

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday June 18, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): Leslie Hoolaeff, PAC Exec, Lynn Gosselin, Susan Dent, Sara, Annie LB, Adam (Bowen’s dad), Alfonso Solimano, Claire Wilson, Dorcas & Gavin, Helen Pang, Joe Palmer, Sameena Nahal, Serena Vorma, Shaine & Guen, Edward

PAC Executive:

- Kemp Edmonds, Chair
- Wyle Baoween, Vice-Chair
- Leslie Hoolaeff, Treasurer
- Sophia Male, Secretary
- Lynn Gosselin, Member at Large

Administration/Teachers: Susan Dent, Principal

- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – Kemp Edmonds
- Call to Order approval of the minutes from May 14, 2024:

Moved Annie	Seconded Claire Wilson	Carried

- Treasurer’s Report by Leslie:

Leslie shares her screen to show her spread sheet. The main thing to report is the walkathon funds are in and are a little short for our budgeted amount but thankfully the hot lunch program revenue has helped raise our fundraising amount and we are still ahead for the year on fundraising totals for the year to date. Nothing else significant will be hitting,

but we will do a final revue of financials in the fall. Right now we are on track to have about 2 grand in terms of net at the end of the year.

Budget revue – we sent this out last meeting and dove into it but she wanted to let people know she lowered the amount she projected for the walkathon since she was originally hoping for 18k but we came in at 16k, but she also increased the hot lunch amount to 8k for the year. She thinks that should be fine but that’s her estimate for the budget.

Motion to approve the budget:

Moved Claire	Seconded Annie	Carried

- **Kemp Chair report** – Big thanks to the volunteers at movie night. Next topic is devices, as we move into the option of bringing your own device. They need to be able to install Office 365 and be able to connect to the wifi – those are the 2 requirements. Thanks to Wyle and his work with the welcome group, and we will be bringing teacher’s lunch for our teacher appreciation on June 27th and if anyone is interested in helping, let us know. We are buying food and delivering it to the teachers.
- **Confirmed dates for next year** – Welcome back party Thursday Sept 5, Terry Fox Friday Sept 6, meet the teacher day on the 18th of Sept, and clothing swap will hopefully happen on the 10th of October, and the Halloween dance the principal is away the 24th and 25th which is also a PD day and if the principal is away we have to rent the gym, so right now the potential date is Friday Oct 18th so we may have to get the kids costumes ready a little early. Then movie nights we have pegged for Nov 29, Feb 21 and then May 30 with the walkathon on April 25th.
- One of the things we are hoping to do in future years is engage the grade 6 and 7s with fundraising since a lot of the funds raised by the PAC goes to programs particularly supporting those grades and subsidizing adventures they get to go on.
- We are looking for leads for everything, so we will be sending out an email to see if anyone wants to get involved in activities.
- End of Kemp’s final Chair Report, and he passes it to Susan:
- **Administration Report - Susan:**
- This is the time of year where so much is happening, so these are things that have happened since our last meeting. We had the flight of the hummingbird Indigenous opera - it’s a wonderful Indigenous story and fits a theme we’ve had this year looking at

different types of storytelling. So we had the African storytelling from the Kootenays, and Herstory of music. All different stories and ways of telling stories. We had our sports day so that went well. We've had students participating in sports so it's ultimate season and track and field and we've had tournaments.

- We have had our Welcome to Kindergarten event where we got to meet our incoming kindergarten students, we've had our spring concert which had to be spread out over 2 afternoons so all classes and students could be there. We had the movie night which was fun, and on Friday we had our service participation assembly where we recognize all the kids that either played in an extracurricular sport, or were in a club or were something like being a monitor for students or help in the office. We get to celebrate and it's also like an infomercial for the kids for next year. It was exciting that 4 of our activities this year were all student initiated. So last year there was a group of kids that wanted a newspaper, which didn't happen yet. But this year we had chess club which was student driven, dungeons and dragons, an art drop-in club and then Student Voice, which is our evolving student counsel.
- Coming up we have the National Indigenous People's Day assembly that's happening on Friday, and that's being initiated by division 3. We have report cards going home on Monday. It's a provincial change, that they are coming home earlier than usual so parents have a chance to talk to teachers with any concerns before they are off for the summer. We have the stepping up assembly for kids going off to high school next Wednesday and then Thursday we will have a year end celebration to celebrate all the learning that has happened throughout the year.
- The mural is in progress. Waiting for dry weather to come to the school. Optimistic we will hopefully see it starting to take shape soon.
- We are working as staff to build community. Susan thanks the PAC about the activities the PAC has been doing. It's a good to get the parents together. Our enrollment grew by 35 to 40 kids this year so that's a lot of new families so events give the families an entry way to becoming a part of the community. Also the number of English Language Learners have increased this year so PAC events really help them as well.
- Tech conversations continue with Kemp. Some kids bring tech and we will continue with these conversations in the fall.
- Susan thanks the PAC Exec. And Helen and her team on Hot Lunch. And Claire and Annie with the walkathon. After 2 years we seem to be getting systems in place to make things easier for everybody. A huge thank you to Kemp for being the Chair. There were things going on in the community outside of school and Susan appreciates Kemp's help and for all the tech help.

