

Dry Grad 2023 AGM Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023

Meeting called to Order @ 7:01pm

Attendance: Kelly Keil, Leah Babcock, Greg Babcock, Chantal Mayenburg, Jaclyn Miller, Melissa Fraser, Jennings Williams, Matteo Trevisanutto, Linden Slack, Theresa Slack, Heather Thrasher, Aria Thrasher, Sharon Brown, Jenny Allen Taves, Justine Conroy, Laura Sigouin, Becky Steiger, Debbie Sheridan, Martyn Woolley, Holly Graham, Jeff Dela Cruz, Brenda Vuli, Elizabeth Fraser, Braedon Fraser, Tyler Zakkour, Jodi McKamey, Lisa Stride, Cheryl Milne

Brooks Thunderbird Dry Grad Society

2023 Report

Financial Report-Given by Greg Babcock

Overview of 2023 Event

Registration

We took registration online this year. The online package consisted of registration form with hoody size, volunteer opportunities checklist, and a medical form. It was easy for parents and grads to register and pay either online or by e-transfer. Completed forms were then automatically emailed to the dry grad email. We were able to take the information from the forms and input it into our master spreadsheet on the google drive. We also could email those with completed registrations. We did an early bird draw for a gift card for all grads registered before Spring Break. We had 116 Grads attend the event-our goal was to have 100 of the 147. We charged \$150 with the option of volunteering and getting \$50 back. This was done by e-transfer after the event was over. We didn't keep track of volunteer hours (like done in the past) and didn't make it mandatory to complete a certain amount we just tracked who volunteered.

Communication

Kelly will close the Instagram account because it is attached to her personal account. Kelly will make the new executive admins of the Facebook account so they can take it over-the website is already attached to it. We used social media to advertise fundraising events, call out for volunteers and send out messages. Grads respond best to social media and texting not emails. It is extremely difficult to communicate with the grad group in the beginning. All emails have to be sent out through the school secretary. I compiled email lists of Grads and parents (separately) from the sign in lists of our monthly meetings. I sent out the meeting minutes to all attendees after each meeting. We met monthly as a group and a few times just the executive met to get some things sorted out before the meetings. By May we started having weekly work meetings in my yard mostly using our time to make our decorations with the help of a few dedicated volunteers. Not official meetings at this point so no minutes were completed.

Fundraising

Best and biggest fundraisers were Safe Rides, Dance Flower Sales and Comedy Night

Liquor Store fundraiser needs to be paid attention to. We suggest making a few posters and bringing them in to hang up to garner attention to the fundraiser for the month it is happening. Talk to them in January to find out when it will be happening (I think it was March).

Try to think out of the box for new and different opportunities not already being done by other groups in the community. We tried Baking boxes instead of a bake sale. We thought it went well for a first time event and might be worth trying again. This was done in December with the thought of supplying Christmas baking.

Easy fundraisers were Panago & Dairy Queen-just need to advertise these ones.

Gift wrapping was a bit difficult this year as the kids were in school until the 22nd. Weekends in December were scheduled and a few parents did some shifts during the last week leading up to Christmas. There's tonnes of wrapping paper and ribbon in the storage unit so no cost for this one.

Event & Decor

Dry Grad was held on June 10th immediately following the Grad Ceremony held @the Complex. The Grads transitioned from the Arena to the Rink side around 9pm. They were given their swag bags that included their hoodies, dry grad t-shirt and souvenir water bottle (used at dry grad) and some coupons and gift cards. Most grads got changed out of their formal wear into dry grad shirts and comfy bottoms. We transformed the Dry Rink into a Carnival with our decorations, food and many carnival game booths for the kids to play and earn tickets for the gift baskets. Food included tacos, pizza, sushi, popcorn, cotton candy, mini donuts and Italian sodas. The Grads headed for the food and drinks first and then headed off to play games that were set up under tents around the rink. There was also a bouncy castle, joust ring and music photo booth. We also had a dunk tank and splat board that the grads had fun getting Mr Hilleren wet. We had a DJ and dance floor, a magician, casino run by Rotary, and also sent the grads up to the theatre @11pm for a 1hr Comedy show. Those that didn't want to go stayed in the Rink. Most grads participated and loved the show! When grads came back down we reminded them to get their tickets in for the draws and then go dance for a bit until 1am when we started to draw the prizes in the Rink warm room. With all the grads in the warm room for the last hour the volunteers started to do cleanup of the Rink. We were done cleanup around 2:15am and returned @8am the next morning to pack everything out of the Complex. Took us about 1.5hrs. Overall the event went well, the grads were very appreciative and enjoyed themselves and we didn't have any problems to deal with. Some grads left early but most stayed for the entire time.

