

## APE MEETING March 8th, 2016

**Attendance:** Austen, Genevieve, Simona, Carolyn, Dee, Rachelle, Denise, Marie, Andrew

**Brainstorming:** Simona asked us to think about our vision for the school, why we volunteer at the school, and our ideas around conflict resolution within the APE. We wrote down our ideas and put them onto 3 separate posters. Below are the ideas we came up with.

### OUR VISION

- Safe friendly open environment for all.
- To see more cultural things happening in our school.
- Bigger classrooms at Brooks.
- More involvement/interaction with other schools and community.
- Retain more Grade 8 and 9's in the program.
- Hot lunch every day.
- Include more music and sports in program.
- CSF funded music instruction.
- Quality electives to match Brooks and participate in sport teams for older students.
- More school organized sports and cross country not just 4 times a year.
- Fully functional garden to supply all greens/veggies for year round hot lunch additions.
- Fundraising for pizza days for children/families who cannot afford these lunches.
- Possibly another portable for the children with small/big learning disabilities like anger, disabled, high anxiety etc.
- During warmer months have certain classes outside.

### WHY VOLUNTEERING

- To contribute to the community of the school.
- Service to our children, teachers, and community.
- To show support to other parents as well as admin and teachers.
- To know what goes on here for our children and to get to know other parents.
- We are more than fundraisers.
- Improve my children's education through CSF as there was many areas for improvement in my education.
- Help kids get most out of school.
- Take time and financial pressure off faculty.
- To be part of the school community and to be aware of what is happening in my child's school.
- Letting the children know that they feel safe and that they can talk to the teachers about any problem they may have in learning. Or for them to know that they can talk about any problems they may have with other students.

- To stay somewhat in the loop.

### *CONFLICT RESOLUTION*

- Always check that nothing has been misunderstood.
- Listen more than you speak.
- Make sure everyone's voice is heard.
- Always try to assume that people are acting from the best intentions.
- Add conflict to minutes and put forward motions that are voted upon to resolve.
- Interdependent arbitration by other members of the APE
- Be open minded and keep open communication.
- Think positive!
- Approach the individual with respect and an open heart.
- Maybe invite a conflict resolution mediator to teach us a few "tricks".
- Understand we are all here to make school a great experience for our kids.
- Find out and let other parents know about the school protocol when conflict arises.
- Understand everyone is entitled to their point of view and follow our "majority" rules.
- Better communication with parents if there is a conflict at school.

**1. Adoption of Agenda:** Genevieve motioned, Rachelle seconded.

**2. Adoption of Minutes from Feb. meeting.** – Genevieve motioned, Austen seconded.

**3. President's report** (Simona)

- Genevieve sent out a letter to all members of the APE stating that she has resigned as treasurer (see attachment). The position is now vacant and Simona will send out an email to all parents to see if anyone is interested. Aaron and Genevieve have both offered to help the new treasurer once they have taken the position. Simona also mentioned that 4 members are needed to sign cheques, not 3 as previously thought.
- Jeux de la Francophonie – CSF initiative taking place in Powell River this year for 14-18 year olds. Simona has been skyping with others in the community to help organize this event, and she was also asked to write a letter to city council to get funding for the event.
- Bikes – Simona emailed Hugh Prichard (in charge of outdoor services) and he does want the bikes. She will arrange a date for him to come and look at the bikes soon.
- Farm to school – Wendy and Simona spoke with Francine (a parent from James Thomson School) about the grant. Francine told them to not rush into it and that it is more complicated than it seems. It seems that this program is maybe not the best fit for our school for several reasons. One being that our school kitchen does not meet the standards for Food Safe, which is required by this program. Also, the program involves

providing students with a 'salad bar' made up of local, fresh produce – something not available year round in our climate. To purchase organic produce as an alternative would be too costly. This program only provides money to get it started and then it is supposed to be self-sustainable. This is hard to maintain without asking payment for the lunches. At this point in time we will not be applying for the grant.

- Scottish Dancing – We talked about this at the last APE meeting. Jeanne was going to ask the staff what they thought of it. We will ask her at the next meeting.

**4. Treasurer's report** – Chequing account - \$11179.42. Gaming account - \$2102.89. Revenue-food card sales: \$6050, hot lunch: \$676.61.

**5. Principal's report** – Jeanne was absent.

**6. Fundraising meals/coffee** – Three hot lunches were organized for March with a profit of \$676.61. Carolyn will email Maggie about organizing April's hot lunches. Safeway has donated \$200 per month to our hot lunch program. An email was sent out this week about coffee for sale at the school. Simona wasn't sure who organized this. Carolyn will check with Stephanie and see if she set this up.

**7. Grade 1/2 Field Trip** – Genevieve tried to book 6 classes of gymnastics or swimming and it was quite full. She has organized different events for the class – one day of skating, 2 days of swimming, 3 days of gymnastics, and a trip to a farm. She has 5 parents plus Vincent available to drive. Simona will talk to Jeanne about paying for half. Next year we should look into booking these classes before Christmas.

**9. Questionnaire** – Maggie has suggested preparing a questionnaire to send home to all families. The questionnaire would ask parents if and how they would like to volunteer, ask for suggestions and preferences for hot lunch, etc. Simona will ask Maggie if she could write it up and send it to APE members for feedback and then have it ready to send home by the end of April.

Next meeting will be April 12th, 2016

March 4, 2016

Hi all,

I am pleased to announce that I will no longer be causing drama within APE!!!

Please consider this my resignation as treasurer. As you are all aware, I have been struggling to receive the necessary receipts and documentation to complete the legal government forms required for all not-for-profit organizations. As this is still an ongoing issue with no resolution in sight, I have no choice but to resign. I am not willing to jeopardise my personal reputation or the APE's with submission of incomplete, inaccurate forms and following poor accounting practices.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity and wish APE the best of luck in future endeavours.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Lambert

PS. The book will be brought to the meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016