

PAC General Meeting - Minutes

November 23, 2016

ATTENDEES

Chelsea Duhs, Tania Pan, Bonnie Santas, Lisa Black, Deanna McDonald, Linda Jando, Victoria Mendes, Charlotte Burns, Cindy Nairne, Julia Kutlubay, Saiba Lalji, Tara Zielinski, Linda Gour, Saiko Tachibana, Kristin Asrar Haghighi, Sareh Donaher, Eileen Huster

CALL TO ORDER (Kristin A)

Meeting called to order at 9:01am. Approved 1st by Lisa B, 2nd by Bonnie S. Kristin welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Kristin A)

Approved 1st by Cindy N, 2nd by Charlotte B.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OCTOBER 19th GENERAL PAC MEETING (Kristin A)

Note: Post minutes issues are resolved. Approved 1st by Bonnie S, 2nd by Lisa B.

“SCHOOL BUS” (Larry Soukoreff)

Kristin welcomed Larry to the meeting. Larry presented his new business “School Bus”.

- Larry has rented a school bus to transport children from North Vancouver to West Vancouver elementary and secondary schools
- He is looking to offer the service to PJ families to help him cover his costs - starting with families who live in North Vancouver
- Currently after his West Vancouver drop off his school bus is empty and so he has the opportunity to transport children from Sentinel and West Vancouver High to PJ and Cedardale
- First pick up is SuperStore in North Vancouver at 7.30am he proceeds to other stops then onto schools
- Cost is \$5 per trip for North Vancouver students (half price for siblings)
- Potential cost for trips within West Vancouver \$3
- Grade 3 students or younger have to come off the bus with an older student or parent or supervisor
- In the afternoon he picks up 4 children from PJ and does the route in reverse

- Larry is seeking suggestions for pick up locations from the PJ community
- Tara Z asked Larry to put together a document explaining his current loop and will ask parents for feedback for potential pick up locations
- Tara Z to look at contracts and opportunities with Larry
- Tara Z thanked Larry for coming to the meeting

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Z)

FEEDBACK REQUESTED: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Feedback from the sessions was mixed. The use of the timers was good in theory but some teachers still went over time. Feedback received about a new teacher was that they were still learning the process
- Saiba added that at Sentinel a student knocked on the door to assist with keeping the sessions on time - Grade 6/7 students could be asked to do a similar job which could count towards their volunteer hours. Saiba also added that the teacher showed an example of a test/essay which was good to see something concrete
- Lisa said that all 3 teachers she saw had something interesting to say about her children
- Tara added that the sessions should be based around the core competencies and will introduce the triad - child/parent/teacher. Perhaps for next year this will be introduced where the student and teachers have a pre-conference to set goals and will take this home to parents to gain parent feedback

A CONVERSATION WITH SENTINEL

- Tomorrow night's conversation with Sentinel is being held for Grade 5-7 families
- Michael Lim and Cathy (Vice Principal) and a Grade 12 student will speak of their experience with the transition

CASH ON-LINE

- This new system has been introduced to all families via e-mail
- Families can still choose to write cheques
- At a later date the capacity will be added to pay for field trips, etc

Lisa B reminded everyone that this system is not for PAC use.

WEST VANCOUVER PLACE FOR SPORT

- The District is looking to upgrade the track and sporting facilities at West Van high as the track is in disrepair and is dangerous to athletes in certain places
- There is the opportunity for donations and equitable representation on the bleacher wall

- Tara will advise of opportunities as this project progresses

BODY SCIENCE

- Tara Z confirmed that Saleema Noon has been booked for May 1 and 2 with a parent session on May 1 at 9.00am in the school Library
- Tara Z encouraged all to visit Saleema's website for further information about this fantastic speaker
- Cindy to add this information to the PAC website
- Sareh D added that preventing child abuse is a responsibility of the community and referred to the Little Warriors programme run in Alberta which teaches parents how to talk about this topic to their children. This is through a class/presentation to parents on how to approach the topic and support their children. Sareh said that she would work on a proposal to present to PAC
- Eileen H encouraged all parents to attend the session and to collate their feedback to ensure appropriate content for future presentations
- Tara Z will ask presenters to slow down their presentations based on feedback from previous sessions
- Lisa B reminded everyone that this content has to be covered as part of the curriculum
- Tara Z reiterated that the school is required to present this information to students and must be mindful of the cultural differences in our school community

JESSE MILLER

- Speaker: Jesse Miller "Mediated Reality": Jesse is very up-to-date and savvy regarding social media. The majority of parents are in favour of the Jesse Miller session to meet the needs of parents and their desire for information on this topic as this is a big issue facing parents and schools
- The PAC is asked to fund these information sessions: \$350 for the parent night, \$325 x 3 for Grades 3-7 = total \$1325

