Tuesday, Sept 21, 2020

**Brighouse Parent Advisory Council Minutes**

**Held By Zoom Video Conferencing (Due to COVID-19)**

**1:00pm**

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**In attendance: Hayley, Chris, Mariya, Mr. A, Mrs. Tse, Eric Chang, Artem Karpov, Howard Chin, Megan MacKay, Lambert, Peggy Wan**

**• Reports**

* **Chair**
  + Intro and Welcome to new faces; explanation what we do as a PAC and our role
* **Admin**
  + Good Start so far given the circumstances with pandemic
  + Kids have responded well to all of teacher structures introduced
  + Virtual learning started today – hectic start up, but support from district consultants have helped with Webinar’s for staff and students
  + Some technical glitches, but working through it
  + Garden is currently flourishing – Queenie (staff at Richmond Food Society) has helped us grow over 250lb of food for families in need. Kids still harvesting and weeding now
  + Garden program still a go for this year, though there will be slight changes due to COVID
* **Treasurers Report**
  + Breakdown of current funds for accounts (roughly $4100 gaming, $20,000 General)
  + Overview of the budget from last year and where we spent money
  + Need to discuss options for this upcoming year on how and where to put our money
  + In past we allowed $200/teacher for classroom field trips, special supplies, etc. Agreed to increase this for the coming year, but number not yet decided
* **New Business**
* **Options to spend our money and ideas for this coming year:**
* BC Wildlife – offering ‘virtual’ programs such as wayfinding, firebuilding, virtual option ($200/class), or hands on which includes materials, but is much more expensive
* Mr. A suggestion to have outside covered area or areas, either temporary or look into more permanent options for students during recess, outdoor classroom option etc. School will cover 50% of this cost if we figure something out
* Mrs. Tse – maybe more things to “do” outside – outdoor games? Kids spending much more time outside now with pandemic
* Approx. half of school out at a time during recess
* Go Girls program option - already in place in the school
* Children of the Street Zoom workshop for parents – free virtual event – Hayley to follow up
* Possibility of once a month Speaker Series hosted by PAC? Mrs. I to contact Hayley
* **Questions from Parents**
  + see Appendix
* **Next Meeting:** 
  + Tuesday Oct 20th 5:00pm via Zoom

Questions for the administration:

1. How many/what percentage of students returned and how many/what percentage are in transition?
   1. **70% returned 30% transitional**
2. Sea Island students are arriving early this year and are being encouraged to play on the playground etc before the school opens. Is there a daily sweep of the school yard done? If so, what time is it done? If not, what protection is there for our kids in regards to what has been left behind?
   1. **City comes daily as does District board to sweep area before 6:30am**
3. Is there before and after school supervision for students who arrive at the school before classes open/after school ends? Especially seeing as the bus arrives 20 minutes early.
   1. **There are staff who have volunteered to consistently monitor this period**
4. On days with extreme weather, will there be any option for children to wait under cover for school to open? Will there be places kids can go at recess/lunch during extremely poor weather conditions? If all the kids hide under the cover at the back of the school, they definitely won’t have room to distance.
   1. **This is a known concern and the PAC is working with the school to find shelter solutions**
5. Are disposable masks provided to students who forget/don’t have their own? When will the government provided masks arrive?
   1. **Disposable masks are available, and the school logo’ed masks arrived today and will be distributed this week**
6. With the concern of a student being approached by an adult in a vehicle – is the school doing anything additional to ensure the safe pick up/way home for students from the school? We realize this is an impossible ask, but how can we feel safe with our children walking home from school?
   1. **Teachers discussed student safety with classes as a follow up to this incident. School and teachers have heightened awareness and will be mindful. It should be noted this incident happened 45 minutes after school had dismissed.**
7. Has it been communicated to the students that they may still come inside the school in the case of an emergency/serious situation? That it is a “safe space” if they are feeling unsafe?
   1. **Yes, and this was also reiterated on the announcements to ensure students are aware of this**
8. How will “Meet the Teacher” and parent teacher interviews work this year?
   1. **Most likely to be done by Zoom. It was supposed to happen Thursday Sept 24, but will likely be after Thanksgiving. Details to follow.**
9. Is there still a hot lunch program?
   1. **No, not at this time. Priority is to keep the bubbles small.**
10. I saw a sign for Breakfast Club…is that happening this year?
    1. **No, not at this time. The money allocated for this is being used to support school families in need with groceries, etc.**