

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: May 13, 2014. Meeting started at 6:33 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 30), teachers Mme Boyd and Ms. Tso and principal Mr. Adams.

Please note, a full list of attendees is available from the PAC Chair upon request. For privacy reasons the full list is not posted in the minutes.

1. Minutes

A motion to approve minutes from the April 2014 PAC meeting was motioned by Jerry and passed by Mitch. The minutes are posted on the website.

2. Hot Lunch Fundraiser Re-Engineering

Need to understand why / what happened before deciding what to do.

a. The Cause:

i. Mr. Adams - Minister of Education has set new guidelines for food services in schools. They direct the school board to make sure schools are in line with regulations. School board sent supervisor to meet with Wendy, Dana and Mr. Adams to understand how our program works and suggest changes needed to be made.

Q: Is there an example of any issues in our program that don't meet regulations?

A: Main concerns are that the facility is not licensed for the program (needs to be inspected and licensed to operate and serve on VSB grounds during school hours), suppliers need to be from the VSB approved list, equipment needs to be modified (following VSB installation guidelines and equipment suppliers), and insurance policies and practices need to be in line.

Q: Have we been "found out?"

A: Mr. Adams is an employee of the school Board and in an awkward position. Part of the Principal's role is to ensure that rules and regulations dictated by Vancouver Coastal Health are being followed and addressing the issues necessary. Was becoming a difficult moral issue knowing that we didn't meet them.

ii. - History of PAC hot lunch fundraiser goes back to the '40's.

- Knew 7 years ago that it could run into union objections.

- 4 years ago lots of work done to upgrade equipment, become Food Safe, etc.

- Facility is inspected by Vancouver Community Health and licensed for the daycare already piggybacked on insurance, etc. of the daycare (same facility)

iii. From this point forward Mr. Adams is responsible for reviewing the program and making final decisions. The goal is to align with what the community wants and get feedback from parents, but ultimately it is up to him.

b. The 3 options:

1) continue to do 2 days/ week hot lunch as is, but meeting guidelines and regulations (kitchen licensed, menus approved, approved vendors, all volunteer labor)

*cost involved in meeting regulations

2) No hot lunch, but Tues/Thurs *fundraiser* with approved food suppliers (food not prepared in kitchen, produced by licensed approved providers)

* more limited profit made compared to current model

3) 5 day/ week VSB run hot lunch program. VSB would renovate kitchen, lunches ~ \$3.50-\$4/day

*(need 5-10 days to confirm this is possible)

* no fundraising aspect or \$ raised for PAC

Finances generated are one aspect to keep in mind for decision. Loss of fundraising is significant.

c. The next step:

i. - VSB has asked Vancouver Coastal Health to come and inspect the kitchens. The program is a significant liability to the school board right now.

Q: What budget do they have to fix the kitchen when they lack money as it is? (plus seismic upgrade coming, etc.)

A: Health inspector will come review, let PAC know what is needed to bring up to standards (or what VSB needs to do). Don't know cost yet but they will tell us what needs to be done for both options and give us the info necessary to make the best decision. Bottom line is that we need to be in compliance with rules and regulations which are there to protect the children.

Q: Could they come in and shut us down on the spot?

A: Yes, but don't think they are coming with that purpose. Usually there is a compliance period to get up to code.

Wendy: Based on information from Jennifer Cook (head of Food Services at VSB) it is unrealistic to expect to be able to continue.

- not possible to continue to produce food

- union owns labour (can't pay co-ordinator)

- requires permits

Q: How much do we fundraise with hot lunches?

A: We have a (conservative) \$18,700 in bank to budget for next year.

Wendy: \$27,000 - \$30,000 pure profit from hot lunch

Q: Can we still use the gym kitchen?

A: No

Q: Where is the money going to come from? Girls bathroom doesn't even have hot water. VSB isn't even funding basic needs for upgrades.

A: Have been informed that VSB actually owns PAC funds (VSB policy). Technically they can decide how funds get spent.

Q: What do the teachers feel about this?

A: Can't really comment on that but they are grateful for \$ raised by PAC to help fund supplies, etc.

ii. Current challenge is to find a way to legally and safely meet standards to continue with food fundraising at Hudson.