MATHS IXL

- The PAC is asked to fund the purchase of Maths IXL for Grades 6 and 7 at a cost of \$981.54 (\$7.38/student x 133)
- There was a robust discussion around the use and introduction of Maths IXL and Tara Z asked for any feedback from parents
- Parents requested that teachers who are using Maths IXL send the passwords home with the students so that maths learning can be supported at home. Tara Z agreed to touch base with the teachers on its usage
- There was a continuing discussion around the PAC funding the \$981.54. If these funds are not available then Tara Z said that she would work out funding through other means

ENROLLMENT

- Tara Z presented statistics on enrollment numbers and demographics across the whole district
- There is a decrease in West Vancouver-based students enrolled in West Vancouver schools over the last 3 years
- There is an increase in North Vancouver-based students enrolled in West Vancouver schools over the last 3 years
- The school district has commented that the enrollment statistics are heavily influenced by real estate prices in West Vancouver and the lack of affordability for young families

SAFETY INVITATION

- There is a district-wide concern for traffic safety and a subsequent meeting is scheduled with Tara Z and Annabel P with a traffic expert
- The District of West Vancouver has a planned open house on the topic to be held in the Atrium of the Community Centre on November 29 between 10.00am-11.30am and December 1 between 4.30pm and 6.30pm
- The District is seeking community input into the Pedestrian Network Study
- Parents are constantly being reminded of the need to be safe when travelling in the school zones, to adhere to speed limits and to not engage in unsafe practices when dropping off or picking up their children from school

UPCOMING DATES

- Spirit Day November 17th (hats and glasses)
- Circus for Grades 2-7 November 24, 25th
- Dundarave Festival of Lights November 26th (Kindies)
- Scholastic Book Fair April 3-7th, 2017
- Grade 6 Immunizations November 28th
- Staff Circle talk with Faye Halls November 30th
- Term One Ends / Reports Home December 2nd
- Pro-D Day December 5th
- Term two Begins December 6th
- Primary Dress Rehearsal December 12th
- Santa's Workshop (set-up) December 12th
- Primary Winter Concert December 15th (1:30-2:30pm) (Gala Auction winners and kindergarten parents have front rows reserved)
- Last Day of School December 16th (regular 2:50pm dismissal)
- School Resumes January 3rd, 2017

PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR POSSIBLE PAC FUND EXPENDITURE (Lisa B)

Lisa advised that items to be voted on today have been discussed at previous PAC meetings. All items were put to the vote:

- Glass doors for library (price to be determined) - this item was not voted on due to lack of information on costs. PAC will table this at a future meeting once costs have been confirmed
- YES - Reserve fund for the playground maintenance: \$500
- YES - \$4031.33 for tables for the Library
- YES - \$120 for Quickbooks upgrade
- YES - \$500 for gardening supplies (and/or seeking potential donations of used supplies from parents)
- NOT NEEDED - popcorn maker for Movie Nights. Alternative solution found using the microwave
- YES - Jesse Miller \$1325

VOLUNTEER CALL (Charlotte B)

Charlotte gave an update regarding volunteers.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

- Charlotte reported that the leadership team is in place for this much loved event
- Volunteers are still required for donation sorting
- Communications to be sent via Class Parents and the E-Bulletin

GALA

- The PAC's major fundraiser still has no leadership team in place
- There was a continuing discussion around the event and suggestions on alternatives to the traditional Gala (eg holding the event in someone's home, sit down versus cocktail-style)
- All discussions reverted back to the reality that a sit down event/dinner raises the most money as it offers the opportunity to run a successful live auction. Several parents reiterated that other non-profit organisations run sit-down Galas for this very reason
- It was decided that the PAC directly approach potential event leaders
- Any suggestions for volunteers should be sent directly to Annabel P, Kristin A or Lisa B for follow up

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (Kristin A)

- Victoria M asked about the \$700 spent on the new PAC website. Cindy N confirmed that the \$700 was spent on the revamp and it was a one-off spend which included the design and plug-ins

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Kristin A)

Kristin A opened the floor to any other business

- There was further discussion around Maths IXL. Sareh D explained the benefits of IXL from a teacher's perspective. There was a discussion about the history of enrichment programs used at the school. It was requested that parents be given the password for their children
- Lisa raised the Artist in Residence program that was previously approved by Chantal T and paid for in June. Art Starts will be coming this year to the school. The money comes from the Gaming Grant. This program will be reconsidered in the future

ADJOURNMENT (Kristin A)

Meeting Closed at 11:05am.

Approved 1st by Lisa B, 2nd by Bonnie S.