

Trafalgar Middle School PAC  
October 8, 2024 Minutes

1. Approval of minutes with addition to include Bruce Ramsay as Treasurer and bank account signatory as previously discussed with Secretary and Bruce
2. Approval of agenda with no additions
3. DPAC report regarding Financial issues, AGM this week, foods and nutrition response
4. Treasurer Report
  - attached with balances and spendings
  - \$5,015.65 Community Account
  - \$9,411.75 Gaming Account
  - we got \$11,200 in Gaming Funding last week
  - DPAC financial challenges leads to discussion/
5. Principal's Report – Tim Mushamanski
  - Challenges eating lunches
    - o Long standing tradition of spending lunch hour outside
    - o But when do kids eat?
    - o Carved out some instructional time to eat with a relevant video etc.
    - o But the kids are pretty disorganized around that
    - o In spring, staff decided to allow kids to stay in the building at lunch
      - Stay out of the weather, eat, socialize etc.
      - Still lots of energy in building and kids on phones
      - Even though WIFI not provided
      - And where do kids eat?
    - o Cafeteria is noisy and horrible in the basement that was used for eating until the 1980s and it's now a multipurpose/multiuse space
    - o No-one wants to be there either eating or supervising
    - o So they are thinking of having mandatory outside time again
    - o And where do kids eat, so that is another issue that staff need to figure out
    - o Teachers have a duty free lunch hour
    - o So two admin and 9 EAs are doing all the supervision
    - o It's a struggle and ideas are welcome
    - o Ministry provides lots of food to schools but not time to distribute or supervise
    - o Discussion on how/what PAC/parents can do other than tell kids that likely going back to using instructional time and they should be organized around eating time
      - Utilize parent volunteers or a part-time CUPE person or suchlike to supervise foods program?
      - Start one day a week?
      - Have an info session for parents to brainstorm – PAC led?

- Work towards getting in-school food program back up and running
- Full time counsellor hired out of French program and new French teacher for 6-1
- Fall sports underway
  - Can PAC support parent volunteers who are community coaches or staff (who volunteer their time)
  - Grade 6 girls want a volleyball team but it's not happening maybe?
  - Leagues start in Grade 8 but they have arranged some grade 7 games in the community, grade 6 get intermurals
- Providing barrier free snacks is tough when fruits and veg found in urinals and toilets
  - Super stressful for custodians, staff, grade 6/7s
  - And principal ☹️
- Early dismissal / parent teacher interviews coming next week
- FSA to Grade 7s – info to come out this week
- LLEs have started – current LLEs run to December
  - Most popular option are heavily oversubscribed
  - A few or three teachers less mean less options
  - Some kids who might pick top three get shut out and they are then asked where they want to be
  - Not flagged term to term
- Halloween is coming up and costume guidelines will be sent out
- Budget update in November
- Remembrance Day assembly on November 8, 2024
- Christmas break – last day is December 20, 2024

#### 6. Agenda Items:

- Bathroom issues – ongoing bathroom challenges with grade 6-7 not feeling safe in the bathrooms
  - Grade 6-7 only washroom proposed
  - He will take it to staff tomorrow
  - Some staff don't want to go into kid washrooms for privacy reasons but Tim thinks supervision is needed
  - Would be amazing to retrofit bathrooms to be private single stall with communal sinks that could be monitored by CCTV
  - Likely a \$500,000 job
  - Middle school issue across the board
  - Even older kids find bathrooms gross
  - Safe Schools Coordinator has been consulted on if it's allowable to install vape detectors
- Anti-bullying/racism
  - Anything PAC can do to support?
  - Tim reports on all the programs for reporting bullying (can be anonymous), ROAR, code of conduct, every homeroom has access to anti-bullying programs
  - These are shared with kids
- Funding requests in yet?
  - Pride Group has been started and they have a funding request but it wasn't brought

- Also library, sports teams, etc. have funding requests
  - ROAR cards will be an ask
- Mentoring/leadership opportunities?
  - Peer tutoring LLE with 12 kids in it but 3 didn't show up
  - Partnering with South Nelson for that
  - Student leadership / Council was abandoned due to inactivity some years ago
    - Voting for leadership is quite a popularity contest and doesn't work
    - Need teacher sponsor and enough kids with buy in
    - Would consider more of it
  - Student Voice is a district program that produces online meetings and gets the Student Trustees
- Tim working on a sign out system for equipment as they balls etc. often get lost
- Work order with District in for a new, accessible (gated) gagaball pit
  - Tim would welcome ideas/fundraising for a non-mud gagaball pit as the current is MUDDY
  - Parent suggests contacting indoor soccer association to see what they do with their used turf

Attendees: Patricia Routien (Chair), Jon Breisnes (DPAC Rep), Lorien Quattrocchi (Vice Chair), Bruce Ramsay (Treasurer), Jackie Routien, Nona Lynn, Kate Walker, Colleen Thomas, Tobi Hauck

Online: Caroline St. Germain, Emma Neufeld, Kristine, Melissa Mattice, Keiko, Katie Simpson, Selena Davis, Brianne, Karen Philipshen