

PAC General Meeting - Minutes

November 28, 2018

ATTENDEES

Charlotte Burns, Ada Lin, Julie Wang, Hui Qin Chen, Saiko Tachibana, Dina Daraee, Michelle Ross, Lisa Black, Chelsea Duhs, Stephanie LeComte, Julia Kutlubay, Elham Oveisi, Gustavo Rodriguez, Roselia Moreno, Kristan Asrar Haghighi, Arissa Mehta, Azita Nikbakhtan, Victoria Mendes, Monique Schelle, Tara Zielinski

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (Lisa B)

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Lisa Black.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Lisa B)

1st Charlotte B., 2nd Julia K. Approved.

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10TH 2018 MINUTES (Lisa B)

1st Charlotte B., 2nd Kristin A.H. Approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Lisa B)

None.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Zielinski)

REPORT CARDS

Tara welcomed everyone and explained that this was a very busy time of year, particularly with report cards coming home this Friday, November 30th. She discussed how term length was a school based decision and that her team had decided student learning would be best with three equal terms rather than a longer first term as many other schools do. She went on to talk about the new reporting format being piloted this year, and that it was a work in progress and may eventually be moving into a digital format later in the year. The Grade 2 teachers are the only ones this term using Fresh Grade and so, for those reports only, a paper and a digital copy will be provided to parents to access. Lisa B. suggested that it would be useful for parents to receive some orientation to Fresh Grade, should the school continue to use that platform in the future.

FSAs

Tara explained that she had worked closely with the students, particularly the grade 4s, in writing the FSAs and was happy with how they went. Student results would be sent home next week, and Tara was available to discuss any questions or concerns should parents have them. She commented that literacy was shown to be 'on target' or 'extending' with all the students, which is great, and not always the case.

FESL - FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING

Tara discussed this year's FESL focus on literacy. She explained how she would be sending home a survey in January with questions around habits and literacy. She would be working with a random sample of grade 3 and 6 students. Based on the surveys, tools and strategies for additional literacy support would be offered, and the survey would then be repeated to gauge whether the strategies resulted in literacy improvement.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Tara explained that she been working closely with Carolynn Elliot to devise a streamlined and effective plan for Arts Education and the final art installment for our Learning Commons. She shared that it has been a great experience for all the students so far and that the intermediates would be moving into working with colour theory this week, warning that painting may get messy. Upcoming drawing/painting selections from intermediate work would be used to design the final pieces, and all students in the school would be involved in the final painting project.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL MUSICAL

Tara updated the group on the upcoming spring musical *Seussical the Musical*, that would be led by ex PJ and Sentinel mom Susan Piercy. Tara explained that the auditions were wrapping up and cast selections would be made soon so that scripts could begin to be practiced. Further, all intermediate students would have an opportunity to perform either as a cast member or through class numbers. The production would be held at Kay Meek theatre as a matinee and evening performance, and Tara hoped that both parents and other parts of our community would attend. Tara asked that anyone with lighting, building, sound, or costume experience, interested in helping out to please email her. Julia K. would be sending information to intermediate student parents on what they need to know for costumes etc.

PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tara reminded everyone to save the date - December 18th - for the Primary Christmas Concert at Kay Meek theatre. She clarified that there would be one performance at 6:30pm, and that tickets would go on sale this Monday, December 3rd. Teachers would be sending out further information including what students should be wearing to the performance.

VAPING EDUCATION

Tara discussed the ongoing concerns of intermediate students and highschool students vaping. She referred to the parent concerns raised when Principal Mike Finch of Sentinel visited to speak with PAC last spring. Vaping was discussed as not just being a 'high school' issue and that having our intermediates educated on it may be a useful way to deter use later on in high school. In response to this, Tara will be bringing in Lindsey MacDonald from Vancouver Coastal Health to do a Health

Lesson with Grade 6 and 7s at PJ. The focus will be on what vaping does to the body. Tara will assess how this goes over with the 6 and 7s, and would further discuss the merits of the presentation for grade 4 and 5s.

Discussion followed on the harms of vaping and how in addition to the students lack of knowledge, many parents are misinformed. Chelsea reminded the group that Lindsey would also be presenting on the topic at the next PAC meeting in January. Victoria Mendes recommended using images from the University of Minnesota for visual materials, as they particularly powerful.

NEW TRUSTEE

Tara updated the group that Dave Stevenson is the new School Trustee. She will be reaching out to invite him to upcoming PJ events.

THANK YOU!

Tara closed with a big thank you to the parent body for the money for, and support of, this year's Artist in Residence and upcoming musical.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT (Dina D)

Dina reviewed the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheets, and noted most of the fundraising was on track or exceeding the estimates made in the annual budget, with the exception of Fun Lunch. Key points mentioned were as follows:

- Fun Lunch is considerably behind in the expected revenue. Estimated revenue for the year was around \$22,000, or \$2750/month. Revenue is currently at \$1080. It is hoped that the income for the planned Potluck in February will compensate for this.
- New iPads and Google Chromebooks have been purchased from the district. The expense is accounted for under Capital Expenditures on the Profit & Loss sheet.
- A new refrigerator has been installed in the PAC kitchen. The total cost was anonymously donated by a wonderful PJ family. Thank you!
- PAC has also received an anonymous donation of \$3500 from another amazing PJ Family. Thank you! This amount has not yet been accounted for on the Profit & Loss sheet
- Mobile lockers have been bought, under Capital Expenditures
- Profit of around \$980 from the Disco has recently been calculated and so is not yet accounted for on the Profit & Loss sheet

A discussion on Fun Lunch followed. Steph LeComte asked whether sales had increased since the recent Fun Lunch flier had been sent out. Dina explained any changes would not appear until the next monthly report.

