

Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes
For the October 25, 2019 Meeting

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Jen Dahl at 8:57 am

In Attendance

Jen Dahl, PAC Co-Chair, Harjeet Manhas, PAC Co-Chair, Crystal Huang, PAC Treasurer, Mandy Lichtmann, PAC Secretary, Bill Juhasz, Principal, Linda Wei, Lee Walters, Harjeet Manhas, Ramneek Padda, Emily Sun, Gillian Yen, Laurel Zhang, Raj Chatha, Edna Bevan.

Approval of the Minutes of the Sep 25, 2019 Meeting

A motion was made by Raj Chatha to approve the minutes of the September 25 meeting. Linda Wei seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Harjeet Manhas - Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks for all the help at Terry Fox. Thanks Crystal for bringing refreshments this morning.

Yearbook - Sophia Hsieh still needs a photographer for Mr. B's class. Mike Dodd has signed up but we could use another volunteer.

Parking Lot - volunteers needed on Monday / Wednesday afternoons.

PAC Meeting Refreshments - still a few slots in the new year for a volunteer to bring refreshments in.

Volunteer Draw - we now have a monthly draw to show appreciation for parents who volunteer.

Jen Dahl - PAC Updates

Saleema Noon. Parent night - November 4 at 6:30 pm. There will be babysitting provided by some grade 7 students who have their Babysitting Certificate. Student day for Saleema Noon is on the Thursday this week - November 7.

Grade 7 Farewell Planning has begun.

Craft Fair - if we are looking to host a craft fair in the Spring we will need parent volunteers to coordinate this.

School Trustee - if there is interest in having our School Trustee attend one of our meetings, we can look into arranging this. Debbie Tablotney is our School Trustee.

Mr. Juhasz - Trustees don't seem to be as connected as they could be to our schools. He feels it is a good idea to invite our Trustee to a meeting, or school events to nurture the connection.

Treasurer's Report - Crystal Huang, Treasurer

Only a few updates:

Received gaming deposit \$4,660 from the provincial government for having a PAC.

Received donations from parents even though we haven't sent out a donation request yet to families.

\$875 profit from Hot Lunch so far, pizza profit is lower than past year as our school population is shrinking slightly.

\$75 BC PAC Membership

Saleema Noon - \$145

Apple TVs \$1,956 / 9 projectors to be purchased.

Grade 6/7 have iPads through a special program our school applied for.

Teachers' allotment - use another iPad cart - Mr. Juhasz thinks this will be a request from teachers.

Signing Authority with the bank - TD Canada Trust needs official notification for signing authority.

Motion for Signing Authority for PAC Account & PAC Gaming Account

A motion was made by Raj Chatha to have Shutian Huang (Crystal) - Treasurer, Harjeet Manhas - Co-Chair and Jennifer Dahl, Co-Chair have signing authority for the TD Canada Trust James Thompson Elementary School PAC Account and James Thompson Elementary School PAC Gaming Account. Seconded by Edna Bevan. Motion carried.

The Budget Meeting is in November.

Jenny Lai, Fruit and Veggie Coordinator - once a month we receive fresh fruit and veggies. Volunteers help wash and cut the fruit and deliver it to the classroom. Plastic containers will be appreciated. They are looking into purchasing 10 containers.

Jen also mentioned the Gaming Grant - \$4,600 received. It can be used for non-curriculum expenses. It is a per student amount - we need at least 4 people on the PAC Executive. The money must be spent and proof must be shown on what it was spent on. Crystal is in the process of submitting the report for last year's funds.

Principal's Report

Mr. Juhasz spoke about troubleshooting with technology and the skills teachers need in this area. The technology can be challenging for some teachers.

Boundary changes - these are pretty insignificant for Thompson. Thompson is not affected by the changes. There is a strip of houses on Granville between Railway, that are now catchmented to Grauer Elementary & Hugh Boyd. It has to do with population distribution and demographics. May have something to do with school closures and seismic upgrades. SD38 website has the notes on catchment changes.

Kathy Tsakoumis asked about catchment change requests. Mr. Juhasz said sometimes it is granted when there is extenuating circumstances. Thompson received an influx of students a for a couple of years in kindergarten.

