

ÉCOLE COBBLE HILL

PAC MEETING SEPT '23

27 SEPTEMBER 2023 / 8:35AM / DRAFT MINUTES

VOTING ATTENDEES Sylvia Cox, Kimberly Audy, Erin Nicholson, Lindsay Stewart, Christine Oglend, Heather Theofanous, Jennifer Curry, Katelyn Luscombe, Bella Kuo, Jo Addison, Stacey Shrout, Allie Zurowski, Nicole Tarsio, Jessica Adelman, Roberta Cottam, Kelly Rawson, Kayla Dangerfield

NON-VOTING ATTENDEES Ian Zibin, Grant Mellemstrand

Call to Order: 8:40

Adopt Agenda: Christine Oglend, Kimberly Audy

Review & Approve minutes from June 2023: Christine Oglend, Heather Theofanous

TEAM LEADER REPORTS

Chairperson: Sylvia Cox

1. First Weeks:

- a. PAC supplied plants and potted up the planters in front of the school.
- b. The Fall Notice went home including a synopsis of what's going on this term.
- c. Hot Lunch ordering is done and orders were placed for 90% of students!
- d. Kindergarten and new student T-shirts were ordered and handed out.
 - i. NOTE: The ECH PAC runs the Otter Shop where we have additional school wear available including T-shirts, hoodies, and more.
- e. We hosted a welcome social for kindergarten families during their first week.

2. Upcoming Fundraisers:

- a. Drumroaster is the second Tuesday/Thursday of each month
- b. Art Cards will come up pretty quickly. Teachers work with kids on designs and you can choose to order greeting cards, magnets, etc. featuring the artwork.
- c. Purdy's for the Holidays with online ordering and pick up at the school.
- d. Raffle Baskets and Silent Auction to coincide with the winter concert in December.

Treasurer: Kimberly Audy

1. Money In:

- a. Hot Lunch was phenomenal with a profit before minimal expenses of \$5,600.
- b. Through Munch-a-Lunch we collected \$320 for Nourish Cowichan!
- c. Gaming Funds haven't arrived yet but we expect to get \$7420.
- d. Mable's Labels brought in \$28.11

2. Money Out:

- a. Post-secondary school bursaries awarded last June have been paid to the recipients.
- b. \$749.18 for kindergarten/new students shirts which is on budget.
- c. \$75 for BCCPAC annual fee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hot Lunch: Heather Theofanous

1. **Fall Session:** We're off to a really good start with the first lunch coming up on October 4
 - a. Running 6 lunches this session, every second week from Oct 4 - Dec 13
 - b. Volunteers are needed between 11-12. If you signed up to help out through munch-a-lunch, you'll get a reminder email from Heather a couple days in advance
2. **Financial Assistance** is available, and we can allow for payment by etransfer for those without credit cards. The way Munch-a-lunch works is that unpaid orders disappear and so if there was an unpaid order in the past, the order wouldn't end up in the reports. We need to know in advance if you can't pay through Munch-a-lunch by the deadline and need alternate arrangements. We do prefer not doing cash payments because of the extra number of steps involved, but we don't want to create any barriers. Email us in advance and we can work it out.
 - a. Donating lunches for other kids has come up before as something we could do. But this gets tricky because then we have funds to cover only lunches. Instead the PAC has a healthy financial aid budget, and so we pull from that to cover anything from field trips to hot lunches, etc that might create a barrier.

DPAC: Lindsay Stewart

1. **What is DPAC?** The District Parent Advisory Committee meets monthly the week before our school PAC meeting and includes representatives from schools throughout the district, a school board trustee, superintendent Robyn Grey, etc.
 - a. DPAC addresses concerns at a broader scale/beyond this school
 - i. ie. High school construction progress

- b. **Committees** include PIE (Parents for Inclusive Education) is a group of parents supporting diverse learners, and an Indigenous committee representing voices from their community
 - i. PIE is run by Anita Carol but she is stepping down as she's committed to other initiatives in the area. We are looking to fill her big shoes.
 - ii. Indigenous Committee is led by Vlad Valastiak. They're working to create awareness about what this committee is trying to accomplish/support.
2. **PAC 101** workshop will run again at Quamichan Library and the intention is to inform the community about the function of PACs. Some schools have limited or no parent involvement, and Carmen (DPAC Chair) is there to support any schools that need some extra help. It's a place where schools like ours with strong PACs can also come together and support those schools with less involvement.
3. **Feeding Futures Fund:** SD79 is receiving \$1,018,771 to help feed students from families who are struggling financially in the district.

