

PAC General Meeting - Minutes

February 14, 2018

ATTENDEES

Stephanie LeComte, Charlotte Burns, Lisa Black, Tara Zielinski, Chelsea Duhs, Gustavo Rodriguez, Tania Pan, Masoud Majlesi, Roselia Moreno, Cindy Nairne, Linda Gour, Kyra Williams Smiljanic, Victoria Mendes, Connie Hart, Jane Lord, Michelle Ross

1. CALL TO ORDER (Charlotte B)

Meeting called to order at 9:04am by Charlotte.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Charlotte B)

1st Lisa B, 2nd Steph LC. Approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 17 2018 (Charlotte B)

1st by Lisa B, 2nd by Linda G. Approved.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Z)

SENTINEL

Tara advised that Michael Finch will hopefully be attending the next PAC Meeting. On 22 February there is a Sentinel information session being held at Cedardale for all parents, particularly for those parents who children are in Grades 5/6/7.

PISA (PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT)

Tara was delighted to share the PISA results. Every three years, PISA tests 500,000 grade 10 students from 72 countries in reading, science, and mathematics. Canada has consistently been a high performer and BC stands out amongst all provinces.

An excerpt from the PISA results is as follows:

- In science, Canada ranked 3rd among OECD nations and 4th overall. BC ranked 2nd in Canada, trailing first place Alberta by a narrow margin.
- In reading, Canada placed 2nd overall, trailing only Singapore, but BC outperformed Singapore, achieving the highest scores of any jurisdiction.
- In mathematics, Canada ranked 10th overall and BC outperformed its provincial counterparts.
- If BC were a country, only Singapore, Japan, Korea, Taipei, and three jurisdictions in China would test at a higher level.
- The summary goes on to specify why Canada and BC in particular is so successful and states: “The most important influence over student learning is the quality of teachers and BC teachers are well-educated and dedicated. Strong educational leadership, particularly by principals and vice-principals, is a significant factor.”
- Results may vary in BC over the coming years due to the inexperience of some of the teacher intake due to the changes this school year.
- Following was a discussion around recruitment and retention of teachers in West Vancouver and BC in general.
- Tara asked if anyone has ideas surrounding teacher retention to let her know.

LFI

- A LFI information evening was held last night and followed a new format which saw a 15 minute presentation followed by 45 minute “Day in the Life of an LFI Student”. Tara reported that it was an excellent evening and the new format was very successful.

SUMMER LEARNING

- Liz Hall approached PJ to host the Summer Learning programs along with Hollyburn (due to Irwin Park renovations).
- These are free programs offered by the District for all students.
- The District has advised that dates for Summer Learning will be confirmed mid February and will be updated on the District’s website.

ENROLLMENT

- Tara is looking for creative ways of boosting enrollment. Any suggestions are welcomed.
- Kindergarten 2018/2019
 - Tara confirmed that 70 children are on the waitlist for next year’s intake
 - Tara put a proposal to the District to offer a third K class which was accepted
 - 20 offers went out yesterday and we had 6 yeses within minutes
- Next year PJ will have 17 Divisions.

CHRIS KENNEDY

- Tara mentioned Chris' recent blog post titled "What do you say?". Chris has been asking parents, children, teachers, administrators lately: "When you have just a couple of sentences to say something about your school or your district – what do you tell people?"
- Steph will retweet Chris' post on the École PJ PAC Twitter account.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Lisa B)

BUDGET REVIEW

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

- Fun Lunch - we have received a lot of new orders for the next Fun Lunch session.
- Donations - a family generously donated \$2,000 as a parting gift to the school.
- Other income - is noted as a GST rebate.
- Capital Expenditures - \$2,500 donated to the West Vancouver Place for Sport.
- Fund The Need update - the library and music funds are almost spent. Lisa has a spreadsheet that tracks the FTN spending.