Staffing - 2.5 spaces for EAs. Mr. Juhasz has hired a part-time EA. We need 2 more EA's however. No one has applied - many of them want part-time work. There are a number of schools who are in the same place as Thompson - in need of EAs. It is optimal of course for a student with special needs to be working with an EA consistently. Mr. Juhasz is doing the best

he can given the circumstances. Thankfully we have an understanding staff who are stepping up to help out during this challenging time.

The REAP program is alive and well in Richmond. There is a group set to graduate in November so hopefully we will gain EAs. We have one EA student who is doing their practicum at Thompson. The District and Mr. Juhasz are looking at ways to take full-time EA positions and split them into two half time positions. Being an EA is a very challenging job. Harjeet Manhas suggested the pay point should be raised.

Parking Lot

Mr. Juhasz says our parking lot arrangement is better than most schools he has seen. He does recognize that there is tension nevertheless in our parking lot. There is a plan to possibly add 10 - 12 more parking spaces. By Laws have come by to ticket cars parked on Forsyth. Mr. Juhasz recognizes that more people need to drive, distance to school is greater, UBC student teachers need parking, etc. Mr. Juhasz reviewed the parking areas. He has spoken to families about not necessarily parking right beside the school, especially when students are in the upper grades.

There is no parking for Montessori students in the back lot anymore. It is now staff parking only. There is a chain up at 8:30 am. Student safety is paramount. It was affecting school-wide running program. The running program now has a new route that does not have them go through the parking lots.

The area on Forsyth by the baseball diamond is a no parking zone. People parking there are subject to parking tickets.

Harjeet Manhas asked where the school bus will park if the spots on Forsyth become parking stalls eventually.

If the spots on Forsyth become parking stalls, we will need more volunteers to act as crossing guards.

Mr. Juhasz shared that there is an orange flexible pylon right on the street in front of Spulukwuks. Some schools allocate the spots closest to the school for primary students, wheelchair accessible spots and students with special needs.

Kathy Tsakoumis said she comes 10 minutes later to pick up after school to avoid congestion. Maybe parents who drive upper grade students can be encouraged to do the same. Perhaps having parents who park in the main parking area of the school are the ones who have to come into the school for a variety of reasons; not just to park and sit in their car. Mr. Juhasz said perhaps we can hand a note out to parents who are sitting in their vehicles in this prime parking area.

Mr. Juhasz will connect with Bill from city of Richmond parking. Mr. Juhasz will lobby Bill for 10 - 12 parking spots. Mr. Juhasz will also encourage older students to not come into the school parking lot for drop off, rather have parents park somewhere safe and walk into the school area. Brochures can be created to outline the rules and given to parents who are parked so they can understand the rules. Mr. Juhasz also wants more consistent signage.

Edna Bevan would like to have a training in place for the student parking attendants. Mr. Juhasz said all we can do is remind our student volunteers to do their job. Mr. Juhasz believes students in grades 6 & 7 should be responsible enough to carry out their duties.

Kathy Tsakoumis added that at this point, there doesn't seem to be enough room to create parking stalls on Forsyth. It doesn't allow for 2 lanes of cars in opposite directions when there are cars parked on the North and South side of Forsyth.

A .2 Resource Teacher position has been added - James MacLeod will be picking up an extra day. He is a former camp counsellor from Jubilee - he connects beautifully with students.

Winter Concert - we will be doing some square dancing as a school. An instructor will be coming in to teach the students then there will be an afternoon and evening performance. It costs the school \$1,800 for a full week of instruction.

May 19 - 22 - Elevate Ultimate will be coming again this year. The cost is \$2,600.

Currently, we have Clear One Badminton in the school instructing the students.

It is terrific to have such high level instructors from the National & International arena. The badminton instructors are Olympic athletes.

Financial support for Winter Concert, Elevate Ultimate & the Badminton instructors. Jen Dahl thinks the badminton instructors may only be around \$400.

Harjeet Manhas asked if these expenses might be paid from Gaming? Jen said yes, we have used Gaming funds before for these types of activities.

Monthly draw winner at today's meeting was: Mandy Lichtmann

Next Meeting: Wed Nov 27 - Budget Meeting at 9 am.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:30 am