**Bench Elementary School PAC Meeting**

**November 21, 2017**

**Attendance**: See attached

Meeting called to order @ 6:00 p.m.

Introductions of people present

**Motion to adopt agenda:**  Taryn Johnson – seconded by Pam Kendall

**Motion to adopt minutes:** Pam Kendall – seconded by Taryn Johnson

**Principals Report:**

* Bench Elementary is receiving approximately $20,000 to support student learning through a Student Enhancement Fund from the Ministry of Education. The money is a “use it or lose it” opportunity for this year only so the plan is to find fun and interesting ways to use it for the good of the students (textbooks, library books, technology etc.)
* Information about PAC will no longer be on Facebook, instead the communication will be handled through email and the school web site (PAC has a tab on the website)
* There will be a notice about food hampers going out the last week of November for anyone wishing to donate items for a Christmas Hamper for any families in need
* Basketball is under way. Tournaments will happen at both Queen Margaret’s and George Bonner around the end of November/beginning of December
* The Bench Elementary Winter Wonderland concert will be on December 7th with performances at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. This is for the children in Divisions 9 - 18

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* See attached.

**New Business:**

* Kristy Martin-Hale will be our acting PAC Vice-Chair at this time as Joy Hachey will be stepping away for the moment due to health concerns. The PAC wishes Joy a speedy recovery.
* Jennifer Stephens will be managing the Bake Sale at the Winter Wonderland Concert in December for us. She will be requesting donations of baking from Bench families for the event.
* Heidi Hunton addressed concerns about nutrition at events (such as the concession at the Halloween Dance) and agreed to take on the task of making and distributing veggie trays at the Bake Sale. PAC will provide the supplies.
* $10,000 set aside for the permanent structure of the atom-ball court (which is not likely to happen) will now be used to create an outdoor learning space. Details and options are to be discussed with the District regarding how, when, and what is possible. Pricing will also be looked into.
* Kristy Martin Hale addressed a few issues:
  + Christmas Emporium will be December 14-15th in the Library
    - There are already seven Moms ready to help
    - PAC will provide a float for children without funds so that they have the opportunity to shop as well
  + Health Education will be done “in house” this year instead of bringing in a counsellor to take care of the sessions. This is a curriculum matter and therefore not PAC related
  + Warm Clothes Drive is headed up by Leanne Dupont through Bench Parents and will continue this year. This is also not an official PAC project
  + Community Trail or community garden by the school was discussed. It could be a possible project. Mr. Boudreau will take it to the staff meeting on December 13th and there would need to be approval through the District
  + Kristy has agreed to take on the PAC bulletin board outside the office

**Fundraising and Events:**

* Purdy Chocolates Fundraiser is just coming to a close
* Christmas Emporium is in the works, Kristy Martin-Hale will head this event
* Winter Wonderland Concert will include a Bake Sale, Jennifer Stephens will head this event

**DPAC:**

* Children with bus passes are encouraged to use them. If they do not, reports will be sent home and they will be left at school in the care of the Principal until they can be picked up.
* There are some challenges addressing the needs of the special education EA’s versus the number of classes added within the District that need to be addressed.
* Starfish Backpacks are a rotary club sponsored program happening at Khowhemun that is increasing healthy, nutritiously fed families and parent/teacher engagement. Backpacks containing food items are being sent home with children for the good of their family.
* Parent/Teacher interviews within the new curriculum – emphasis needs to be made that working parents will be accommodated in a variety of ways such as e-portfolios, emails, etc.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

* Taryn Johnson, after three years of trying, hopes to be granted a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation in regards to getting the flashers for the crosswalk outside the school grounds. This may come to fruition soon.

Next PAC meeting set for Tuesday December 12th, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn meeting:** Pam Kendall – seconded by Taryn Johnson