

Thompson PAC Minutes for the Nov 27, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9 am by Jen Dahl, PAC Co-Chair.

In Attendance

Jen Dahl, Harjeet Manhas (PAC Co-Chairs), Pavan Padda (PAC Vice Chair), Crystal Huang (PAC Treasurer), Mandy Lichtmann (PAC Secretary), Bill Juhasz (Principal), Lee Walter, Debbie Tablotney, School Trustee.

Tse Family Loss

The PAC provided flowers for the Tse family who sadly lost the father of Ashley and Adelyn, two of our Thompson students. The family left a beautiful thank you note at the school office.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 25, 2019 Meeting

A motion was made by Lee Walter to approve the minutes of the Oct 25, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pavan Padda. **Motion carried.**

Jen Dahl announced that Debbie Tablotney, School Trustee, will be joining us this morning.

Volunteer Opportunities

Scholastic Book Fair next week - looking for parent volunteers on Dec 3, 4 & 5 from 8:30 am - 8:45 am. Help with sales, 2 people in the mornings.

Dec 19 - Winter Concert. There will be a daytime dress rehearsal for the students and an evening performance at 6 pm for families.

Ronnie Johal will take on the 50/50 draw as head at the Winter Concert. Parent volunteers needed to sell 50/50 tickets. We are also requesting donations of gift cards or new items for raffle draws. 1 ticket \$2, 3 tickets \$5, 12 tickets \$10.

Lee Walter has joined our parking lot volunteers roster, so we are good with volunteers for that opportunity.

Harjeet Manhas collected names for the Starbucks draw for Thompson Volunteers.

School Trustee Debbie Tablotney

Jen introduced Debbie Tablotney, School Trustee, who joined our meeting. Debbie shared that she was the PAC Chair at Westwind Elementary when her children were students there. Trustees are elected with the Mayor and Council. They answer to the Ministry of Education as well as advocating to the Ministry. That is where funding comes from and Trustees oversee the budget of \$180 million. BOD meetings are once a month, formerly twice a month. The trustees are part of several standing committees, such as Finance & Legal, Building & Facilities, Policy and Audit. There are liaison schools that Trustees are assigned to. They listen to parents and community members about the schools and facilities. There is a Committee that meets with the City Council. There is a provincial organization meeting that Debbie will attend, to tell them what to advocate for with the Ministry of Education.

Seismic Upgrades - William Cook Elementary is almost upgraded. Hugh Boyd Secondary, \$10.7 million in upgrades, construction to complete in August 2020. Elementary Schools Tait, Ferris, Mitchell, Manoah Steves, Thomsett, McKinney, Whiteside - all undergoing preliminary upgrades.

Thompson is quite a bit lower down on the list for seismic upgrades as our needs are less than other schools. Maximum use of space plays a factor and Thompson is not entirely full at this point.

There is a Long Range Facilities Plan. It has gone to the Ministry but it is fluid. It guides the Trustees in planning. It is on their website and on the Let's Talk website if you wish to see it. Boundary changes have occurred - it has been a long time since they were adjusted. There are split catchments, so they are working to align neighborhoods. Only people who newly move in to neighborhoods are affected.

The info has been shared with Real Estate groups in Richmond so they can share catchment information with potential home buyers & renters. The public is invited to attend buildings and facilities meetings. The next phase has not been decided yet and there will be further consultation.

Jen Dahl asked if Richmond's school age population is still declining. Debbie shared that the elementary school numbers are rising, while secondary school population is on a decline. The long term projections say the City Centre will continue to grow. The perimeter areas have declined. They have looked out to 2040. There are fluctuations in returning people to Richmond / BC. There may be an influx of people from Hong Kong and Alberta to Richmond.

Jen asked about the possibility of a new City Centre School. Debbie explained there has to be a place to put it and the funds to build it. There are some funds available from the sale of Steveston Secondary. An additional school build in city centre is always being considered.

Mr. Juhasz explained there are no real "hot topics" at the moment so our school is fairly "quiet" at this time. Debbie says the Trustees are here to listen and she is open to helping anyone with questions. The Trustees do not get involved with the day to day operations; rather the focus is on governing with the advice of the teachers and principals. Mr. Juhasz says there is great collaboration in our District. Thompson is not really affected by the boundary changes.

There have been schools where the catchment is split for secondary schools which impacts the students in elementary and who the students tend to invest time with. It makes it difficult to build community within the elementary schools. Debbie explained that families living in neighborhoods are grandfathered in to the current catchment school. There are a small number of children who will be affected by the changes. People are always welcome to call or send Debbie an email with questions or concerns.

Budget Report. PAC Treasurer Crystal Huang, went over the Budget in detail. Please see the Budget Page.

