truck. We found out on Tuesday that we would need to collapse a division. We recognize the worries of parents and students. It was a challenge but both Emma and I were so blown away with our staff. When announced, half the staff stayed until six or seven pm at night to help organize our students. The support was incredible! In some schools the collapsing took a long time and was completed by seniority. Our staff unionized and did what was best for the students instead.*
- **Tour de Rock is October 7:** We are thinking to organize a bottle drive. Any parent contributions would be fantastic. Teresa suggests that Liz be taped to a wall for donations. Liz volunteers! A suggestion is made to collect "Coins for Concurring Childhood Cancer" with different coins collected for every day of the week. Other ideas: garage sale, drop in a bucket, pizza party for the most weight in coins?. We have 3 weeks to collect!
- **September 26: Terry Fox Run.** We have decided to consolidate fund-raising efforts for Tour de Rock this year. Fundraising for Terry Fox will resume next year.
- We have funding coming from the district. An additional \$60 million; \$1.9 million will be allocated to SD 61. Based on completed surveys, a certain amount of money will be sent to each school.
- What is the need for this school community? The funds could be used for transportation, food, school supplies.
- Our staff can help identify the needs in their classrooms. We may provide a form to apply for assistance.
- These funds will be in addition to already existing programs; It is not to replace funding for families.
- The survey out now. **The deadline to share your input is September 20th.**
- Music, Elementary school strings: The district is still looking for a strings teacher. There are many of these postings across the district and HR is working with individuals to form full time hours. Postings close this week and results will be in next week.

- *2 classes for two sessions per week. Tuesday and Fridays after school. ONLY Grade 5's will be eligible.*

**New Business:**

- Teresa says the original cancellation of the strings program brought to light the importance of voting for School Trustees. This **coming municipal election on October 15** will see 9 trustees voted into SD61. Please educate yourself on the candidates and VOTE!
- A Parent Education opportunity is shared. Julianne Richards, clinical counsellor. Her name topic of discussion is childhood anxiety. We could consider partnering with another school to bring us this presentation.
- Indigenous Art: Last year we approved funding to purchase Indigenous Art for our school. Sarah Elford led to efforts but has moved onto another school. It has landed with Tuire and Sarah Morales. Anna to check on the funding is still available.
- A reminder: The front of school is a **Drop Off Only Zone**. Please reframe from parking, even for just a second as it causes congesting in the street.
- "Activity Before Learning," Jasmine asks what happened to it. Liz says the reality is... it's chaos. Maybe if there was a specific group activity planed it could be reconsidered.
- Julena suggested painting fun obstacle courses on the ground in the school. Liz replies that with the floor cleaning solvents, often the paintings are gone after 2 months.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 8:33pm by Danielle.