Prizes

*The following is a summary from Kim & Rick Hopper (Donation/Prize Co-ordinators)

We got a class list from the Dry grad committee (as apparently the school cannot release one due to confidentiality issues). I drafted up a letter that introduced us and what we were collecting for, make sure to include your contact name, cell number and email. This was a great way for people to reach me with questions or follow up. I also included a short summary of the activities and themes for the event, so they knew why we were raising money.

Rick and I reviewed the grad list to see if any grads were specifically connected to businesses in our community. We made a list of local businesses (starting with the aforementioned ones). Rick and I divided up this list and either emailed or visited them personally. Typically, we were most successful going in person, but some businesses have unusual opening hours or are difficult to get to and for those ones, an email was sent. We dropped off our request letters on our initial visits. I always took a clipboard to record the name of the store managers/owners. This way I could follow up with them specifically (if I hadn't connected with them originally). Most businesses did not commit on our initial visit, but required multiple follow up visits. We started mid March, introducing ourselves and getting people thinking about Dry Grad and donating. We followed up and revisited businesses right up to the week before grad (in some cases!)

We collected all the prizes and kept them at my house. We used cash donations and fundraising money to purchase more prizes, big stand alone prizes or smaller ones to be part of a basket.

I had a work party at my house to assemble the baskets. I used my family members as the Dry Grad committee was already over worked! We numbered each basket and typed up a corresponding list of all the prizes found in each basket. Each basket had a minimum of a \$100 value. We created a master list of all prizes so that the winners names could be entered on this form the night of the event.

Raffle table/prizes:

A row of shelves were assembled in the dry room and all of the baskets (over 50 of them) were displayed here. We had three long tables (maybe four) from the complex, that sat in front of the display. We borrowed the raffle boxes from Minor Hockey and put these numbered buckets on this table with the corresponding list taped to the table in front of the buckets. This allowed students to come along and read what was in each basket and decide if they wanted to put their name in that bin.

No limit on entries. But we did limit a maximum of two of these prizes to any student. As we drew names, the winners would be handed the list. Once all the prizes were drawn, they redeemed the list for their prize. If their name was drawn more than twice (and it happened to three different students), they could review their three prizes and choose which two to keep. They would hand back the paper list (which was numbered and matched the prize) and we would draw another name out of that bucket.

Door prizes:

We wanted to give all of these kids a reason to stay until the end of the party so we bought or had donated, 10 awesome door prizes. Students were given one ticket when they entered the event and put it in the Door Prize bucket. At the end of the night, we drew names. The first name out could choose any of the door prizes, then the second name out could choose from any of the remaining prizes and this continued until the 10th name was called. We did this to ensure kids got what they wanted/needed and it was a great way to keep everyone happy!

We moved all of the prizes from our house to the complex the day before grad and kept them in a locked dressing room. Once the official grad ceremony was over, and everyone was leaving, we moved the prizes from the dressing room to the raffle area and shelving. We needed help to move these quickly as we had many prizes. Once they were set up, the grads were allowed to enter.

Rick and I worked the table ourselves, although we did have a Rotary team member assist for part of the evening. Three people would be perfect during the evening as the kids had LOTS of questions (especially about the door prizes)!

Also, this allowed for bathroom and food breaks for your volunteers.

Make sure to have lots of pens, especially when nearing the deadline for entry as many kids waited until the end to fill out their entry forms so they could see which buckets had the least number of entries and the best chances for winning!

