



Willows Parent Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2013

Call to Order : 7:10pm

Approval of the Agenda: The October 16, 2013 agenda was approved by Larry Lee, seconded by Stephanie Novack

Approval of the Minutes: The September 18, 2013 minutes were approved by Clint Lalonde, seconded by Andrea Siemens

Attended: 41 people (including Principal Wendy Holob, Vice Principal Christine Patterson, and teacher Madame Ainsley)

New Business

- PAC Chair Kyla Ward spoke about the recent VCPAC Congress, attended by several PAC executive members
 - o Used the opportunity to speak to Superintendent of Schools, John Gaipman, and several school trustees re: Willows School concerns (eg. traffic congestion, playground and lunchtime supervision, French-speaking teachers on call)
- Kyla gave an update on the Hollytree Festival
 - o Date still to be finalized (likely the last Friday in November)
 - o Hollytree = social centre of the PAC calendar
 - o Hollytree committee welcomes more members! Lots of volunteers are needed but for a very little time commitment
 - o If interested, please contact Kyla or Angela Jackson (c/o willowspac@gmail.com)
- Treasurer Clint Lalonde gave an update on the annual PAC contribution program
 - o Next week, teachers will distribute a letter asking parents for a PAC donation of \$40 per child
 - o He explained some of the places PAC money goes now (eg. \$200 per classroom for incidentals, parent education, author visits, Hollytree festival, field trips, etc.) and longer term PAC initiatives (eg. possibility of bussing for field trips)
 - Question: Can parents donate more if they wish? Answer: YES!
 - Question: About what percentage of the school community donates in this way? Answer: We do not formally track this information, but we guess it is approximately 50-60% of families that contribute.
 - Question: How do parents donate? Answer: By cheque or online payment.

- Question: Does Willows lose out (ie. make less money) by NOT doing fundraising (chocolate bar selling, Entertainment books, etc.)? Answer: No! We cover what we used to years ago through fundraising AND we cut out the “middle man” (ie. the fundraising companies) who took a big percentage of any profits
- Breakout Discussion Question: What would you do, that we don’t do already, to increase participation in our Contribution program? Are there any actions you would encourage us as a PAC exec to avoid in regards to the Contribution program?
- **Guest Speaker Trevor Calkins, creator of Power of Ten: “Helping Parents Help with Math”**
 - o **Please see attached handout for the highlights of Trevor’s engaging talk!**

Adjournment: 9:03pm

- Next meeting – November 20, 2013
- For more PAC information subscribe to www.willowspac.ca or like us on Facebook “Willows PAC”
- Please direct any questions or requests to willowspac@gmail.com