- **Questions from the Chat:**
- **Why is School ending earlier?** Susan says the general concept is there are a certain amount of minutes we have to be at school each year and depending on how many days off or when school starts we have the minutes in the day reflecting. Depends on where holidays fall and Susan says nothing is obvious to her but it might have to do with breaks.
- **Classes / Teachers? Are any teachers leaving?** Susan says there is nothing to report on staff leaving that she is making public and she doesn't know what teachers are teaching which grades. She wants people to know that school organization can go on until Sept 30th. They try to get organized now, but changes in enrollment can impact staffing and the organization of the school so people have to get comfortable with the ambiguity.
- **Are we able to have more full grade years and not as many splits?** Susan calls them "combined classes" and they come about for a variety of reasons. Some schools like that. Some teachers like the split class and students stay in in the class for 2 years and the younger students become the role models the next year. Sometimes it's decided at the school level, sometimes at the district level. But regardless of whether it's a split class or a combined class, the abilities range over 6 grades especially in literacy and numeracy
- **What is the school's maximum capacity?** Susan says she doesn't know. We actually have an empty classroom but she is not sure of occupancy limits etc. Right now we are at 400. And apparently you get a Vice President at 400 or more, but it's changing and you have to show that the numbers are going to stay up to get a VP. Also Wolfe is surrounded by full schools so we get kids from other catchments. No one has told Susan that she is getting a Vice President next year.
- **Hot Lunch Update** – There was a survey... **Claire** recognizes Helen for all her hard work and getting her and Sameena on board and motivating them. They have a parent to recommend for next year. The first survey was in April and everyone wanted to try foodie kids and we have 2 fun lunches, the Subway one and the upcoming pizza one. Then they did a survey to see what people think. Didn't get as many responses, but 76% tried, other people didn't try it for various reasons. Many people did say they'd consider it for next year. In terms of liking foodie kids, most people liked it and the munch a lunch ordering system. In terms of affordability, most people said the price was about right. So Claire thinks we've hit the right mark. For next fall, a little over half want to switch to foodie kids for all the hot lunches. A quarter wanted to either stay with c'est mon café or alternate. 20% had no preference. Claire says alternating isn't the best system in terms of confusion. The subway lunch was loved and people said they'd enjoy a fun lunch like that once a month. Most people want 2 or 3 days a week for the regular schedule. Looks like we will continue to have a good group of volunteers and a good mix of people offering to volunteer. So Claire says the proposed plan is to do the full switch to foodie

kids and say goodbye to C'est mon Café. She says the ordering was decreasing to C'est Mon Café over the month which was a sign people weren't into that vendor anymore.

- **Helen** says just switching vendors in terms hot lunch increased their fundraising by 4 times. So maintaining two days a week with the different vendor makes sense. It's minimal extra effort and bigger return for fundraising.
- **Claire** says the only negative feedback was that you have to remember to order your food further in advance compared to C'est Mon Café but it's because they actually make the food and don't just pop it out of a freezer. So people are accepting that.
- **Susan** says they need to bring cutlery. The kids keep going through all the cutlery coming to the office to ask for it so they need to learn and maybe going a few times without cutlery will help students learn.
- **Helen** says the good thing about Munch a Lunch is it removes the communication from the vendor to parents so we can send out more reminders if we want to. And we've communicated within the system to bring cutlery. There is more of a community aspect in terms of parents knowing who they are talking to. Helen has been updating the website on a monthly basis. So they will start hot lunch as soon as Susan lets them in the fall. But it will depend on knowing the divisions in terms of what kids are in what classes so probably the third week will be when they can start it. We are also shifting to Tuesdays and Fridays.
- **Kemp asks if there is any other business? Annie LB asks about band.** Susan says there is a general music budget and it is not specific to band. It depends on the interest and abilities of the music specialist. In the VSB there have been a number of different programs like band, ukulele, strings, choir, etc.. So it depends on who is in the school doing the music program. Susan says it's not a required part of the curriculum. Annie wants to know what we can do. Susan says we can't tell a teacher how to teach since they will decide how to teach best whether it's music, math etc. We can says parents are interested in programs but what is delivered is up to the teacher. Teachers changed so the programs changed. Kemp says we lost a special teacher in Mr. Mathewson. He was carrying a lot. Susan said there is usually a band program in high schools so kids will have the opportunity when they get there.
- **Annie** talks about how to get more people to come to the meetings, and brings up that we talked about it last meeting. We should work on messaging to get more people to come to the meeting by emphasizing the Principal is there to answer questions, and we should really sell that next year in the minutes, at the bbq etc.. Susan says the meetings always go in the Wednesday Weekly so however we want to put it in the Wednesday Weekly is up to us.

- **Kemp** says a parent that asked about the combined classes lost battery and asks Susan to re-iterate what she said. Susan says even 4-6 students can effect the organization. The board says they aren't allowed to "move into" the classes often since it's a big district so we are also dealing with the whole district which is why we have to wait often. Families themselves are moving over the summer and the VSB has to account for all that. We just need patience. The staff are already talking about that first week of school and how they can make it a good week while waiting to find out about classes.
- **Kemp** asks if there are any more questions, and there aren't. Everyone says happy summer and we say goodbye for the summer.

End of Meeting. Please join us in the fall for our upcoming meetings!