

A.L. Fortune Secondary Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2018

A.L. Fortune Library

- 1) Meeting was called to order @ 5:40 p.m.
- 2) Attendants: Scott Anderson, Elizabeth Brown, Mel Hamilton, Erna Jacobs, Kathy Nadeau.
- 3) Motion made by Elizabeth B. to adopt the minutes of PAC meeting dated October 18th, 2018 seconded by Kathy N., carried.
- 4) Administration report:
 - Our volleyball teams had a very good season. Grade 7 team won the District and Grade 8 finished second and went to the Valley Championships. Currently, the volleyball intramural tournament is running and will be wrapped up during the last week before the holidays.
 - Second X-Block rotation has started. Classes offered include: Art, “Chopped” cooking class, Crafts, Soap & Candle making, Floor Hockey, Guitar, Jr. Musical Theatre, Secwepemc Language, Stagecraft and Weightlifting.
 - Drum Line Class performed at the “Walk of Terror” at the Caravan Farm Theatre near Armstrong. Performance was well received and praised.
 - “Angst” documentary showing on November 13 & 14 was well received by staff and the public. Grade 10-12 also viewed it during school hours with mixed reviews.
 - “Fall Dance” on November 8th was attended by 90 students who had a blast!
 - Grade 7 students completed the FSA a couple of weeks ago and the results will be going to parents next week.
 - Leadership Class put on the Remembrance Assembly on November 9th.
 - On November 15th, we had the Safer Schools Together present Digital and Social Media Footprint to the school. It was eye opening and scholarship applications are going to change as a result.
 - Mr. Anderson made a presentation to the Shuswap Rotary Club on our school’s Lunch Program and received a cheque for \$3,755.00. Everyday CEAs prep food for lunch e.g. soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, ham & potato scallops, stew etc. For breakfast there is toast, bagels, yogurt & fruit available; about 40-70 students participate in prepping the food and come in on rotation.
 - A group of students went to We Day in Vancouver today with Mrs. Easthope.
 - Report cards went home on today November 22nd for Grade 7 & 8. Electronic report cards for Grade 9-12 are obtainable on Parent Connect on the school’s website.
 - Avalanche training is on November 23rd for Grade 8, as well as the Okanagan College Trades Fair for Grade 11-12.
 - Grade 12 is putting on a fashion show November 24th with a show in the afternoon and evening.
 - MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) will be giving a presentation on November 28th about drug-impaired driving.
 - Gwynne Dyer will be presenting at the school to Socials 11 & GP 12 on November 29th @ 1:15 p.m. where also SAS and PVSS students will be attending. See addendum.

5) Treasurer's report:

- General Account: Balance October 31, 2018: \$2,440.45. Income: Interest \$0.10.
Account activity in November so far (which will also be reported in our next meeting):
 - \$325.00, which was raised in the Disaster Plaster fundraiser, was deposited. Cost was \$195.01 with a \$129.99 profit.
 - \$149.50 was raised with our first movie night fundraiser.
 - IGA gift cards brought in a \$109.40 profit for the third quarter. The cards cost \$75.00 which has already been taken off the profit.
- Gaming Account: Balance October 31, 2018: \$2,231.66. Income: Interest \$0.11. Expense: \$530.94 for engraving.
Account activity in November so far (which will be reported in our next meeting):
 - \$7,032.00 Gaming Grant was deposited in our gaming account.

6) New business:

- "Disaster Plasters" Fundraiser had a run of 10 days and 65 carry-on boxes were sold. It was decided 6 big boxes will be returned and we will keep 4 to do another fundraiser in the spring. The grads will be raising money with a pie-in-the-face event which will be done together with our "Disaster Plaster" prize for the winners.
- Movie Night was October 25th in the theatre at A.L. Fortune featuring "Jurassic World" Fallen Kingdom which was enjoyed by 30 students. Snacks and drinks were provided at a cost which raised \$149.50 for the PAC. We are looking to host a movie night as a family event December 13th with a Christmas theme, which will be further discussed at our next meeting. A list of movie choices will go out to students on Monday to TA classes and the most favoured movie will be shown. List of choices: The Christmas Chronicles, Elf, The Nightmare before Christmas, The Polar Express, Rise of the Guardians.
- Electronic report cards for Grade 9-12 are not easy to find. Do not look under "Grades" tab, but under the "Folder" tab.
- Teacher requests:
 - Librarian put in a request to purchase 6-8 calculators to sign out to students when they have forgotten to bring theirs or don't have one. Cost \$12.99 per calculator.
 - Request by Mrs. Easthope to support the Foods Program with a variety of Tupperware items. Cost \$343.50 (without taxes and shipping).
 - Request by Mr. Waters to support girls basketball with the purchase of new jerseys. Cost roughly \$2,400.00. PAC requests a more specific quote with taxes.
 - Request by Ms. Reed to support drumline transport to Provincials with any available funds; also, theatre curtain upgrade which costs \$1,618.25.
 - Request to support the Larch Hills overnighiter for Grade 8 for trail use and chalet rental. Cost \$220.00. School wide request to support the purchase of 10 snowshoes @ \$795.80 and 10 country skis @ +/- \$2,500.00-3,000.00.
 - Request to purchase a Thermal Laminator with a variety of sizes of laminating pouches. Cost \$482.67.

