

**Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes for the January 16, 2019 Meeting**

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Jen Dahl.

In Attendance

Jen Dahl (Chair), Crystal Huang (Treasurer), Mandy Lichtmann (Secretary), Bill Juhasz (Principal), Rosa Maria Salazar Marquez, Harjeet Manhas, Gurjit Bains, Linda Wei, Olivia Berumen, Olivia Velazquez, Elizabeth Ritchie, Camel Yang, Mimi Wolf (Vice Chair), Pavan Padda (Vice Chair).

Approval of the Minutes of the November 21, 2018 Meeting

A motion was made by Mimi Wolf to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2018. Liz Ritchie seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

PAC Report

Thompson mom Donda Humchitt sadly passed away on Friday, January 11. There is a celebration of life on Friday, January 18 at the Fraserview Mennonite Church at 4 pm, 11295 Mellis Drive. A salmon dinner will follow. Thompson families are welcome to attend. The PAC will make a \$50 donation to the Richmond Food Bank in memory of Donda, as requested by the family.

Burnett presentation on social media. Bill said the school can bring in someone to speak on this subject and invite the whole school to attend – students & parents. At the Burnett social media presentation, Constable Chen stressed that younger, elementary school aged children need to understand the implications of social media before they reach high school age. Bill said there is a group who comes in to speak with the grade 6/7 classes on social media safety. The staff is aware there are some students in this school who have social media accounts.

Fundraising update / Treasurer's Report – Crystal Huang, Treasurer

Parent donations - \$5,417 received from parents from 48 families. We have met the budget for donations.

Wish list – Bill said we are still hoping to have the data projectors paid for. iPads are another top item on the wish list. A follow-up donation letter will be sent home to families.

Pavan Padda suggested we include starting savings for a new playground in the future. Mimi Wolf suggested we prioritize the donations for different projects.

Hot Lunch – should be about \$2,200 currently – which is on track for the hot lunch budget. On the list there are only 12 pizza days Liz Ritchie said, but in fact there are 13 pizza days and 10 hot lunches in total. Boston Pizza & Sushi Lovers are new vendors that have been added for hot lunches.

The Nova Foods cheque should arrive this week or next.

Christmas concert – we received \$255 from the 50/50 draw.

Burnett Scholarship - \$500 cheque sent

DARE donation – cheque already issued and sent

EA Teacher Allotment – some funds have been issued

Yearbook – the hard drive has been purchased already

Music teacher allotment – cheque issued

Regional Animal Protection Society Visit - RAPS

Mandy Lichtmann shared that the RAPS Outreach Team will be visiting with the grades K/1 classes on Thursday, January 24. RAPS will bring in animals for the children to observe and interact with. Subjects such as responsible pet ownership and RAPS' role in the community will be covered.

Gardening Club

Bill said the Gardening Club has requested \$400 for tools & Supplies.

A motion was made by Rosa Maria Salazar for the club to spend \$400. Liz Ritchie seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Harjeet mentioned that McKay Elementary has a gardening tool shed. Mr. Juhasz said we do have an area for tool storage that he will clean out.

Principal's Report: Communicating Student Learning Update

Feb 7 – A Summative report will be sent home on February 7, as well as one at end of June. There will also be a check in and opportunity for parent-teacher conferences in April. We have gotten away from letter grades to encourage students to strive to improve the areas needing improvement.

The summative report assesses to which degree students are performing in different subject areas from the start of the year, covering all the units in a particular subject matter. For example, in general, how is a student doing in the writing? It is a more holistic approach as there are many concepts in a given subject.

Mr. Juhasz showed an example of the summative report. With this system, students will have a much better understanding of their learning process, it is much more intentional than previous models of assessment. The goal is to make students more metacognitive. With this new system, students are not penalized for any struggles they had at the beginning of the year, rather, the focus is on how much they have improved and learned over the course of the year.

The assessment will come home in a paper form with your children on February 7th.

International Students

We have 20 International Students coming from Shenzhen Province January 22nd. The students will be taught in the Resource Room. These students will be interacting with our Thompson students. It is a great cultural process and very lucrative as well. Schools receive \$10 K for hosting International students. Liz Ritchie pointed out that the students arrive on January 22nd and Pizza Day on January 25th. We should probably order more pizza!

Mr. Juhasz pointed out that last year our school grew 2 divisions, so it is possible that the Resource Rooms may be changed to classrooms should the school grow again.

Staffing Update

Mrs. Smith is off for 3 months for her hip replacement. Mr. Juhasz has hired Andrew Forrest as her temporary replacement. A new Educational Assistant has been hired as well.

Extracurricular Activities

Both the Thompson girls' and boys' basket teams will participate in the Burnett SS Breakers tournament & the Palmer SS tournament. There will also be a grade 4/5 co-ed basketball development program.

An Ultimate team will be available in the Spring as well.

Transition for 7's to High School / Burnett Open House

Transition work for grades 7 is coming up shortly for Burnett. The Burnett Open House on Thursday, January 17.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education for grades 6/7 – there is a parent meeting on Monday, January 21 at 6 pm. The cost is approximately \$225.

Family Teams

Thinking, Learning, Caring is our school motto. As part of our mindfulness and social responsibility, each of the students will talk about what it is to be a learner at Thompson Elementary.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Jen Dahl asked Mr. Juhasz if he prefers to combine the Staff Appreciation with the Parent Appreciation luncheon. He does not have a strong opinion about whether to combine what has formerly been two different luncheons. Jen will speak with Ronnie Johal about the matter. Liz Ritchie suggested the parents are responsible for bringing potluck savory luncheon items while the staff might be responsible for providing desserts? May 3rd is a potential date for the luncheon.

Committee Reports

Hot Lunch

Liz Ritchie – it will be Vicki Lee's last year at Thompson next year. She is a big part of the Hot Lunch committee. The Hot Lunch committee should start to draw on parents with younger children in the school as the current committee consists of parents of children who are in the higher grades at the school.

Safe Arrival – Next year will be Maria's last year as well.

Rosa Maria Salazar Marquez expressed that although she has signed up to volunteer in different capacities for PAC events and roles, she has not been contacted. It was a good reminder for the PAC to do a better job with reaching out to potential volunteers.

Mr. Juhasz thanked the PAC, teachers and staff for doing amazing things! The students definitely feel supported at Thompson.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Next meeting, Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 9 am.