Principal's Report

Learning Environment - no more individual desks in classrooms. Some classrooms have stand-up tables as well as communal desks. This promotes group work which is very conducive to the new curriculum and collaboration. Data projectors are now installed and will be connected to Apple TV. Mr. Juhasz has asked teachers what else they need insofar as materials to assist with learning. Mr. Juhasz is very happy with the new classroom set ups. Having International Students has helped with our school budget and allowed us to purchase these new desks and seating, furniture. The learning environment allows for more space in the classrooms.

Maker Spaces

Laptops / iPads. What will be done with the new space we have where the desktop computers used to be? The spaces can be used in a variety of different ways. This is called Maker Space - an art section, science space, technology space... students can go in there and use the space. The school has formed a committee to work on the Maker Spaces. Resources need to be purchased to compliment the Maker Spaces. PAC will receive a request to help fund the creation of these Maker Spaces.

International Students

This year we are getting two groups of International Students. It is lucrative for the school and helps with funding.

E-Portfolio

Thompson just had teacher-parent meetings. This is our third year working with the e-portfolio. Mr. Juhasz has received great feedback from our parents. Our staff is feeling more comfortable & confident with the technology. The students are really understanding the e-portfolio.

Student Teachers UBC & REAP

We have five student teachers from UBC this year. Richmond Educational Assistant Program (REAP)- they are graduating now and will be applying for jobs starting Friday. We still have two EA positions available. Part-time picked up a .5 position.

Extracurricular - Making Thinking More Visible

Mr. Juhasz explained how he visited Mr. Dimmick's class and saw on his whiteboard a flow chart for what the students are expected to do. Students had to think the flow chart through instead of being told by Mr. Dimmick. This type of thinking/learning leads to more engaging of students' mind as opposed to being told what to do.

Pro D Day

Making Thinking Visible is a book that offers a bunch of strategies for teachers. All Thompson teachers have this book. The strategy is called CSI - there is a visual way to see learning; student centered, more student engagement and an opportunity to show their thinking. It promotes higher level thinking - metacognition.

Teachers will meet and discuss what worked and what didn't work for them. There are different teaching strategies being added to the toolbox.

Mr. Juhasz is thrilled with how onboard all of our teachers are with the new curriculum and engaging the e-portfolio. The Richmond District had the most positive feedback with the e-portfolio, but not all districts were equally as enthusiastic. Mr. Juhasz is curious as to what the Ministry of Education will say about this and recommend.

Mr. Juhasz says he has to follow the Ministry's rules & recommendations. It may be that the Ministry will require a paper report card.

Mr. Juhasz says the Richmond District is one of the most progressive. Harjeet asked what is happening in grade 8? There is no e-portfolio at Burnett. There are only a handful of teachers who incorporate the e-portfolio in secondary school. At our school, teacher voted unanimously to incorporate the

e-portfolio. We are fortunate to have a few expert teachers who are helping guide the less tech savvy teachers.

Harjeet asked about Band - as it was not in the e-portfolio, nor was Physical Education. Mr. Juhasz explained that each teacher has a checklist to hit all the criteria for reporting.

Sports

Volleyball just finished.

School wide runs are ongoing.

Basketball starting in December.

Parking Lot

Signs have gone up. Mr. Juhasz has now been very direct with some parents, particularly some Montessori parents who drive right up to the front door to let their children out as close to the school as possible.

The preschool is now fining parents who park in the staff area \$50.

Mr. Juhasz is enforcing parking lot rules.

Harjeet said the situation seems better in the parking lot. She said the staff lot should not need to be chained, people should follow the rules. A couple of our teachers have young children to drop off at their own preschools or daycares, so they arrive closer to the timing of the bell, so chaining the staff lot is inconvenient for them.

The speed with which Montessori parents were driving through the parking lot was a main concern.

Snow Days

If a Snow Day is called, a memo will be posted on Instagram, the school website and the District website. The call to have a Snow Day (school cancelled) is usually made last minute at 6:30 am.

Negotiations BCTF Contract

BCTF is in negotiation for a new contract. They have not reached an agreement yet. Worst case scenario is that teachers could vote to strike. This could involve work to rule - meaning no extracurricular activities, no meetings before or after school or at lunch.

Teachers are operating with no contract yet. Mandy asked what the timing is on potential strike? There is no timeline for a possible strike, other pressure may be applied first, for example, Work to Rule first.

Family Photos

Harjeet, Pavan and Edna met and spoke to a professional photographer about arranging a date for family photos. Price wise it is between \$20 - \$30. That is collected by PAC plus 50% of total sales goes to the PAC. Parents would have to spend \$50 to get the 8 x 10. The committee was looking at the dates, Edna was hoping to get this done at the end of February.

Mr. Juhasz drew the name of the volunteer raffle winner: Xiao Ling.

