

Attendance: Nicole Walker, Katrina's Sortielli, Sherry Keane, Morius Purcel, Cintia Martins, Toktam Rouhani, Azadeh Farzin, Arissa Mehta, Kristina Szakaly, Felicia Zhu, Conor Broderick, Veronica Widmer, Jocelyn Lymburner, Michele Tung, Lyndsay Charles, Jasmine Morton, Corrine Hewgill, Sanaz Alinasab, Leila Goharian, Sharam Madani, Michelle LaBounty, Chelsea Read, Emily Klause

(19 voting parents, 3 teacher/admin)

Meeting was called to order at 9:16 by Michele T.

There are 16 members in attendance. We have reached quorum.

First is to adopt the agenda which includes:

- Planned Expenditure Committee Proposal
- Q&A

Lyndsay moved the motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Cintia. All in favour with show of hands.

Michele T. explained that the vote today is to establish if we have the support from the parent community about the proposal of the Planned Expenditure Committee. How did we get to where we are today with this meeting.

- September GM (general meeting) we had our vote for the Pixar Event
- October GM it was established during the Treasure's Report that we had about \$30 - \$35k to spend
 - PAC is a not-for-profit committee... we should not be carrying a balance
 - Teachers were asked to brainstorm for a big ticket item with the requirement that
 - Had a lasting value
 - Impacted all students in a positive way
 - Planned Expenditure Committee was proposed to work with teachers on what this big ticket item would look like
 - Call for volunteers to join this Committee starting on the same day
 - ECPAC Chat Group announced
 - Volunteer sign-up – which included the Planned Expenditure Committee
 - Call out since Oct 11 in *Hawks Highlights*
- November GM
 - Combine previous funds raised w/ this year's money that will be fundraised
 - Previous funds of \$30 to 35 k with this years money raised of \$17k – towards expansion of the school grounds facilities to promote the symbiosis of children and nature
- February GM
 - Planned Expenditure Committee presented what they thought was a good solution for a big budget item and what the teachers wanted making sure it fell within certain areas:
 - Notice Engage Wonder – a theme of the Pixar event

- Flexible learning environment
- Minimal impact on environment
- Fits with aesthetics of the school
- Safe/durable along with the district guidelines
- what came out of their time talking with teachers

Here we are today... to ask the parents if they like this idea and if yes, let's move forward and get some ideas and work together with parent volunteers and teachers, and look at budgets.

Lyndsay, on behalf of Planned Expenditure Committee, explained why they have proposed the outdoor classroom. Heard various proposals, but this the proposal from the teachers that resonated. Would like to have a lasting legacy and this is what made sense. This is what the teachers have asked for and as a parent with older and younger kids, this is something that is a no brainer.

Chelsea Read (Grade 1 and 2 Teacher), on behalf of teachers, explained why the outdoor classroom was something that she supports. This was an opportunity for the kids to have a flexible place to do indoor activities outside. Kids like being outside. Great way of providing an alternate space to be outside. Studies show that children need to be outside. It's a continuation of the outdoor gardens that were installed last year.

Emily Klause (Grade 7 Teacher), also presented on behalf of the teachers. Explained the scientific research that substantiates the importance of being outside. The health benefits to a child's brain development. The kids are excited about the prospect of an outdoor classroom. It is complementing of our garden space.

Parent comments:

- The space proposed should be flexible – with seating, safety, creativity, user-friendly sustainable

Parent asked, is there anything else that are missing for teaching besides the outdoor classroom.

Response by Mme Read and Mme. Klause.

- First need a structure to enhance what we already have
- We are limited in what we can do
- This is what is missing at the school
- Shelter is probably the cheapest way of making an outdoor classroom
- Why haven't we done this already
- Hanging out where it is visible

Response by Michelle L .

- Money needs to be spent

- Have \$50k, 2 years contingency plan, and we also have money raised by

Concern by parent with implementation of the outdoor classroom. Will all the teachers use it? Or only half.

Response by teachers:

- As teachers, we know that they need this. It's a comfortable way of making the transition from indoor to outside.
- It's also important to look at professional development, we are world leaders in this area... sessions on coding and 3-D printing, virtual reality, tech, literacy, Indigenous education, Place based learning (where they are from and where they live), outdoor education professional development that is happening in the District level. Math Facts and Inquiry to go outside from K to 12. An outdoor classroom is a tool for us. "If we don't build it, they won't come".
- We need the space to create something that is sustainable. We already have iPads. How do we do more outside to marry outside and technology.
- Reality is that many families are not going outside, my job as a teacher is to take them outside and this is an opportunity for allowing them to do it.
- Studies show that kids have to go outside and we are making it more comfortable for them with an outdoor classroom.
- Being outside recalibrates the brain.

Parent comment - If we are spending more than this We really need to have the intention than more than "hang out" and enjoy the outdoor.

- As parents if we contribute we'd like to make sure that it gets used

Teacher comment:

- This is an opportunity for us to teach other teachers what we do.

Michele T asked for the motion for someone to move forward with proceeding with the outdoor classroom.

Motion moved by Morius. Seconded by Toktam. All in favour (unanimous).

Comments by parents on how they envisioned the outdoor classroom:

- Need to determine how extensive of a wish list the classroom should look like
- Want it to be functional and inviting.

Michelle L explained that we should reassemble the Committee – 2 designers, 1 builder (pricing/permit process) and invitation for anyone to participate in the creation and vision for the outdoor classroom.

- We will come back with a harder budget then we will come back and present. We know that we have \$50k... do we need to fundraise for more.

Question by parent about timeline:

- Idea would be to have Planned Expenditure Committee come back to the PAC and explain to us their designs with budgets
- Then identify if we need to raise money
- Money would be raised during the school “ cheque drive”
- Start construction of the Classroom this Summer in best case scenario. If we don't have money for it, then we wait until we do.

Question by parent - Can District fund it? Can other schools borrow it?

- Response from Michelle L - No.

Michele T adjourned the meeting at 10:20.