Q. Kayla Dangerfield raised the issue of students being discouraged from carrying on in French Immersion because of the limiting factor of bussing from the south end to Duncan. Bus routes seem inadequate if students need to be driven 20 minutes to a bus stop.

A. Sylvia: This is absolutely a DPAC issue; Ian and Lindsay will investigate this concern further.

ADMINISTRATION

Principal: Ian Zibin

1. Ian would like to acknowledge all of the hard work the PAC does. It's been seamless transitioning into the new school year. We have a strong and passionate group of educators and other staff. Thank you all for coming out to the open house. Ian is working on remembering every kid's name and forming relationships with families at the school.
2. **Terry Fox Run** was well attended and the warm up dance was so cool and fun to see.
3. **Orange Shirt Day** is coming up on Friday. Students will be singing at the assembly and one child is playing a piece on the piano
4. **Tour de Rock** is coming on October 3 from 1:50-2:05 so it will create a parking lot challenge and we will ask parents for their patience on this day.

Vice Principal: Grant Mellemstrand

1. **Tour de Rock:** Christine Oglend has set up a donation site for parents to make online donations. Her oldest son is one of the honorary riders after recovering from cancer diagnosed at the age of 13 months.
2. **Sports:** Teams ramping up soon include girls/coed field hockey and boys soccer
3. **Popcorn:** Starting up soon and we'll be looking for volunteers to come one morning a week for a one month slot

OLD BUSINESS

1. **School Supplies:** No issues with the new system reported.
2. **Parking Lot:** Ian is sending out a flowchart explaining how to park and drop off effectively.
 - a. **Drop Off Area:** The biggest frustration is that the drop off zone needs to be a drop and roll zone in the morning from 8-8:35am. If you need to get out of the car and walk your kid to class, please park elsewhere.
 - b. **Back Slope:** On the back end of the parking lot, more cars can fit if backed in at an angle instead of parallel parking.
 - c. **Speed Concerns:** Families are feeling unsafe getting out of their cars parked along Learning Way, and then walking down to the school. Should we look at signage that shows people the speed they're driving?

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Book Fair:** It's going to happen and Lindsay Stewart is going to run it. Volunteers are needed. Delivery Oct 18th, set up 19th and will run October 23-27 including during Halloween party.
2. **Halloween Event:** Friday, October 27
 - a. It's usually the Friday night before Halloween with a dance in the gym, using Pod A as a place for games, quiet colouring, cupcake walk, haunted house, food concession, etc.
 - b. We need an organising committee including parent captains for each room. Diane Barr has volunteered to run the cupcake walk room. If organising in advance isn't your thing or you can't take on a lead roll, we still have half hour slots.
 - c. It gets loud and crazy and congested.

- i. Could we consider putting the dance in a classroom and use the gym more efficiently because it's been under-utilised. Maybe the gym could host one or two activities in addition to the food concession and some banquet seating.

3. **Request for Funding - Presentation from Div 1, 2, 3**

- a. Karen Ward has brought representatives from all 3 6/7 split classes. These kids would like to do an engineering project making cabinets and storage for books, markers, art supplies, etc. in their classrooms. Their goal is to reduce waste by creating storage to assess their needs.
 - i. ie. Plastic bins that are used for storage get cracked and thrown out, so is there a better option?
 - b. The kids will walk to RONA where staff will explain materials, tools, etc.
 - c. Students will budget and design the storage, buy materials and then build it out.
 - d. Cost will be known in 2-3 months with construction in the new year.
 - e. The students would like the PAC to help fund this initiative, and the PAC has agreed to support. Students will revisit a future PAC meeting when their needs are better known.
4. **Artificial Electronic Defibrillator:** Could we have one in the school? Is this a DPAC thing or something the PAC should plan to spend around \$1000 on?
5. **Winter Food Drive:** Christine Oglend offers to co-ordinate the food drive again this year.
6. **Keep Saving Refundables!** Let's make sure that families know that there's an ECH account at the Return-It on Fisher Road.

Next meeting: October 18th 6:30pm. Normally we meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, but we bumped it a week earlier so as to not conflict with busy Halloween week, and also allow more planning time for the Halloween Event.

Adjourned at 9:50am