

PAC General Meeting - Minutes

November 22, 2017

ATTENDEES

Stephanie LeComte, Azita Nikbakhtan, Charlotte Burns, Julia Kutlubay, Lisa Black, Kenji Tachibana, Sheenagh Trembath, Tara Zielinski

1. CALL TO ORDER (Charlotte B)

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Charlotte.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Charlotte B)

The current meeting's agenda was approved 1st by Lisa Black, 2nd by Julia Kutlubay

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCT. 13 2017 AGM (Charlotte B)

The minutes of the October 13th, 2017 AGM were approved 1st by Lisa B, 2nd by Julia K

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Z)

Due to the low turnout at the meeting, Tara decided not to address all the topics she had hoped to. Rather she will wait until there is a bigger turnout to get more parent feedback.

ISSUES WITH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS

Tara is greatly concerned with the ongoing disrespect and inappropriate language from older grades

- Tara and other staff have recently witnessed pervasive amounts of disrespect and foul language, particularly from the 6/7's. Some examples include talking back, disregarding the rules of safety, intimidation of younger kids, etc. It has reached a point where it is making it difficult for teachers to get through their lessons, and the younger kids are upset by the behaviours, all of which is very time-consuming. An additional complication is the push-back and disrespect she received from several parents when notifying them of their child's unacceptable behaviour. This is the first time in her 20 year career that she has experienced this, and it seems to be the case for other district principals as well. As such, Tara sent an e-mail to all Grade 6/7 parents expressing her concerns

and expectations. She placed an emphasis on the need to be aware of your child's online presence and what occurs between student on social media. It was mentioned that some 6/7 parents did not yet receive this e-mail so Tara is going to follow up on this.

- Tara is looking for feedback and solutions from staff and the parent community. Charlotte suggested creating a Parent Code of Conduct, like soccer, making the parents more accountable. Tara responded that the Code of Conduct is made clear, yet she still receives resistance from parents. She also considered cancelling the Québec City trip for those who cannot act respectfully, though she is reluctant to do this. Other parents at the meeting thought it would be a fair consequence as disrespectful behaviour by PJ students in Québec would unfairly tarnish the reputation of the rest of the PJ community.
- Tara believes a big factor in this is both a lack of sleep and screen time/social media. There's a certain air of 'bravado' that is used online that kids are then bringing to school. Furthermore, she shared the statistic that, the most time spent online for kids from grade 4 to 11 is between 12:00 and 4:00am. If this is also the case for PJ students, then lack of sleep is likely a contributing factor. Tara will contact Jessie Miller for his feedback and determine whether it would be useful to have him return to PJ, perhaps on a yearly basis.
- Finally, Tara emphasized that she is addressing these issues as such because she is genuinely concerned for her students. If there is any concern or miscommunication with this regard, she would very much like to hear from parents.

UPCOMING STUDENT TRIPS

- VSO: Mme Arrafi has arranged for all students from Grades K to 3 to visit the VSO in March.
- Québec City: Tara met with parents who were concerned by changes to this year's trip itinerary, however this information had not yet been shared, which has led to some confusion. As a result the organizing committee has requested an additional meeting in January. A further factor that will need to be considered is the G7 Summit which is happening at the same time just outside the City.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

- The reporting process is a difficult one because Tara has high expectations. However it is still in draft format so feedback is welcome.
- The district has changed the reporting process and will be now issuing 2 formal reports, and moving to Fresh Grade for the 3rd report. This requires each teacher have an iPad.

STUDENT LEARNING GRANTS & MINDSTORMS (LEGO)

A Student Learning grant was received by the school. Mr Kitteridge is currently training staff on tech resources, including green screen technology. Tara suggested one be purchased for the library, however

Lisa informed her that PAC has already ordered one. Tara was unaware of this so Lisa will confirm and follow-up.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

- FSA results: Tara has reviewed this year's results and reported that students did very well and she is proud of the results. However, Charlotte and Tara have approached the Ministry regarding issues around the timing of this test for French Immersion students. The new NDP government has changed the reporting results structure so issues only district-wide results will be released, not individual school results; parents will still get individual results.
- The PJ Park Committee is looking for someone to take the lead as Kyra and Victoria will soon be moving on from PJ and need someone to continue the legacy and ensure upkeep and use. Tara also noted that the Garden Club, led by Mme Nixon, is active.
- Due to numerous complaints with My Life Touch photography, PJ will be switching to Mountain West Studios for student photos. This is the photographer used by all schools throughout North and West Vancouver.
- PJ Librarian, Mme Glas has had to take early medical leave and will not return until the end of the year. Mme Boulet is returning to replace her 3 days a week until spring break, and is looking for volunteers to assist in organizing the library.
- A new bulletin board has been installed under the covered area behind the school. If PAC would like anything posted, Tara asked that it be submitted to Kara for review and posting. It is hoped that this will provide another means of reaching parents with important information.
- Lastly Tara raised the issue of an increasing number of unexplained lates. Last week (November 14 to 20) saw 43% of lates that were unexcused (ie. no one called or e-mailed to inform the school that their child would be late or absent). Following up on all unaccounted for students creates a lot of work for already busy administration. As such, Tara asked that parents please remember to notify the school leaving a message on the callback line, or by e-mail to the teacher, Tara, Susie or Kara. Furthermore, the safety of students is Tara's top priority and she is obligated to call the police and inform them of any student that is unaccounted for. Communications will relay this message via PJPAC's social media accounts.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (Charlotte B)

DPAC MEETING RECAP

Charlotte and Sheenagh provided a summary of the most recent DPAC meeting.