6. SOIRÉE IN APRIL UPDATE (Connie H)

- Connie confirmed the fundraiser will be held on April 28 at Gleneagles golf course.
- Early bird tickets (\$100) are now available (Lisa and Hoda have set this up via Fun Lunch).
- Connie will double check the hyperlink for the E-Bulletin.
- Image was designed by Naira, a Grade 7 student.
- In the spirit of being budget conscious and to encourage mingling, the event will be stand-up cocktail style with the canapés being Mad Men style fun eats.
- Entertainment - opera crooner and DJ.
- Connie confirmed the event is not an exclusive Quebec Trip fundraiser
 - Charlotte asked for a cost breakdown to be provided before Spring Break
 - Kyra confirmed they are still waiting for the costs to be confirmed
 - The discussion continued without resolution surrounding the budget and the dollars that will be coming back to the PAC
- Cindy suggested a "Donate" option for families that are not able to attend but would like to donate some money.

7. UPCOMING PAC EVENTS & DATES (Charlotte B)

REGULAR EVENTS

- Upcoming regular events include:
 - Gelato Fridays
 - Movie Night - next night will be April 13 followed by May 11
 - Family BBQ - scheduled for June 15
 - Spirit Wear - another offering in the Spring and merchandise available for purchase at the Family BBQ

8. PJ COMMUNITY PARK (Kyra S, Victoria M)

- Kyra and Victoria are in the process of wrapping things up regarding the PJ Community Park.
- Michelle Morgan has volunteered to continue Kyra and Victoria's work. Seeking 3 more volunteers.
- Coho Grant / Outdoor Learning Day
 - Currently scheduled for May 25th
- Other ongoing resources and funding for Outdoor Learning to carry on: ie Whole Foods Community Garden, Senior Center Intergenerational Learning Grant, Kindy Fund, North Shore Wetland Society Volunteer Work etc.
- Kyra shared the current plans for the Kindy Area Greening Fund
 - This area has been designed and some funds, \$3,500 have been set aside (total cost is estimated at \$25,000)
 - The design is not set in stone and the Committee is looking for someone or a group to lead the implementation with Kyra and Victoria's help
 - This area is important for our youngest students' learning and having the opportunity to connect with nature throughout their day greatly increases emotional security and ability to self-regulate and learn
 - There is currently Corporate & Family donors interested in helping with this project
- Annual Park spring clean up to be scheduled late spring
 - Date and time to be confirmed with Tara (potentially during school hours)
 - Parent volunteers will also be needed
 - The Grade 2s have set up a Gardening Club
- Family Recognition Stepping Stone Pathway Installation for Spring Break by SD45, March 19th, will simultaneously expand the Butterfly Garden to make room for Poem Stone, Trees etc.
- Maddy's Butterfly Pollinator Garden Party organized for Planting April 14th
 - Wendy Melvin, mother will decide scope of party as this will be a very emotional time for her
 - Many participants making this happen: SD45, WV District Parks and Personal volunteer time & donation

- So far the concepts are Flowering Trees, shrubs, butterfly bushes, poem rock, pollinator hotel
- Kyra has asked for submissions of any more ideas eg music
- Purchase garden path stepping stones for kids to write messages, handprints, decorate with stones and shells, trees, flowering shrubs.
- The Park Committee is requesting PAC to fund some details of completion of garden \$2,000 -\$3,000. To be discussed

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Charlotte B)

There was no additional business arising from minutes.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Charlotte B)

- The PAC is seeking volunteers for Executive positions on the PAC.
 - Kyra offered to share rewritten role descriptions
- New Parent Engagement:
 - In addition to the New Parent Wine and Cheese welcome event the PAC would like the opportunity to participate in new Kindergarten parent orientation on some level as an opportunity to communicate what we do.
 - Should we run additional events?
 - Tara offered to add an information/sign-up sheet for new parent orientation asking for consent to receive information from the PAC.

11. ADJOURNMENT (Charlotte B)

Meeting Closed at 10:50am.