Grade 7 Movie Night Fundraiser

Jen shared that the Grade 7 movie night raised \$1,000. Bake sale items and candy bags were donated. It was a successful evening with a great turnout. There will be another movie night in February 2020. The grade 7s showed great leadership during movie night.

Harjeet asked if there are more fundraisers planned? Jen said there will only be the two movie nights.

Grade 7 Legacy Gift

Every year, the graduating grade 7 class leaves a “Legacy Gift” for the school. We had a conversation about a Legacy Gift from the grade 7 class for this year. Jen said the Tiger logo in the gym is looking quite old. Mr. Juhasz explained that the company who did the seismic upgrades in the gym did a poor job of painting. The whole gym will be stripped in the future and repainted. Our new logo will be painted on the walls when this is done.

Perhaps a mural could be a legacy gift? Could an artist be commissioned for around \$800? Mr. Juhasz says it will be better if the grade 7 parent committee consulted about what the legacy gift will be, involving the students.

Motion to accept the PAC Regular Budget for 2019 / 2020 School Year

A motion was made by Pavan Padda to accept the PAC Regular Budget and the PAC Gaming Grant Budget as presented. Lee Walters seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2019

THOMPSON PAC				
Statement of Cash Flow				
September 1, 2019 to Aug 31, 2020				
As of Nov 26, 2019				
	Budget		Actual	Difference
Opening Balances as of September 1, 2019				
Regular Funds	\$ 4,011		\$ 4,011	
School Board Donation Account	\$ 14,311		\$ 14,311	
Gaming	\$ 379		\$ 379	
	\$ 18,702		\$ 18,702	\$ -
Carried over from prior year	\$ 18,702		\$ 18,702	\$ -
REVENUES				
	Budget		Actual	Difference
Source				
PAC Gaming Deposit	\$ 4,660		\$ 4,660	\$0
Parent Donations	\$ 5,000		\$ 100	(\$4,900)
	\$ 9,660		\$ 4,760	
Other Fundraising				
Hol Lunches	\$ 5,240		\$ 2,608	(\$2,632)
Family Photos	\$ -		\$ -	\$0
Nova Foods	\$ 700		\$ -	(\$700)
Christmas Concert	\$ 250		\$ -	(\$250)
<i>Subtotal Other Fundraising</i>	\$ 6,190		\$ 2,608	(\$3,582)
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$ 34,552		\$ 26,069	(\$8,482)
EXPENDITURES				
	Budget		Actual	
Regular Expenses				
PAC Operating	\$ 750		\$ 195	(\$555)
PAC Contingency	\$ 500		\$ 50	(\$450)
JN Burnett Scholarship	\$ 500		\$ -	(\$500)
Leadership Volunteers	\$ 300		\$ -	(\$300)
DARE Donation (\$13/ Gr.5 (x 25))	\$ 325		\$ 325	\$0
Movie Copyright (\$0.5/student(228))	\$ 114		\$ -	(\$114)
Outdoor Education	\$ 1,000		\$ -	(\$1,000)
Education Assistants (\$75 x 4)	\$ 300		\$ -	(\$300)
Teachers Allotment (\$225/full-time teacher & resource teachers x 15.15)	\$ 3,409		\$ 396	(\$3,013)
Grade 7 Dance	\$ 250		\$ -	(\$250)
Parent Ed (every 2nd year)	\$ 945		\$ 945	\$0
<i>Sub Total Regular expenditures</i>	\$ 8,393		\$ 1,911	(\$6,482)
Gaming Expense				
Fine Arts - Winter Celebration Concert Square Dance	\$ 1,895		\$ -	(\$1,895)
Ultimate	\$ 2,205		\$ -	(\$2,205)
Badminton	\$ 400		\$ -	(\$400)
<i>Sub Total Gaming expenditures</i>	\$ 4,500		\$ -	
Extraordinary Expenses				
<i>Sub Total Extraordinary expenses</i>	\$ -		\$ -	\$0
Funds available prior to Teacher's Enhancement List	\$ 21,659		\$ 24,159	
Enhancement List				
Library Books	\$ 500		\$ -	(\$500)
Projectors & TV & Whiteboard	\$ 12,911		\$ 12,911	(\$1)
Buses/Field Trips (\$13/student(228))	\$ 2,964		\$ -	(\$2,964)
Playground improvement fund	\$ 1,000		\$ -	(\$1,000)
<i>Sub Total Teacher Enhancement List</i>	\$ 17,375		\$ 12,911	(\$4,465)
Total Expenditures	\$ 30,268		\$ 14,821	(\$15,447)
Ending Balance	\$4,284		\$11,248	\$6,965
Regular Account	\$1,809		\$4,711	
Gaming Account:	\$539		\$5,038	
School Board Account:	\$1,936		\$1,500	
Total	\$4,284		\$11,248	