- Demographics: It was noted that the population of student-aged kids in West Vancouver is decreasing, however enrollment in the West Vancouver School District is increasing due to applicants from outside West Vancouver. The increase is not coming from international students

whose numbers are, in fact, decreasing. DPAC clarified how this impacts school taxes; rather than taxes going to a particular district, taxes are collected by the government and then redistributed to school districts on a per child basis. In terms of high school success, 98% of West Vancouver High School graduates go on to higher education (vs 70% for the province). FSA performance is excellent. Finally, 15% of all West Vancouver students are enrolled in French immersion (comprising 3 schools).

- With respect to French Immersion schooling, Tara said that it has been shown that FI students tend to do better overall. Both she and Charlotte spoke of the impressive successes of former FI Sentinel students, which were highlighted at a presentation by Sentinel earlier this year. This presentation has generally been for parents of grade 6/7 students, however Tara is considering opening it up to all grades because the message is so powerful.
- Milo the Robot: This is a 1-year pilot project in 6 West Vancouver schools (4 elementary and 2 secondary), which began February 2017. Milo works 1 on 1 with kids diagnosed with Autism and who have difficulty with social skills. It is programmed with various modules including self-regulation, personal space, etc. It has been shown that kids with these difficulties. It has thus far been very successful and received great feedback from teachers.

6. PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR POSSIBLE PAC FUNDS EXPENDITURES (Charlotte B & Lisa B)

Two potential expenditures were mentioned

- 1. Popcorn maker (price TBD). Although this expenditure was proposed last year, a more efficient method has since been found to make popcorn for movie night. However popcorn continues to be the most time-consuming task on movie night, so Lisa suggested that another microwave would be more useful, the drawback being the breakers in the kitchen won't likely be able to handle the extra load. Tara suggested using the microwave in the staff kitchen. As well, volunteers should probably arrive earlier to get a head start on popcorn-making.
- 2. Funds for Plein Air paintings to be returned to the PJ Park Committee. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Park Committee asked that the funds raised through the plein air paintings be given to them to recoup unexpected costs. As there were not enough people to vote on a solution, this was left unresolved for the time being.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (Kenji T and Lisa B)

BUDGET REVIEW

Kenji ran through the budget line by line, highlighting certain points as follows:

- In terms of Income, total thus far is \$1775.78. Movie night and Gelato Day both reflect October's earnings. Disco is listed as -\$893.57, as the DJ was paid in advance and the event had not yet happened. Shop Funds is at \$107.39, about equally distributed between revenue from IGA gift cards and Mabel's Labels.
- Moving on the Expenses, Kenji noted that Capital Expenditures include iPads, tapis and line painting, all of which were funded by Fund the Need donations. Classroom Discretionary Funds, are at about \$300, though not all teachers have used their allowance. As for school events, The Dundarave Festival of Lights for \$370 occurs in December but has already been paid out. Both the Grade 7 Graduation and Grade 7 Trip lines include part of last year's expenses. Under Principal's Budget, the Learning Support category is \$502.95. This includes support, literacy and intervention resources requested by Mme Carole and Mme Hess to help kids. Lisa pointed out that, although various expenses fall under the Principal's Budget category, Tara does not spend all this money, rather she monitors it's use.
- In light of the reported Income and Expenses, total profit currently sits at -\$10 183.27, which Kenji explained will gradually decrease as the year moves forward.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM BUDGET REVIEW

- Tara wanted to express appreciation on behalf of the teachers for everything PAC contributes. She reiterated that they are very grateful for the generosity of PAC's various donations to enhance learning.
- As per Tara, new traffic signs which read "kiss & go" have been approved for the school. She will determine with Wade where they should be posted, and also ask for the bike racks to be moved. Charlotte suggested installing new racks that also accommodate scooters, which Susie and Kara currently store in the office. Tara will discuss options with Wade.

8. VOLUNTEER CALL (Lisa L)

In Lisa's absence Charlotte gave a brief update on volunteer-related business.

- The upcoming school Dance and Gelato Day (both Friday November 24th) are organized in terms of volunteers. She also mentioned that a Gelato Day has been added for December 15.
- Julia informed us that Spirit Wear may not be ready before Christmas holidays, however she will try to persuade the vendor to speed up production. Various ideas were offered regarding next year's Spirit Wear sales. Tara recommended setting up a table at curriculum night, perhaps even having a few of each size on hand for sale.. Sheenagh also suggested doing this at the "Welcome to Kindergarten" orientation. The only issue would be whether there are minimums required before an order can be processed by the vendor.

- Charlotte, on behalf of Kate Pratt, suggested incorporating translations (Farsi, Mandarin, etc) in communications such as the ebulletin. Tara is going to review school population data for a breakdown of languages. Along the same lines, Tara and Charlotte are looking for input on how to engage working parents. Charlotte suggested “guest blogs” by the school’s parents.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Charlotte B)

There was no additional business arising from minutes.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Charlotte B)

Stephanie inquired as to whether individual classes are permitted to organize Christmas baskets or sponsor a family through an organization such as North Shore Family Services. Tara mentioned that the Me to We group will be running a fundraiser along these lines and that items will be collected from the whole school. However in the future, she said there is no reason this can’t be done, perhaps even at a different time of year.

11. ADJOURNMENT (Charlotte B)

Meeting Closed at 8:51pm