

Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2019

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Jen Dahl, Chair

In Attendance

Jen Dahl – Chair, Crystal Huang - Treasurer, Mimi Wolf – Co-Vice Chair, Pavan Padda, Co-Vice Chair, Mandy Lichtmann – Secretary, Bill Juhasz - Principal, Sophia Hsieh, Liz Ritchie, Harjeet Manhas, Linda Wei, Rosa Maria Salazar, Deborah Jinn

Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2019 Meeting

Mimi Wolf made a motion to approve the minute from the February 20, 2019 meeting. Liz Ritchie seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

PAC Executive Roles for the 2019/2020 Year

Jen Dahl shared that planning is underway for next year's PAC Executive. We hope a new volunteer will take on the role of Secretary for the coming year. Current Co-Secretary, Olivia Berumen, has a child graduating from grade 7, while Mandy Lichtmann will have two children in high school next year.

Crystal Huang will remain Treasurer next year but it would be great to have another person in training for the role.

Pavan Padda will still be here but she works almost full time.

Jen is looking for a Co-Chair as this is her ninth year on the PAC Executive.

Mr. Juhasz shared that our PAC is very warm and welcoming and there are many parent volunteers willing to help.

Role of the secretary: attend meetings and record minutes. Jen makes the Agenda; Secretary photocopies the Agenda and past minutes and then cleans up the minutes for distribution to the parent body.

There was some discussion about starting to save and fundraise for a new playground.

Liz Ritchie was speaking about a mother at the school named Francesca who we may consider approaching for a role on the PAC executive next year?

Special Events / Safe Arrival / Yearbook – last year for the volunteer Heads of these committees in the coming school year.

Hot Lunch: Linda Wei will do the shopping at Costco – taking over from Jessica Chen.

Treasurer's Report – Chrystal Huang

Statement of Cash Flow:

Parent donations – School Board has received all parent donations.

Hot Lunch – budget \$5,500, 4 hot lunches left to go and at the budget is 80% met now.

Teacher allotment – updates sent to Ms. Fung and there is one last chance for reimbursement so hopefully all staff will submit their receipts.

Budget for projectors, TV & whiteboards – Mr. Juhasz sent the request in September. Change in staff at the Board and there is a new person managing, hence, a delay in requests.

Field trips – they have been budgeted for and Crystal says she has not had any requests for reimbursement yet. Field trip allotments come from the Gaming account so the money needs to be spent.

Gardening Club budget – receipts need to be submitted.

The Gaming Grant needs to be applied for before the end of May.

Volunteer Opportunities – because we are so close to end of year Jen didn't circulate a sign-up sheet. Please see PAC Executive Roles for 2019/20.

Principal's Report – Bill Juhasz

Track & Field – students in grades 3 – 7 participate in Track Attack. In past years, students practiced events 3 times per week. As the student school running program is done all year long, teachers will rank their own students and slot them in for Track and Field. The goal is that each student participates in at least 2 events for. Parent drivers will be needed.

Ultimate Frisbee – Elevate Ultimate ran a great 3-day program at the school. Mr. Stokes had 35 students come out for the Thompson Ultimate Team. Thompson is hosting the first ever Ultimate tournament for our district. Practices are 3 times a week and there may be games against other schools in addition to the tournament. The sport is Co-Ed at the high school level as well and Burnett Secondary has an Ultimate team.

Grade 6/7 Outdoor Ed at the end of April. Usually there is an equipment check on the Friday before Outdoor Ed starts.

International students – we have a group of Hong Kong students currently. They are very impressed by our green space, playground equipment and sports equipment. Their education system is teacher centred where ours are student centered. Another group is coming on May 27. It is very lucrative for our school.

School Safety and Lockdown Drill - If there is a threat inside or outside the school, doors are locked to the classrooms with students and teachers inside. Every year, we are expected to do a number of

lockdown, fire and earthquake drills. There is a lot of communication between staff that goes on during a drill and real life scenario.

Vaisakhi Celebration - It was a well-received event. Mr. Juhasz received some wonderful emails from appreciative parents for the multicultural celebrations our school holds. We have a multicultural community in our school and we recognize it as a strength.

Fraser Institute Academic Rankings of School - Mr. Juhasz asked the group if our parents talk about the school rankings? Over the years, Mr. Juhasz has heard parents talking about the school rankings and knows that some parents do indeed base school decisions at times on rankings. Mr. Juhasz shared that it is difficult to compare year-to-year rankings as there are a new set of students writing the tests each year. He doesn't put much faith into the rankings as there are always extenuating circumstances that produce the results. Schools are based on one test and one ranking. The Fraser Institute produces the rankings. Crystal asked why the test are not mandatory? All students do write the test unless their parents specify otherwise. Mr. Juhasz and the staff know the tests results are questionable.

The ranking of schools is largely related to postal code. What is the true measure of a good school? These are considerations the Fraser Institute does not consider. Progressive teachers sometimes prefer to go to the inter city schools where they can have a greater impact. We must consider what makes a good school and what does not.

Vaisakhi Celebration - Jen thanked Mr. Juhasz and Mr. Badyal for their role in organizing the Vaisakhi celebration and the extracurricular activities that are happening at the school.

Sharing Assembly – Crystal asked what these assemblies are about? Mr. Juhasz explained that they are informal assemblies where anyone can share what they are learning in class. The Keep Everyone Young & Safe & Make the Earth Great Again – MEGA group will be presenting at the assembly. They are a very enthusiastic group with many passionate students. International students will sing a song. Mr. Forrest has been working with our primary grades on using their eportfolios, there will be a presentation involving this.

Spirit Day - Thursday is school spirit day and each class will choose their own theme.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 15 at 9 am.