***Note:** There is a DPAC meeting June 11 regarding food services w/ VSB people, food vendors, etc.

* someone should go.

iii. Please always cc Mr. Adams w/ communications or questions for Jennifer Cook. He is the main contact now for this.

iv. Comment: None of this takes into account that the VSB is in budget deficit. Kids suffer from the loss of funds. There is no transition plan - just new regulations and we need to deal with it.

Q: Is there any way to remove liability or insure for it? Move things off VSB property?

Q: PACs as non profit groups can buy insurance. Would this help?

Q: re: removing school board liability for equipment - can we lease from VSB?

Q: Are they inspecting the gym kitchen as well as the daycare?

A: Will ask them. Mr. Adams asked permission to serve lunch in the gym next year but there are problems with that (due to wood floor, etc.)

Q: Can we rely on VSB approved vendors to buy the best quality ingredients?

Q: Can we continue with Pizza days and expand on that?

A: Would affect the profit margin. Also need to look at vendors with 5-10 million dollar liability.

* Pitch for advocacy: Email, write letters regarding the need for fundraising at all, and now there are cuts to successful fundraising.

v. What do we need to know to make decisions?

- Poll parents to see who is willing to pay how much for hot lunch. Some will see bottom line on the price.

- Look at cost analysis with number of new students coming in, costs for upgrade, etc.

- Know what it will cost to aim to hit fundraising goal, and know what parents are willing to give.

Parents have been very generous in covering subsidy needs.

vi. How soon does this affect us?

Q: What do the guidelines mean for bake sales, popcorn, ice cream, community events, etc.?

A: They stressed Sept. to be in compliance.

d. What will it look like when it's all done? Who's going to be running this?

i. Wendy will not be continuing.

ii. VSB policy that there is no honorarium for the organizer.

iii. Need a new team, new ideas, new eyes.

iv. PAC exec can't do this (don't have the hours to do it)

v. * If anyone is interested in doing analysis of current and past funds, ways to re-engineer fundraising and assisting with the planning phase please sign up to form a new committee.

3. Members at Large Reports

a. Year end BBQ - Date: Thurs, June 19. Same supplier, same model as last year. Live music booked. Forms will go home beginning of June with pre-order info.

b. Grade 7 Grad - Last bake sale happening May 30

Grad trip is decided/ planned - day trip to Capilano Canyon. Students must meet requirements to be able to go. 1:5 chaperone ratio with parents.

Might have money left over for the pay it forward fund for next year.

c. Community Garden Project - Harvest party June 23rd. Will email soon for volunteers.

d. Choir - Want to do a presentation for the whole school and an after school performance for choir parents.

4. New business

a. Bathrooms for next year - there are only 5 toilets for each of the boys and girls bathrooms in the whole school and nearly 400 kids coming in next year.

Q: Can we talk to the VSB about them? We have major concerns! (no hot water, dirty, limited toilets, etc. Basic hygiene issues.)

A: Maintenance and construction came and did a report on the washrooms. Because of the age of the building the bathrooms are OK.

b. Guest speaker on anger management coming next week Friday may 23 for an assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.

c. Teachers job action - Q: Any foresight? A: Not at this point. At present still internal, focussed on administration with no sense of immediate action. Next job action will be rotating strikes if necc. Could happen with 48 hours notice.

d. Bike to School Week is May 26-30 - Hope to have a bike safety speaker.

e. Bike Lane - City came out to check on safety with the new bike lane.
Result: a new cut out on bike lane curb at the entrance to school ramp to allow access to school.
Cross walk lines to be painted. Parent advocacy works!

f. Welcome to Kindergarten - Some parents want to organize a BBQ for incoming parents to meet before September, on last Friday before school starts.
Need to speak with Mr. Adams to book field, etc.

e. Dreama suggested that the school lacks a mascot and school spirit - could tie in well in relation to the 4 R's.

*Please run proposals by Mr. Adams before going public. All good ideas are welcome but please keep him in the loop.

5. Next meeting date Wednesday June 11th, 2014 at 6:30pm

6. Motion to adjourn by Jo, seconded by Chantal. Meeting ended at 7:57 pm.