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Minutes for TPAC Meeting on January 11, 2023

Attendance: PAC executive members (Anna Olson (Treasurer), Tuire Tammilehto (Secretary) Stacey Fraser (Communications). Devon Windsor, Nancy Hodgson, Kirsten Wall.

Call to Order at 7:02pm by Stacey, sitting in for Danielle.

Opening Remarks: Land acknowledgement.

Adoption of meeting agenda by Stacey, seconded by Devon.

Adoption of previous meeting minutes Anna, seconded by Stacey.

Standing Items

Communications Update

- **Staff Appreciation Day:** We are looking for help with organizing a Staff Appreciation Day for this year. \$450 is allocated in our budget. If you are able to lend a hand, please reach out to Danielle at: president@torquaypac.ca.
- **Grade 5 Recognition Ceremony Fundraising:** Generally, the ceremony and fun events are scheduled on the same day. Tentative Date: Wed, June 28.
- Jasmine and Clare are organizing this year. The first meeting was held with a handful of parents and they will be meeting with grade 5 teachers in the coming weeks. Welcoming parent involvement; reach out to Jasmine at: loujas2000@yahoo.ca.
- Last year approx. \$1450 was spent. \$300 is allocated from the PAC budget this year.
- A Bottle drive in February and Kernel's popcorn sales will also support this event.
- Liz is leading the organization on behalf of the teachers.

Financial Update

- **General update from Treasurer:** Chequing Account: \$24,435.76, Gaming Account: \$10,652.49 School Held Funds: \$2,188.63, Total available funds: \$70,786.22.
- We received \$589 from Benjamin Moore Paints. Thank you so much for the contribution!
- For those that may not be aware, Torquay PAC members can SAVE 20% on paint.
- Our local Benjamin Moore Pacific Paints dealer has created an account to benefit Torquay PAC for your DIY renovation and decorating needs. Mention "Torquay Elementary PAC" when you purchase paint at a Benjamin Moore store on the Island and you'll receive 20% off retail on the Benjamin Moore family of paint products. Also, you will receive 20% off applicable products such as rollers, brushes and tapes etc.
- Not just for Torquay families: this discount can be shared with friends! All they need to do is mention "Torquay Elementary PAC" when checking out at Benjamin Moore (mention account#2504779511)
- *Thanks to Torquay parents Jacey and Julianna Moore for setting this up!*
- Nancy suggests Country Grocer may have "community cards" if there is interested in exploring this as an option.

- **Funding Request:** Ms. Blascow requests three accounts on “Fast for Word” for three different students that need help with reading. They have gaps in their learning and are not responding to regular programs. \$675 in total.
- VOTE: Passed
- **Funding Request for Staff/Librarian iPads:** Liz asks for a Large storage capacity iPad for our library projects that requires more storage. New iPad would have 200G of space. Upgrade of \$800.
- Devon asks what will happen with the old iPad, could it be sold? Liz says it will be in limited use
- VOTE: Passed
- 3 Pads for staff portfolios: \$1276 total. Will be used for digital portfolios. In the past our teachers used Freshgrade, a company that has closed. The district developed their own software program instead of contracting it out. The software keeps parents updated with videos, photos, and learning assessments throughout the semester. Teachers are currently sharing iPads which poses a challenge. Liz wants teachers engage with the software and avoid using their own phones to take photos, for safety reasons. In previous years the PAC has allocated \$600 in our budget to upgrade tech, which has not been utilized.
- VOTE: Passed, with \$600 coming from this year’s budget.
- FYI, Smart Boards are no longer used in classrooms due to unlicensed software. There has been desktops taken from classrooms due to aging hardware. Liz anticipates that more funds will be needed to upgrade our current computer hardware.
- Recommended, \$1500 Tech Budget for next year in order to catch up our technology needs.
- Also, be aware that wheelchair accessibility is under review by district. Next year we will have a Kindergartener with new accessibility needs. Liz mentions that Campus View just upgraded to a wheelchair accessible playground and would like to take a tour of it to help highlight options for our playground.

Event Update

- **Spring Fair Discussion:** Would you like to see the return of the Spring Fair to Torquay? It generally includes a Silent Auction, Food trucks or BBQ, Cake walk, Candy bracelet booth, face painting booth, Bouncy Castle. If interested, please contact Danielle at: president@torquaypac.ca.
- **Parent Ed-Sheepdog Protection Presentation:** Coming soon!
- Sheepdog Self Protection Inc strives to provide the best training possible to give participants the knowledge and tools they need to protect themselves and their loved ones from “the wolf”. Our motto is “enlighten not frighten”. We have no desire to scare people straight but to instead educate participants on the reality of the society we live in and provide them with the skills that can help them be “safer.” Yes, “safer”. Nothing is 100% Safe.
- Presented by a Victoria police officer, Kris
- One presentation for parents, and one for the children.
- \$200 still available in our parent education budget. This will exceed that, however Anna says that we are coming in over our projected income for the year and so it would be safe to organize.

Administration Report

Liz McMaster, Principal

-Gordy Bear has met with Liz. On Feb 7th he will be coming for a 1-day Drum Making Workshop (9am-3pm). 12 parents will have the opportunity to make, then donate deer hide drums to our school. Come spend the day learning with Gordy! Be aware, deer hide has a very strong odour and it takes 20lbs of pressure to curl the hide over the drum.

Funding Request: \$1050 in materials for drums, a duffel bag and blanket for storage. Gordy’s time is free! These will be used in the music department and in workshops for students. Currently Torquay does not have any drums.

VOTE: Passed.

-Liz is shocked at the language on our playground. Some of it is sexualized, with swearing and gesturing. Liz wonders if access to online platforms may be a contributing factor as kids are saying it's from Youtube or video games. She has taken on talking about safety and boundaries in our classrooms.

-To help, Mia Golden, a local resident, BA in Justice Studies, Actor/Filmmaker/Writer/Youth Gang & Exploitation Counsellor has agreed to organize workshops geared around safety for our grade 4-5's.

With Tech and social media more prevalent and growing quickly. The ways the our children's neural pathways are developing is something we need to try to understand.

Mis will also be available for counselling as needed.

-Surveys for grade 4 children: First is the Middle Years Development Instrument by UBC. It asks children about their lives at school and at home. They take data and give it back to Torquay to gauge climate, culture and safety of our school. Sometimes it prompts local and provincial supports.

-Second is the Grade 4 Learning Survey. It is an overall satisfaction survey that takes 25-30mins. It is given to all our students and will be shared with our staff.

- An update on the Student and Family Support Fund: We have allocated \$6000 so far with \$13,000 still available. Please reach out! There are limits who much can be given per student and it needs to be used by the end of this year.

Town Hall/New Business:

Update on Indigenous Art: Sarah Jim may be available for a mural or to create a piece of art for us this spring. If a mural is preferred, we need to decide on where it could be placed.

Meeting adjourned: at 8:13pm, by Stacey.