

PAC Meeting

11 Feb 2015

1. Minutes approved (Jerry, John)
2. PAC Chair report
 - a. One MORE division next year, about 410 anticipated enrollment for next year. Renovations will take place in school, some feasibility studies with architects have been done by VSB. New classroom will be on 3rd floor. Partly to make sure we have the right amount of kids coming in every year; can't take as many Kindergarteners again. Should take 50-55 new kids each year. Creates issues with playground, lunchroom, everything. PAC has put together informal steering committee to liaise with staff and VSB on space and physical plant issues. Some specific questions to Bruce:
 - i. Q: With new division, are there any huge needs with outfitting the new classroom? A: Furniture is supplied, but there are going to be increasing demands for textbooks for upper level grades if the upper grade cohorts get much bigger, as they are anticipated to do.
 - ii. Q: How are textbooks funded now? A: We get a budget based on enrollment and decide how to allocate it, photocopy paper, internal resources, etc based on per student funding. PAC has bigger budget for this stuff than the school itself does.
 - iii. Q: do we get a vice principal if >400 students? Bruce thinks so.
 - b. Continuity for PAC activities, initiatives, and committees. Making operations manuals for various activities, e.g., hot lunch, winter fair, treasury, etc. To be kept here at school, accessible to anyone. Jo and Robyn, last year's secretaries, put together a lot of this but we are expanding and making more comprehensive ops manuals.
 - c. Teachers' classroom & field trip funds and student enhancement funds.
 - i. Each division has \$100 for classroom and \$300 for field trips. Teachers wanted to be able to be more flexible with allocation of these funds. This is fine so long as we know how the funds are being used.
 - ii. Student enhancement fund (formerly wish list). We allocated for 4 projectors last meeting. This means all 16 divisions will have a projector, but now we have a 17th projector. Putting together group of PAC members & teachers & Bruce to make longer-term plan.
 - iii. Technology committee led by John Chesko to help develop technology plan, coordinated with technology teachers.
 - d. Allan presented Protect Public Education Now petition; Rob has put up link to it on PAC Facebook page. Petition to premier that given projected budget surplus, please restore levels of public education funding. Time-sensitive, as budget comes out next Tuesday, so do this right away. PPEN.ca
3. Principal's report
 - a. Last Monday had a visit from "Slick," one of the Harlem Globetrotters. Very powerful figure with the children, got some staff and kids doing a basketball routine, and a talk on bullying. Very neat for the kids to see.

- b. Last Thursday was Dreamrider Theatre, slapstick and fun performance for the kids. This play was about garbage, how as consumers we can choose how much to create and how it affects our environment.
 - c. Ms Perella doing great job with basketball this year, now that we have enough senior grade kids to field a team. Keon refereeing. With volleyball, cross country, nice to see these sports teams are really blooming, and raises morale of Grade 6 & 7, spectators come and cheer. This is a positive effect of having a bigger school.
 - d. Carnivale coming up this Friday (Feb 13th). Classes go to different activities (singing, pancakes, "sledding" on blankets), and a Mardi Gras music performance.
 - e. Superstars assembly tomorrow to recognize social responsibility in students.
 - f. Conferences are March 4th and 5th, report cards on March 6th.
 - g. Q: why is the upcoming professional development day on Thursday, not Friday? A: VSB chooses this. Allan: it's Chinese New Year, maybe chosen for this reason.
4. Teachers' committee report:
- a. Colleen Nikon appreciates support of PAC for all the teachers. Library has great bunch of student monitors to keep library open before and after school every day. Also parent volunteers to help with shelving and keeping space organized. Scholastic book fair this year will be in gym, because they are delivering everything in bookcases. Will run on the two days of student conferences, with parent volunteers. Thank you for \$500 for library; Ms Nikon thinks will have First Nations storytellers come in June.
 - i. Let's get word out about the new library hours!
 - ii. Ms. Nikon thinking about developing monthly parent meetings on library resources, maybe resource teachers contributing as well.
5. School Planning Council: Will be having a meeting soon.
6. Secretary report: all is well
7. Treasurer report: Emily not able to come this evening. Jerry wonders about the \$300 amount that can be decided just by PAC Exec without a PAC vote. Is that still a realistic limit? Marina: limit still needs to be there, with the numbers of committees we now have if everyone started spending \$300 here and there we would be in trouble! Need to make budget allocations for committees.
8. Committee updates:
- a. Hot Lunch going well; transitioning from Wendy to Marina. Sufficient volunteers. Menus and order forms will be live before Spring Break again. Menus chosen based on health guidelines and what we are able to prepare given very limited kitchen facilities, and very popular and/or cost effective meals come up more often.
 - b. Spirit committee: Sports teams have jerseys now. Spirit day tomorrow, wear your spirit wear and/or RED. A group in April is bringing in a hawk or raptor.
 - c. Safety and Social responsibility working group:
 - i. Focus has changed to playground. With an even bigger school, discussing what to do to get more playspace for children (e.g., mitigate the swampy field). Engaging with David Nelson (Director of Instruction, oversees about 30 schools) to figure out how to make the facility outside more useable. Better field; more covered space for kids to play in the rain.

- ii. Safe arrival program; Bruce has group ready to get working on it, won't be getting going immediately. This activity is not in stated work for CUPE; all schools' safe arrival programs are done by volunteers.
 - d. Communications committee: need volunteers to help with the PAC website, make more visually engaging and does easy newsletter blasts.
- 9. Activities and events.
 - a. Speakers committee: Mayor promised to come but has cancelled. Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer coming in his place, to assembly on March 26th. She was on school board and has a lot of background.
 - b. Hudson Choir. Junior choir grades 1-3 has over 30 kids. Very cute and enthusiastic. Senior grades 4-7, only 10 of them but they sing beautifully. Will try to coordinate a concert with another school event such as book fair.
 - c. Guest speakers:
 - i. Friends for sharks coming Feb 25th. Honorarium for this group should be how much? Two people coming full day. Decision: \$500.
 - ii. Sex Ed for parents with Saleema Noon, invite general community at \$5 per family. Feedback from parents was that they wanted parent meeting first. Would cost about \$350. Have space in Term 3 if we want to sign up. Parents also want to know what is the school sex ed curriculum.
 - d. Rainy Day items. Carly got some free LEGO! But where are we going to do rainy day club? All connected to lunch space, supervision. Need to solve this once and for all for next year. We will have 3 supervision aides and probably a vice principal next year.
 - e. World fusion dance program for third school-wide activity? Proposed by Jennifer Johnson who organizes school-wide activities funded by PAC. She will bring to tomorrow's staff meeting. Please let it be something creative/arts. Other activities are gymnastics and badminton.
 - f. Grade 7 graduation and other activities. Bruce: no definite plans so far, in the works. PAC allocated funds for extra field trips for grade 7s, and money the previous Grade 7s raised to pay it forward.
- 10. New business. We will have a food waste program! In the meantime, some divisions are learning recycling and sending home recycling with kids. Ideas that you can sign up your school for refundable containers and get the money from them. Jerry will get back to us with the name of the organization.
- 11. Next meeting Tuesday March 3rd
- 12. Adjourned! (Rob/Shellee).