

Henry Hudson PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: February 17, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

Call to order 6:31 pm.

1. Guest Speaker: Alyse Alaouze, Community Schools Coordinator, West II Community Schools Team, regarding afterschool activities for final term and registration process
 - a. Alyse is the coordinator who works with the schools and the VSB to help bring activities to the schools. One of her tasks is to help give access to the activities to all kids, regardless of health and financial means. She coordinates what programs will be offered, when, and is working on how to streamline the process of registration.
 - b. Based on previous experience, registration for these activities will happen on one registration day in the school gym. Parents will know at once if they have been registered in the activity or have been waitlisted, allowing them to accurately plan for the term. Children who require assistance will register before the registration day. The registration day for next term will be March 31, 2016.
 - c. Alyse is hoping to have the following activities available:
 - i. Moresports soccer
 - ii. A cartooning class in conjunction with Arts Umbrella
 - iii. A digital art class with Byte Camp
 - iv. Yoga
 - v. Ultimate Frisbee
 - vi. A lunchtime art class
 - vii. Senior and junior choir.
 - d. Parents can get tax receipts for all sport and art activities from Alyse, her contact information is listed on all activity registration forms.
2. Minutes from previous meetings on November 18, 2015 and December 9, 2015 are approved.
3. PAC Chair report
 - a. There is now a PAC bulletin board outside the library. Contents will be monitored by parents on an as needed basis.
 - b. The book fair will be March 7-10th, 2016 in the gym. Times to be posted shortly.
 - c. March 4, 2016 is one of the two additional Non-Instructional days this year for teachers to learn how adopt the new Provincial School Curriculum (Experience Based Teaching). The second date is April 15th.
 - d. Our school secretary, Hannah will be staying on with us, congratulations to Hannah.
 - e. Thanks to the efforts of our school staff, PAC members, and school trustees our library will remain as it is.
4. PAC Secretary Report – no report
5. PAC Treasurer Report
 - a. The budget was made available to the PAC members.

- b. The PAC has focused its spending on computers, Epson projectors, grounds improvement and greening projects.
 - c. We are at 75.9% of our fundraising goal with our hot lunch program.
 - d. The 2015 expenses were higher than usual because we had some larger ticket items to purchase. These items were one-time expenses.
 - e. Teachers are encouraged to spend their field trip and school supplies budgets throughout the year.
 - f. Our school is currently at 118% capacity. Next year it will be 136% capacity. That makes us the 2nd most over-populated school in VSB SD 39. However, with capacity comes more programs and support from VSB.
 - g. We are on tier 1 (Highest Priority list of schools) for seismic assessment and seismic upgrade. We are on target still for our physical upgrade/rebuild to begin in 4-5 years (Feasibility study begins this spring/summer apparently).
6. Principal's Report
- a. The VSB will be issuing a report on their long range plan for the school.
 - b. 85% of our grade 4 and 7 students participated in FSA (foundation skills assessment) testing. This is an unusually high percentage. This exam tests the students' math, reading, writing, and English language skills.
 - c. The satisfaction survey will be happening soon. This survey is for parents and students to rate the school staff. Parents will be receiving an access code to participate in the survey.
 - d. School Registration is exceptionally high this year.
 - i. The school registration is closed for all cross boundary applicants, including those who already have a sibling at Henry Hudson. Students who are cross boundary and already go to Hudson will remain. The overflow school for this catchment area is Shaughnessy Elementary.
 - ii. For in catchment kindergarten acceptance there will be a lottery draw to fill the 45 English stream spots. Those who do not get in will be directed to the overflow school.
 - iii. There will be 3 additional spots for French immersion grade 1.
 - iv. It is anticipated that we will have between 400-420 students for the 2016/2017 school year.
7. Teacher's Committee Report – there will be a report this spring
8. SPC (School Planning Council) Report
- a. The SPC and the VSB will be reporting on:
 - i. The 15 year long range plan
 - ii. The provincial budget and its impact on local schools
 - iii. A 5 year strategic plan
 - b. Links to these items will be updated on our website as they occur in the near future.
From Alan:
 - c. The VSB is unwilling to confirm that any particular schools in the district (that are not on the High Priority Seismic List) are on a closure list however they do have a good sense of which school are low enrolment and will continue on that trend. They are looking at potentially combining some schools together in future that are under capacity.

