

Kootenay Orchards Elementary School Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes
Monday November 2, 2020

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Agenda: no additions

Attendees: Jo, Kim, Paula, Nicole, Judi Poole (Principal), Wendy Turner (Trustee), Alan Rice (Secretary Treasurer)

Approval of October 5th minutes: 1st Kim, 2nd Paula Approved

President Report:

- Alan Rice, SD5 Secretary Treasurer, talked about the Fruit and Veggie Program, Treat Days and Hot Lunches. SD5 would be sending out more information in the coming days/weeks
- Halloween was a success handing out candy. Kim Lutz, Carol Potter, and Judi Poole worked hard handing out all the candy
- Purdy's fundraiser to start mid November
- Ko T-shirts were sent out

Treasurer Report: *see attached*

Principal Report:

- Our Parent/Guardian – teacher conferences went well as phone calls and virtual communication replaced our normally conducted interviews.
- Our District Management Operations team continues to be diligent and timely with regards to ensuring that our school is well stocked in supplies during this Pandemic. We have a day custodian and a later afternoon custodian who are also extremely diligent with regards to their cleaning tasks. In fact, our day custodian has a copy of the school recess schedule and follows it to a 't' making sure that the classes are cleaned during the times that the students are out of the room! We are lucky to have such committed custodians!
- Halloween was quite a success at the school. On Saturday, the 31st, Mr. Lutz, Mrs. Potter and myself helped to distribute candy to the neighbouring students who came to the school (socially distanced) We had a steady flow of trick or treaters and it was fun to see all the excited kids and creative costumes!
- School Growth Plan – Our staff is collaborating on how we can engage our learners to ensure success as we explore how to create welcoming spaces that challenge thinking and learning as well as addressing the social emotional learning of our school population. We will also be exploring how to collect data that will inform our growth plan so as to make it purposeful and deliberate.
- Members of our Staff submitted a proposal to the University of British Columbia associated with the Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning Grant. The grant was accepted. The proposal deals explores creating a moveable classroom which could be situated in our school ground so that we access learning outside as an extension to inside the bricks and mortar framework. The questions that we are looking to explore are:
 - How might an outside classroom impact student engagement in areas of literacy and numeracy?
 - How might a moveable outdoor classroom provide 'welcoming spaces' for our learners so that a sense of inclusion for all may be fostered and cultivated.
 - How might an out – door moveable classroom help to mitigate student anxiety and stress which could escalate due to Pandemic situations?

- Our Remembrance Day Assembly will take on a virtual format and will be presented to our school community as a video. We will be honouring this tradition on the 10th of November as close to 11 am as possible. The video will then be uploaded to the Kootenay Orchards Music Program website on Facebook as well as the Kootenay Orchards Facebook page.
- We published our second newsletter and welcome any feedback as to what changes parents would like to see or additions made. As we are also adding Ktunaxa 'words of the month' in the newsletter, we have been lucky to have access to QR codes that will be included in the next newsletters. The codes are directly linked to an SD5 site which then reads the Ktunaxa word by a fluent speaker. No QR code needed on your device, just a camera!

Teachers Report:

- New EA's have been approved. We are now up to 1 EA for a student and 3 EA's for the rest of the school
- Hand washing is still being perfected

Trustee Report:

- The Board sent a letter to the Ministry of Education about our concerns around administering the FSA in our District
- Policy 3.18 Scholarships/Awards was updated and forwarded to the Board with amendments
- A letter regarding school site land acquisition was sent to BCSTA
- Three readings of an amended Five-Year Capital Plan were approved to allow construction of a bus garage in the Elk Valley
- Thank you letters were sent to employees who worked on the District Health and Safety start-up presentation, and to those who helped make our District Aboriginal Professional day such a success
- The Board passed a motion "That the Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Student Learning continue to follow the provincially-mandated Extracurricular Activity and Health & Safety Protocols for all school-based extracurricular sports and activities and that they work with stakeholders to discuss possible ways to adapt school-based extracurricular sport and activities to adhere to those protocols, if possible."

New Business:

- Teachers asked for KO Sweaters. Nicole will place the order with Connie at Anywear

Next PAC meeting: January 11, 2021

Meeting adjourned: 6:35pm