Elizabeth B. made a motion to approve the purchase of 6 calculators and a Thermal Laminator with a variety in size of laminating pouches. Kathy N. made an amendment to this motion to include the Larch Hills overnighter for Grade 8, as well as the Foods Program request; Kathy N. second the motion; All in favour.

Elizabeth is able to cut some of the applicable costs:

- Calculators and Laminator purchased at Grand & Toy with a total cost of \$470.27, which saves \$90.34.
- Tupperware total cost \$353.98 (no taxes and free shipping) which saves about \$30.00.

- Trustee Quentin Bruns will be invited to our next meeting.
- Other agenda items will be carried over to the next meeting.

7) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

8) Next meeting: Thursday December 6th, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Minutes by Erna Jacobs,
PAC Secretary.

ADDENDUM

GWYNNE DYER: It's the automation, stupid.

Five of the world's largest democracies now have populist governments, claimed The Guardian last week, and proceeded to name four: the United States, India, Brazil and the Philippines. Which is the fifth? At various points it name-checks Turkey, Italy and the United Kingdom, but it never becomes clear which. (And by the way, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not a populist. He's just a nationalist.)

It's embarrassing when a respected global newspaper launches a major investigative series and can't really nail the subject down. Neither can the people it interviews: Hillary Clinton, for example, admits she was "absolutely dumbfounded" by how Donald Trump ate her lunch every day during the 2016 presidential campaign. She still doesn't get it.

"We got caught in a kind of transition period so what I had seen work in the past ... was no longer as appealing or digestible to the people or the press. I was trying to be in a position where I could answer all the hard questions, but ... I never got them. I was waiting for them; I never got them. Yet I was running against a guy who did not even pretend to care about policy."

Yes, Trump is a classic populist, but why did he beat her two years ago when he wouldn't even have got the nomination 10 years ago? She doesn't seem to have a clue about that, and neither do other recent leaders of centre-left parties interviewed by The Guardian like Britain's Tony Blair and Italy's Matteo Renzi. So let us try to enlighten them.

Populism is not an ideology. It's just a political technique, equally available to right-wingers, left-wingers, and those (like Trump) with no coherent ideology at all.

In this era, populism seems to partner best with right-wing nationalist ideologies like those of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Viktor Orban in Hungary and the Brexiteers in England, but even now there are populist left-wing parties like Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain.

How does this tool work? It claims to be on the side of 'ordinary people' and against a 'corrupt elite' that exploits and despises them. It's light on policy and heavy on emotion, particularly the emotions of fear and hatred. It usually scapegoats minorities and/or foreigners, and it only works really well when people are angry about something.

The anger is about the fact that the jobs are disappearing, and what's killing them is automation. The assembly-line jobs went first, because they are so easy to automate. That's what turned the old industrial heartland of the United States into the 'Rust Belt.' What's going fast now are the retail jobs, killed by Amazon and its rivals: computers again.

The next big chunk to go will probably be the driving jobs, just as soon as self-driving vehicles are approved for public use. And so on, one or two sectors at a time, until by 2033 (according to the famous 2013 prediction by Oxford economist Carl Benedikt Frey) 47 per cent of U.S. jobs will be lost to automation. And of course it won't stop there.

Why don't clever politicians like Hillary Clinton get that? Perhaps because they half-believe the fantasy statistics on employment put out by governments, like the official 3.7 per cent unemployment rate in the United States. A more plausible figure is American Enterprise Institute scholar Nicholas Eberstadt's finding in 2016 that 17.5 per cent of American men of prime working age were not working.

That's three-quarters of the way to peak U.S. unemployment in the Great Depression of the 1930s, but it goes unnoticed because today's unemployed are not starving and they are not rioting. You can thank the welfare states that were built in every developed country after the Second World War for that, but they are still very angry people – and they do vote. A lot of them vote for populists.

Populism thrives when a lot of people are angry or desperate or both. Donald Trump and people like him are not the problem. They are symptoms (and beneficiaries) of the problem – yet they dare not name it, because they have no idea what to do about automation.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)'.