

MINUTES
Deep Cove PAC General Meeting
October 21, 2009

Present: Karen Gartside - Co-President
Chris Swain – Co-President
Tara Houle – Treasurer
Grace Owen – COPACS Representative
Suzanne Demers – Newsletter Editor
Martine Lunke – Special Events Coordinator
Julie Newman – Secretary

Admin. Present: Rob Carere – Principal
Shelley Hardcastle – Vice Principal

Absent: Cindy Greenway – Parent Education

Co-President Chris Swain motioned to adopt the May GM minutes. Suzanne Demers seconded, and the motion carried.

Administration Report

Rob Carere – Principal

- Reported a positive start to the school year.
- The Student Services team (which assists with special needs) has been reconstructed this year.

Shelley Hardcastle – Vice Principal

- Swim club begins Oct. 27. Grade 4-5 indoor soccer and Lesotho club are underway.

Executive Reports

Karen Gartside – Co-President

- Thanked class reps for taking on their roles.
- From this point on, class reps will provide the communication link to get messages out to parents. Karen or Chris will email messages to class reps, who will forward them directly to their classes.
- The week-long English Book Fair is progressing well.
- Thanks to the three parents who have stepped forward to share the CPF role – Susan Fidyk, Vik Peck and Lisa Coulson.

Chris Swain – Co-President

- Thanked everyone for coming and gave the reminder that every parent in the school is a PAC member!
- On behalf of Parent Ed. Coordinator Cindy Greenway, Chris noted that the Nov. GM will include a speaker from SD63 focusing on H1N1.

Tara Houle – Treasurer

- PAC's bank statements will be available at general meetings for anyone to review.
- As of Sept. 30/09 the PAC account was at \$33,473 and the gaming account had \$8,315.
- Explained that our PAC usually receives \$7,000 annually in gaming grants. This year the grant has been reduced to \$3,550. Contact Murray Coell and/or Rich Coleman with feedback about the cuts.

Business

- 1. Courtyard:** Plans have been made to remodel the courtyard into an “outdoor classroom” area.
 - Deep Cove parent and landscape architect Louise Boutin has worked hard on planning this project and has secured nearly \$20,000 in donations of labour/materials for Phase 1 of the courtyard revitalization. (Thanks for your efforts Louise!)
 - The school district will approve the revitalization on the condition that the PAC fully supports the project.
 - Karen Gartside motioned that the PAC support and proceed with Phase 1 of the courtyard plans. Martine Lunke seconded, and all were in favour of going ahead.
- 2. Education funding:** A PAC executive subcommittee was formed to research the cutbacks to public education funding. They found that our district has experienced cutbacks for the last 15 years. While there has been an increase in actual government funding during that period, this increase does not keep up with inflation and rising operating costs. For that reason, many programs available to children 10 years ago are not available today.
 - Martine asked for feedback – what would you like to see the PAC do in response?
Suggestions given:
 - ❖ Kids write letters to ministers.
 - ❖ Invite a minister to spend the day at school with a child who has reduced access to services as a result of the cuts.
 - ❖ Launch a province-wide effort of all schools to gain media attention.
 - ❖ Get the whole community involved, as other initiatives besides education have also had funding slashed – insist on government accountability to carry out what has been promised.
 - ❖ Use “what if” scenarios- i.e., what will happen if children don't learn to read, etc.
 - Email any more ideas to Martine Lunke and encourage other parents to do so as well!
 - The committee will try to get more of a united front, with cooperation from COPACS, on spearheading this issue.
- 3. School planning council:** The school planning council meets 2-3 times per year to review our school plans with the administration. Karen Gartside, Sophie Johannessen and Vic Peck were approved by silent ballot to continue their positions on the planning council again this year.

4. **Special funding requests:** Every year the PAC allocates a portion of our budget for special funding requests made by teachers or parents. \$35,000 was set aside in February 2009 for this purpose. Because of the current economic climate, the executive decided not to approve the full \$35,000 in special funding this year.
 - Refer to “Proposed Expenditures – 2009-2010” (attached).
 - A proposal came forward to amend the School in Need funding to approve \$1,000 now and defer a decision until January on a possible additional \$500 donation.
 - Karen Gartside moved that the Proposed Expenditures be approved as listed, with the School in Need amendment noted. All were in favour and the motion carried.

5. **Christmas Fair:** This year marks the 30th Deep Cove Christmas Fair, and the Fair committee is looking for ideas to make it extra special. Advertising it as a reunion for Deep Cove alumni was suggested, as well as coverage in the News Review. Sign-up for shifts begins just after Halloween. Still needed for this year’s event:
 - Primary Games coordinator (3 needed)
 - A few more canvassers for the silent auction
 - Volunteers to wash donated stuffies (used for prizes)
 - Photographer/s to walk around taking pictures at the Fair

6. **Thrifty’s Smile Cards:** Deep Cove has been approved for the Smile Card program again this year. Last year’s Smile Cards can be reactivated, or contact Janice Mosher for a new card. On all purchases made with a Deep Cove PAC Smile Card, Thrifty’s will donate 5% back to the PAC.
 - Tara reminded everyone that the PAC also has a Co-Op membership – when buying gas at the Deep Cove Co-Op, you may tell the attendant to use our PAC’s member number (a portion of our purchases then returns to the PAC in a rebate cheque at year-end).

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Newman
Secretary