



Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

Regrets: *none received*

1. Welcome-

Meeting was called to order and all in attendance were welcomed by president-Kathy Boutilier. List for all in attendance to provide e-mail address was circulated.

2. Committee Reports-

a. President –

- i. Kathy reported that the Teacher Funding grant was announced to teachers in a meeting today, and the application will be distributed to teachers electronically by Victoria Laurence.
- ii. Kathy proceeded with the election for executive for 2015-2016 school year. She introduced members of the 2014/2015 PTA executive and briefly described roles of each position.
 1. **President** – Juli Waterbury nominated Kathy Boutilier, and was seconded by Danielle DeGraaf. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.
 2. **Vice-President** – Kathy nominated Anthony Sherrard-Danielle accepted nomination for Anthony in his absence, and was seconded by Carrie Thorsen. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.
 3. **Treasurer** – Rosslyn Gillan nominated Danielle DeGraaf, with motion seconded by Jeri-Lynn Levy. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.
 4. **Secretary** – Cheryl Lake was nominated by Sylvia, with nominated seconded by Dawn Hare. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.
 5. **Volunteer Coordinators** – Kathy nominated both Erika Sheen and Juli Waterbury to continue in this shared role. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.
 6. **Communications** – Cheryl nominated Laura Churchill-Duke, with the motion seconded by Danielle. Nomination was unanimously acclaimed.

b. Treasurer –

- i. Danielle DeGraaf provided written statement of account (attached) citing a closing balance of \$10, 718.59. The profit from Spring Fling totaled \$3144.52, with \$2600 gifted to teachers, leaving a total balance of profit of \$544.52. This was approximately \$300 less profit that 2014. Cheryl Lake suggested that consideration of a Tax-Free Savings Account be explored for the \$3000 earmarked for the playground maintenance and ongoing expenses, as a means of generating small profit on this balance. Danielle to explore, in addition to waiving banking deposit fees for coins.



Kings County Academy

c. Principal/Vice-Principal

- i. Mike Oullette and Victoria Laurence were in attendance. Mike provided a detailed written report (attached). He cited that the school has added a 0.5FTE vice-principal (Krista Parrish) who will be allocated for the middle school. He reiterated a “door open” policy in the office to the school community. Staffing changes were briefly reviewed, and enrollment was reported at 620 students. He highlighted class cap sizes, in both English and French immersion streams, as well as briefly discussed the new homework policy, as well as the Code of Conduct and Principal’s report to the community. Curriculum changes now more formally, and includes integrated math and ELA concepts in all subject areas.

d. Town of Kentville –

- i. Andre Bouchard was present to provide an update from Kentville Recreation. Feedback is being gathered, but by all accounts, the summer day camps were a hit! The Summer Recreation Intern-Karlee Perry has already agreed to return next summer. The Trailblazers after school program will be starting again in late September. The Skatepark design was circulated during the meeting, with substantial fundraising required to reach the anticipated cost to build. The School Travel Planning committee will continue to meet following monthly PTA meetings. Detailed written report attached.

3. Fundraising-

- a. **Veseys** - Cheryl Lake and Sonja Bent reported that the Veseys Seeds campaign is underway, with the deadline for orders being October 8th. 50% of all sales return to the school in profit. This year, ordered will be picked up at the school versus sent home with the students.
- b. **Nourish Your Roots** – Dawn Hare reported that KCA was selected as one of three pilot schools in the Valley for this pilot fundraising project with Nourish Nova Scotia. For every \$30 farm box sold, \$10 will go to the school and \$20 back to the farmer. Boxes will be delivered to the school for pick up on October 9th-in time for Thanksgiving weekend.
- c. **Spring Fling** – Danielle submitted a report on Spring Fling, indicating a profit of \$544.52 (after \$2600 to teachers); \$300 less profit than 2014. The group cited that the punch cards were much easier for ticket sales, and overall seemed to work well. Much appreciation expressed to Anthony and Danielle for their efforts coordinating this significant event.

4. Old Business- none

5. New Business-

- a. **Campbell’s Labels for Education** – Laura reported that there is a simplistic fundraising opportunity for the school through collection of UPC codes from Campbell’s products. This requires a volunteer to arrange for communication regarding collection to the school families, collection and submission for redemption for merchandise for the school. **ACTION ITEMS:** Jennifer volunteered to arrange for a drop box for the school office. She will determine the applicable food products, with a communication to follow.



Kings County Academy

- b. **Movie Night** – Kathy explained the movie nights for those new to the PTA. Laura suggested that popping popcorn and bagging at the school just prior to the event worked well. The group determined a date of Tuesday, November 10th (no school the following day in lieu of Remembrance Day), in the school cafeteria, with the movie “Inside Out”.
ACTION ITEMS: Danielle volunteered to coordinate the canteen, with items per usual to include bananas and apples, water, juice and popcorn. Juli indicated that she would pick up the movie when it is released. Volunteers will be determined at the October meeting.
- c. **Saucer Swing** – Kathy asked about the status of the saucer swing, which has been removed from the playground. Mike reported that children have been using it inappropriately, with children being hit in the face with it. Kathy expressed concern, given it was intended to be an accessible piece of playground equipment, at a substantial cost of \$10K. Carrie cited that she is concerned with not having the equipment in use.
ACTION ITEMS: Sarah offered to look in to options with the equipment manufacturer to modify or adapt this piece of equipment.

6. Other-

- a. **Safe Arrivals** – Kelly Hockley reported that the Safe Arrivals system is changing – there is no longer the same need for morning volunteers. Mike explained that there is a new automated alert system that is part of Power School that will be capable of sending alerts to families via e-mail or text. Further information regarding this system will be sent home, with a trial occurring soon, and the system being operational starting September 21st.
- b. **Parent Portal** – Mike cited that the Parent Portal is an online system that allows for parents to view grades and progress with students, and is also a means to communicate with teachers. Parents can obtain an access code from the school office.
- c. **Drop Off Loop** - Danielle expressed concerns with the drop off/pick up loop in front of the school, especially with vehicles parking and obstructing the flow of traffic. Mike indicated that the area continues to be an issue, with a reminder about proper use going home in the upcoming newsletter.
- d. **Cafeteria** – Parents in attendance raised concern about the efficiency of the cafeteria service, and students taking a lot of time to get their food. Mike stated that the school board contracts the service to Chartwells, and it is very regulated, with only one person staffing the cafeteria. The school is considering an order slip system for P-2 students.
- e. **Community Garden Box** – Dawn reported that the town built garden boxes over the summer. **ACTION ITEMS:** Dawn offered to be a liaison between the school and the community for this initiative.

Kathy thanked those in attendance - meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 @ 6:00pm (KCA Art Room)

Respectfully submitted,



Kings County Academy

Cheryl Lake
PTA Secretary – 2015/2016