- d. Vancouver DPAC, the District Parent Advisory Council (of which all PACs are members) began this school year in a state of some organizational disarray with only five of twelve executive positions filled, making it very challenging to carry out its mandate to provide a link between the Vancouver School Board and parents. The priority for the year has been to recruit new energy (with three new executive members ratified in the past few months) and to catch up on some late financial reporting. (The VSB, which provides the bulk of DPAC's funding, has temporarily frozen DPAC funding until satisfactory reports for the last few months are in. DPAC executive members and school district financial staff advise that this situation is now close to being resolved.)

- e. The DPAC executive has recently received four nominations from PACs for new executive members and their ratification process is underway; a number of these candidates have long histories of previous involvement with DPAC and/or parent lobbying efforts in support of quality public education. If all are accepted this will bring the DPAC executive up to its full complement of 12 members and help it get back on track..

- f. Plans are being made to hold two "DPAC City-wides" during the rest of the school year -- open meetings to which any parent or guardian of children in the Vancouver school system are invited. Details are yet to be determined, but one will be an information session with VSB financial staff about the district's budget for the coming year. I'll forward more information about these as it becomes available.

- g. DPAC also recruits parents who are interested and have relevant knowledge to sit on a number of VSB advisory committees, which provide input to the board on specific issues (technology in the classroom, language, libraries, etc.). These committees typically consist of board staff (planning, financial, engineering, etc.), trustees, teacher representatives, outside experts and parents. A note providing more details and asking interested parents to come forward went out a few weeks ago; I'm happy to report that one of our Hudson parents, Ee-Seul Yoon, applied to serve on the Enhanced Support Advisory Committee and was enthusiastically accepted at the most recent DPAC meeting. This committee's focus is advising the VSB on how to overcome barriers to access to education arising from poverty (it was formerly called the Inner City Schools Advisory Committee), and Ee-Seul brings a wealth of research experience in this subject to the table. The Hudson PAC thanks Ee-Seul for taking this on!

- h. If you are interested in serving on any of the other committees, please let me know (apatola@telus.net, 604-736-8596) and I can send you information about the current vacancies and the application process.

- i. Finally, the DPAC executive members also act as individual liaisons to each elementary and secondary school PAC. Currently Hudson's liaison from DPAC is Farah Shroff; if you have any questions or concerns you'd like to take to DPAC directly, please feel free to contact her at vicechair@vancouverdpac.org. Committee Updates
 - a. Hot Lunch
 - i. We have secured a new large supplier, Sysco, for our program who will be offering the PAC a 20% discount on all their wholesale items. They deliver right to the school. We will still be doing some shopping on our but not nearly as much.
 - ii. We welcome new volunteers who are currently being trained, thank you to all who are helping as volunteers.
 - iii. We now have grade 7 volunteers who are working with the servers, thank you to all the students who are volunteering their time.
 - b. Spirit Committee
 - i. Carly will send a proposed schedule to the school principal outlining suggested theme days (pajama day, crazy hair day, crazy hat day).
 - ii. It was suggested for spirit day that we put out the school flag, potentially sell popcorn to raise money, and award a prize for the class demonstrating the most school spirit.
 - c. Safety and Social Responsibility Working Group
 - i. We are looking to host a parent information session regarding internet safety. The teachers attended a workshop on this item and it was very informative. It was felt that parents could benefit from this knowledge, we are looking into bringing in the same speaker as the teachers had heard.
 - d. Technology Committee – no report
 - e. Grounds Committee
 - i. The PAC grounds improvement committee circulated our Outdoor Classroom designs to to the teachers. It was well received. Marina will be meeting with the school to budget this project next week.
 - ii. The School Greening Committee has planned for two additional garden beds by the end of the school year. These beds will be made available for a workshop for all students who wish to participate.
 - iii. The greening committee, together with the PAC Grounds Improvement Committee, will be operating a potato planting program for the students on March 9th and 10th.
 - f. In School Activities Committee
 - i. Badminton will be starting at the end of February
 - ii. Next term there will be dance parties for the junior and senior classes once a month on separate days.
 - iii. Communications Committee – no report
2. Activities/Events
- a. Before and after school activities

- i. There will be an evening of performances by the junior and senior choirs for families to enjoy.
 - b. Guest speakers
 - i. There will be a guest, Savannah King, Olympic swimmer, at Kitsilano pool to share with us her life experience as an Olympic athlete.
 - c. Rainy day club
 - d. Babysitting
 - i. There is currently a babysitting training course happening at the school. The updated list of students who are interested in babysitting will be made available soon.
- 3. Next Meeting March 9, 2016
- 4. Adjourned: 8:02 pm.