

Henry Hudson PAC Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2015

Called to Order at 6pm

Minutes of previous meetings approved (Chantal, Robert, passed unanimously)

PAC chair report

Many, many activities this term! Lots of initiatives, teamwork with teachers and students. Details left to other sections due to guest speaker and short meeting time.

PAC Secretary report: none

PAC Treasurer Report

final direct donation amount \$5981. Funding 4 interactive Epson projectors that were approved last year but not purchased; laptop computers from surplus & this year's technology wish list budget. Unexpected expense - vests for kindergarten students and playground monitors: much needed!

Principal's Report

Flooding in one classroom, students were out of that class until today and used other space. All carpeting was damaged, baseboards, class supplies. Professional restoration company dried and tested moisture; baseboards not back on yet. Tested for mould. All is good.

2016/17 will need one extra classroom space (as was actually planned for this year). Mr Atkinson of VSB presented 9 options for where to find more space, including staff room, half library, lunch room, teaching space in gym storage rooms. Renovations will take place over the summer. Will happen next year, expecting two new classes English kindergarten (n=44) and only n=18 graduating, and all grades are becoming full.

May need kindergarten lottery for English students in January if more than 44 register. They want to meet with PAC. Not up to Mr Cannon to make decision about where space will go. Portables very expensive (\$250K – 300K) and unlikely to happen.

Field trips coming up: botanical gardens, Victoria, sleepover at planetarium, crossfit gym

School activities: want gym almost always in use with an activity every day and after day, and we are nearly fully booked now. Thanks to PAC organizing so many new activities, there are many new ones coming for Term 2. Any families who can't afford fees come to talk privately with Mr Cannon; open to all regardless of ability to pay.

Winter concert Dec 16th, afternoon performance and perhaps a morning performance as well. Choir, band, all classes involved as well. As finalized he will send out to us.

Report cards coming Dec 18th.

Teachers' Reports

No teachers present. Teachers also doing interesting new activities.

School Planning Committee: Still trying to meet!

DPAC: no report

Committee Updates

Hot lunch: Marina B reported is current hot lunch coordinator, and has been volunteering for 3.5 years, took over as coordinator from Wendy whose child graduated. Took on coordinator role because sees such great things about the hot lunch program fundraiser, and great to have for the kids. Marina B wants to continue, and wants to thank all the parent volunteers and the parents who order hot lunch and support in other ways, and teachers and principal who support the program. Since September, many changes again in how lunch provided, trying to serve even more kids at same time rather than two sittings. Marina P has been big support in working with her.

Marina P noted that the program has developed a lot; and we want to do things better and more sustainably (financially and in other ways) and we've created a lot of new ways to do things with the Hot Lunch program. Marina P. and Nina have been working very hard to lead and support Marina B in this growth cycle, but it is taking too many hours of our time and what the program needs is another person to share the paid job with Marina B., so that Marina P and Nina can go back to being regular Executives and continue with all their volunteer work on all initiatives. What does Marina B like the best and do the best with it—Marina B will be director of service to manage it, but we are looking for someone else to help with background operations management and partner with Marina B. We want to put out a tender for a second person, need someone Marina B will work well with. The new person would have to have professional experience in restaurant management or relevant experience and be responsible for Operations/Purchasing/Budgets/Ordering, while Marina B would manage the actual service and volunteers on Tues and Thurs. We will be seeing a notice about this coming out and executive with Marina B will consider candidates. Trying to use Munchalunch as much as possible, avoid volunteer and staff burnout, especially with even MORE kids.

Spirit Committee: no misfits in clothing this time! Teachers looking for spirit wear now, we will do some special orders for them. Found a different, local supplier who matches prices. Next spirit day is Dec 4th, same as winter fair. New feather banner is in a lock up in the gym; welcome to use for any school event, not just sports.

Safety and Social Responsibility: new vests for kindergarteners and playground monitors purchased. Technologies: new laptops coming to classrooms soon! Mr Cannon still waiting for cart for storage and charging.

Grounds Committee: Shellee is an interior designer and after Marina P and Stella met with Jeff from VSB, they walked through the plans with Shellee, which she is going to lay out in a blueprint/design plan for VSB. Marina P and Stella have also consulted informally with a number of teachers. Jeff will put together a budget after we give them our plans.

In school activities:

Arts: Renata working with teachers for Bard on the Beach, and Arts Umbrella activities.

Sports: iBike June 3, 10, 17. Very low cost.

Parkour in December. We will be first school to take this on; Mr Cannon discussed with risk management at VSB. Parkour supplier (Origins gym) has insurance certificate, have strong program for kids starting age 4. Very safe, lots of precautions and age-appropriate. Mr Cannon always concerned about student safety and legal issues.

Badminton

Communications Committee. Parents have started complaining too much info. Please just skim through or don't read it if you don't want to. Marina P and others have created so many more activities and initiatives at the school, and we are gaining tremendous support from the parent community. The nay sayers don't have to read the material if they don't want to. Any great ideas about how to do communications differently are welcome, but we really want to get the info out to parents. In some cases we are just a conduit for administration/teachers info, often they don't give us or even have the info until last minute.

Activities:

Winter Fair: Winter around the world to 7 continents. Kids buy a \$5 passport and gets stamped at each continent's station. Each continent has crafts, games. Kids at the school are working on the kiosks and posters and are very excited. Always looking for more volunteers. Also advance ticket sales will be available on Munchalunch. Twice as a big a kids market, cake market, raffle, silent auction, etc. Kids will come in waves, too. We have tons of volunteers and so many of the students helping. Any questions ask Marina P or Nina.

Winter Concert: discussed

Before & After School Activities:

Speakers: This morning had judge from BC Supreme Court come to talk at assembly. Hon Justice Marian Maisonville. Really inspiring for kids, who asked a lot of good questions and seemed to be very interested in law. Open to suggestions for another inspiring speaker.

Rainy Day Club: lots of activities going on now at lunchtime. New arts & crafts on Thursdays. Lego lunchtime coming next term (bricks4kids)

Family Photos: postponed until spring when weather improves: cherry blossoms, snow capped mountains and longer days.

Babysitting course happening on Pro-D day November 27 (check that date). Still has 6 openings. Not just for Hudson kids, they can take other Gr 6/7 age kids. Parent suggested that this is a good course even for kids you just want to be more confident about leaving alone, not just babysitting!
Past month activiites were great.

Adjourned at 7 pm Rob/Alan. Next meeting Dec 9, 2015.