



Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2016

Regrets: Dawn Hare, Kathy Boutilier, Andre Bouchard

1. Welcome- All in attendance were welcomed by principal-Mike Ouellette.

2. School Photographer Presentations – The school’s existing school photography contract expires for the next school year – 2016/2017. The current three-year contract is with Life Touch. Representatives from each of the following companies were invited to present to the PTA-

- a. **Life Touch** – Presented to group that all their staff have the necessary background checks whom are dealing with children’s photos. They stated they hire more photographers in Nova Scotia than any other company. Life Touch has a regional office in Halifax, with their photo lab located in Winnipeg, and all parts of process remain in Canada. They cited that they are the only school photography company in Canada that is 100% credit card compliant. Life Touch partners with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, providing two complimentary child identification cards with each proof sheet free of charge. More sales of photos now occur online, with the availability of numerous background options not seen in proofs. Life Touch also offers a school directory, principal’s directory, class photos, grades 6-8 group photos and a graduating class composite, with student images being formatted to upload to Power School. 10% of net sales go back to the school, with a \$1000 signing bonus being offered for a 3-year contract. The company also offers banners. Posters and other visual products to schools to promote positive behavior.
- b. **Calnen Photography** – Jason Calnen represented the company, a family business based with a small studio in Wolfville, with the printing lab in Halifax. He stated that his business focus is bringing a high level of photography skills to school photographs, not on marketing. He employs local staff, and currently has contracts with 13 schools in the Valley, and 40 in Halifax. He stated that Calnen handles as much of the processing of photo orders as possible, off-loading school administration as much as is possible. He noted that his pricing is competitive, and he offers class photos, as well as a graduate composite. 10% of net sales go back to the school. He noted availability of flexible options for students and families for whom getting photos may present challenges, including time in the studio to shoot. He also indicated that he works closely with schools in the community with fundraising, including family portrait prize donation and Christmas card sales.
- c. **Harvey Studio** – There was no representative from Harvey Studio in attendance, however, written material from the company was circulated.



Kings County Academy

***Proposal and specific vendor information was provided and is on file with PTA minutes.

The group briefly discussed the vendor presentations; no decision was finalized on vendor choice.

ACTION ITEM: Mike will contact other schools who have used Calnen Photography to seek feedback/references. Will report back at next PTA meeting.

Business meeting followed presentations from photographers, and was chaired by vice-president- Anthony Sherrard.

3. Committee Reports-

d. **President** – NO REPORT

e. **Treasurer** –

- i. Danielle DeGraaf provided written statement of account (attached) citing a closing balance of \$11, 853.56. Several expenditures applied this past month, including contribution to get school musical production off the ground. Total profit from Movie Night in March was \$317.38. Cheryl Lake indicated she had gathered information on short-term investments for the PTA, particularly for the \$3000 intended for playground maintenance/repair. **ACTION ITEM:** Cheryl will discuss details with Danielle.

f. **Principal/Vice-Principal-**

- i. No specific updates. Mike Oullette indicated he would have more to report n at next month's meeting, as he will receive staffing allocation for the upcoming school year by April 7, 2016. Internet Safety presentation by Ryan Hainstock-AVRSB and Greg Burne-Department of Justice to parents was deferred from this evening, with future date to be determined.

g. **Town of Kentville –**

- i. Eric Bolland was in attendance and reported that Spring Clean Up in the Town will be held later this spring, prior to the Apple Blossom Festival. He is looking for volunteer students to work with the Rotary club in this project. **ACTION ITEM:** Mike indicated that he would connect Eric with the Green Team and Kodiak clubs at the school.
- ii. Andre Bouchard provided a written report (attached). Request therein asking for use of the school's movie license. Confirmed that the school's license must be used in the building. **ACTION ITEM:** Mike to contact Andre to offer use of the school for screening the documentary film-Lost Adventures of Childhood.

4. Old Business-

- h. **Value Village Fundraiser** – Laura Churchill-Duke reported that donations can be dropped off at the school-large donation box in foyer. The Town has also offered dressing room space at the arena for storage after March 24th and until Spring Fling. **ACTION ITEMS:** None.



Kings County Academy

- i. **Campbell's Labels** – Laura also reported that a number of labels have been collected, and a summary of points to date and possible purchases from the campaign will be brought forward to the PTA. **ACTION ITEMS:** None.
- j. **Spring Fling** – Anthony Sherrard reported that the date is set for June 1st, with rain date on June 2nd. **ACTION ITEMS:** Anthon will book the bouncy castle and order food for the canteen from Foodland-Kentville and Meadowbrook. Laura will edit letter to new primary students, inviting them to attend and providing with punch cards.
- k. **Art Blitz** - Rosslyn Gillan reported that Celine Hambling had interest expressed by 20 artists for the May 13th event, with only 6 having committed to date. With this number of instructors, it will be very difficult to run this event. Another meeting with Celine is to be scheduled to discuss next steps. **ACTION ITEMS:** Mike will call NKEC to see if high school art/drama students may be interested in assisting with this event.
- l. **Teacher Funding Award** – Cheryl asked if any applicants for TA Teach Funding Award to date. Per Victoria Laurence, none have been received. **ACTION ITEMS:** Mike to send out reminder to teacher regarding the application process and the availability of funds from the PTA.

5. New Business-

- m. **Teacher Appreciation** – Anthony suggested that the PTA consider doing something different this year, as opposed to the soup/salad/sweets lunch that has been provided in previous years. Laura indicated that Port Williams Elementary School recently held a Teacher Appreciation week, with a Super Hero theme, and treats were provided each day in accordance with the theme. Discussion followed with suggestions of students sharing words of appreciation as part of daily announcements, appreciation certificates for students to fill out, a photo booth, items in staff mailboxes, etc.. **ACTION ITEM:** Attendees were encouraged to forward ideas to Cheryl Lake by e-mail. Cheryl will compile suggestions/ideas and bring forward to April meeting for further discussion.

6. Other-no items were raised.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 @ 6:00pm (KCA Art Room)

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lake
PTA Secretary – 2015/2016