Lisa B. shared that Chelsea and herself had spent time helping resolve some organizational issues dispensing the Fun Lunches. They had observed that there was a big discrepancy between classes in the amounts ordered, and they were trying to brainstorm why the overall sales were so much lower this year. Lisa B. suggested some possible reasons were the expense of hot lunch, and that the new ordering system was too confusing and further exacerbated with too many options. She plans to review the results of the Fun Lunch survey given to parents a few year ago, and send out another.

Arissa Mehta added some Fun Lunch feedback agreeing that the system is confusing and not user friendly. She also raised concerns with the cost of Paypal. Dina responded that the Paypal expense was manageable as it was applied per transaction.

Later in the meeting during New Business (Section 11), Fun Lunch was again raised. Dina added that it would be useful to offer an ordering orientation to Kindergarten parents before they start ordering in January, to ensure that no revenue is lost due to any initial ordering confusion. Lisa B. added that she has also been researching other hot lunch companies, however, one great benefit of Foodie Kids is that most of the administration and dispensing is done by the company, alleviating the need for a large team of volunteer parents. This is important as no one has stepped forward to run the program next year when Hoda leaves.

It was agreed to put Fun Lunch on the next meeting's agenda.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS (Lisa B/Chelsea D)

Lisa B. discussed plans to celebrate the Chinese New Year and Nowruz in February. In school celebrations and learning on Chinese New Year and Nowruz were being planned with parent volunteers for PJ students. Additionally, a multicultural Family Day Potluck would be planned as a PAC fundraiser for PJ families. Due to the time of year, the event would have to be indoors and consequently, the numbers attending would have to be limited. Tickets would likely be sold by the plate. Volunteers are needed to help plan and execute the celebrations.

Chelsea outlined the upcoming Santa's Workshop event. She shared that Azita Nikbakhtan and Jenny Cha have volunteered to spearhead the event, and would be receiving support from Tammy Machin and Dagmar Meachem, who ran the event last year, had also offered to share her experience. Donation collection would begin on Monday Dec 3rd, by the office. Any help taking the dropped donations down to the art room in the mornings would be appreciated. Kristin A.H. also offered her guidance as she had run the event in the past as well.

Chelsea also shared that Dagmar had again volunteered to make a gingerbread house to raffle off to the kids. Tara added that Mme. Stina would be leading an initiative called the 15 Days of Christmas, where each class would be making random acts of kindness. Tara suggested students with noteworthy acts would get entered into the draw.

8. VOLUNTEER CALL (Azita N)

Julia K. will be sending out a volunteer call for Santa's Workshop helpers.

9. GUEST SPEAKERS (Joanna Baxter & Sarah Hayton - Importance Of Art)

Joanna Baxter and Sarah Hayton are local Cedardale moms and artists with experience teaching collaborative student art classes. The two discussed the importance of art on developing minds and how art in the classroom aligns with the current push for Inquiry Based learning and the new curriculum. They highlighted how art creation is a process oriented journey where students play an active role, and how rendering what we see is a problem solving exercise that can be tackled from multiple points of view. Further, they explained that fine art creation develops hand eye coordination and offers students an opportunity to move beyond the two dimensional world of technology.

10. GUEST SPEAKERS (Grade 7 Students - WE Day Presentation)

Grade 7 students, Andrea, Becky and Marianna, shared their presentation about their experience at the We Day celebration. Tara introduced the girls and explained that Mme Hall leads a We team

leadership group at the school which is involved in a variety of fundraisers and reaching out to the younger students in the school. The group attended this year's We Day celebration at Rogers Arena with students from all over BC. Tara commended the girls on the growth and leadership they have demonstrated with this presentation.

The girls explained that We Day is an international event with participants celebrating change together in cities all over the world. They traced its beginnings to brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger and highlighted the difficult but inspiring life stories that had been shared at the event. They shared how they had found the event to be an exciting, motivating and moving experience.

11. NEW BUSINESS (Chelsea D)

Lisa B. announced an upcoming meeting on December 7th to organize the completion of the PJ Park in the outdoor Kindergarten area.

Lisa B. passed on a big thanks from the Grade 7 Quebec Trip fundraising team. The Purdy's chocolates fundraiser had netted over \$3600 for the trip!

Chelsea also shared the success of that The Card Project, with 135 families purchasing card art and a total of \$1287 being raised. She thanked Daniela Tolzmann for her work on this.

Azita asked whether the next movie night host had been determined and Chelsea clarified that it was the Grade 1s hosting on Friday, January 18th.

Michelle Ross raised concerns with prompt pickup of children after the dance, as once cleanup is done, there is no longer any adult supervision on the school grounds. Other supervisory concerns were raised and Lisa B. suggested reviewing the disco during the next PAC Executive meeting, in order to clarify responsibility and to improve supervision, controls and any other logistical issues.

Additional comments and suggestions were raised regarding Fun Lunch. (Please see the discussion included in Section 6: Treasurer's Report.)

Kristin A.H. asked what other fundraising is planned for the year. Lisa B. listed the recent disco and card project, ongoing movie nights and Gelato Fridays, and new opportunities with the upcoming musical and potluck.

Lisa B. further shared that there had also been a major anonymous donation to cover the upcoming technology expense needs previously referred to as the Evergreen Fund. This donation is greatly appreciated by the PJ's parent and teaching community, and has meant less fundraising is needed this year than previously thought. While we are ever so grateful for this donation, we would like it noted that the school's request and PAC's AGM vote to commit to the ongoing Evergreen Fund for Technology will stand, resuming after the donated funds are spent.

12. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS (Chelsea D)

There were no further questions or comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT (Chelsea D)

Chelsea D. closed the meeting at 10:34am. 1st Julia K., 2nd Charlotte B.