Prizes were given to the kids to take home with them at the end of the evening. Only two grads needed to come back the next day to pick up their prizes as they were quite large. (A full camping set and a paddle board).

A list of all participating businesses was given to our chairperson to ensure they were included in the thank you's.

A couple of final points...

We did purchase many prizes from donated funds and fundraising money. We tried to keep everything local and really supported the businesses who supported us. For example, if a business gave us a prize or gift cards, when it came to spending money and getting more prizes, we went back to that business. If they didn't support us, we didn't spend our money in their stores. We accepted physical prizes, gift cards and vouchers for services. We

also appreciated that some of the big box stores couldn't give us a prize but could give us a big discount or allowed us to purchase at cost. It all helped.

**And finally, it is very important to keep close track of who has donated to the cause. It is a small town and we need to be careful to not keep hitting up the same businesses to donate. Throughout the year, there are multiple Dry Grad events that businesses might be asked to donate to and we need to ensure that we do not repeatedly go back to the same ones. Keep a good record and share with the entire grad committee.

Parade

*Report submitted by Jen Ramsay (Parade Co-ordinator)

The parade went smoothly this year. After a few hiccups, the date was set for Sunday, June 25 – the last weekend before school was out. This made it a fun event on its own and did not interfere with other grad ceremonies. There were about 40 vehicles that participated. Grads were asked to sign a waiver to be emailed in before the parade date – most were returned on time. Grads were given the choice of wearing their formal wear again or casual dress, most chose to dress up again to show off their formal wear. It was well advertised – in *Powell River Living* and on 95.7 Coast FM, so there were a lot of people along the streets to cheer our grads.

The parade started at 11:00 am from Beach Gardens to Willingdon Beach. See attached parade route. Participants were asked to be at Beach Gardens at 9:00 am to prepare. It was nice to have snacks and water in a shady spot for grads on hand – that parking lot gets hot!

With the help of volunteers, “ferry” style lines were formed in the parking lot, which made for a smooth departure. Vehicles were also given numbers, mainly to help the judges decide on a winner. An RCMP vehicle escorted/led the parade and kept the pace slow and steady. Rotary Club volunteers helped guide traffic at the intersections.

Some of the Powell River Classic Car Club members joined the parade and some also offered to carry students who may not have had a ride, which was a really nice touch.

Three fundraising events were held for the parade:

1. A movie night, featuring *Encanto*, at Henderson Elementary
2. A Mother's Day Gift basket raffle and,
3. A Star Wars lunchtime photoshoot at Brooks on May 4th

The movie night and the raffle were successful; the photoshoot was not. A total of \$500 was raised overall and was handed out on parade day for “best decorated” vehicle.

At the end of the parade, cars convened in the parking lot beside the Logger's Memorial Bowl. This was a little tight, but it worked. After about 10 minutes, grads were asked to gather on the cement bleachers in the Logger Memorial Bowl for award distribution. Kim Leach, myself and 3 of the school trustees congratulated the grads and handed out awards.

Names of all participants were entered into a box beforehand to hand out gift certificates that were passed on from the Dry Grad Committee, the remaining prizes from the Dry grad night. This was great because there were a lot remaining! It was a sunny day and it was nice to gather under the trees, in the shade. After, the grads met up with their families and carried on with their day. After, the grads met up with their families and carried on with their day.

***One improvement** could be to get in touch with a staff member at Brooks who could help identify any grads (i.e., international students) who may not have a vehicle or the means to be a part in the parade. Those students could be paired with volunteers (Car Club) to drive them. And advertise at school that rides can be provided for those that need one/don't have one.

Chantal read out the responsibilities for each executive role.

Kelly called out nominations for the new Executive positions. They were filled as follows:

New Executive

Chairperson—Cheryl Milne

Vice-Chair—Lisa Stride & Jodi McKamey

Treasurer—Jenny Allen Taves

Secretary—Becky Steiger

The 2023 Dry Grad Committee wishes you all the best in planning the next Dry Grad event!

Close the meeting @ 8:02pm