

**Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2018**

Welcome

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

In Attendance

Jen Dahl – Chair, Pavan Padda – Co-Vice-Chair, Mimi Wolf – Co-Vice Chair, Crystal Huang – Treasurer, Mandy Lichtmann, Secretary, Bill Juhasz, Principal, , Liz Ritchie, Sophia Hsieh, Francesca Davis, Deborah Jimm, CC Verzosa, Rico Verzosa, Celine Vowles Benko, Daron Chong, Linda Wei, Judy Shen, Rosa Maria Salazar, Gillian Yen, Edna Hernandez.

Approval of Minutes from the October 17, 2018 meeting

Mimi Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17 meeting. Celine Belko approved. **Motion carried.**

Volunteer Opportunities at Thompson

Pumpkin Donation & Fundraiser

Jessica Chen has graciously arranged for pumpkins to be donated to the school for fundraising. October 29, pumpkins will be available by donation after school. On Halloween day, students will carve and display their pumpkins. We will need volunteers to monitor and accept donations at the fundraising pumpkin event. Last year \$250 approximately was raised.

PAC Chair for 2019/2020 year

Jen has been chair for 5 years and co-chaired 1 year before that. She is looking to resign so the opportunity is open for the 2019-2020 school year. Please let Jen know if you are interested in this position. Some of the duties include:

- Running meetings
- Coordinating volunteers
- Note: all coordinators will still be here next year – hot lunch, crossing guard, safe arrival, so it will be helpful to the new PAC Chair

A brief job description was circulated. The notices sent home to parents are mostly all created so it is really only a matter of updating the notices, Jen explained.

Family Photos Cancelled

Edna Bevin let everyone know that family photos were cancelled unfortunately because we did not meet the minimum number of participants. Unfortunately, one family signed up online and did not know the photos were cancelled. Apologies to that family, there was no contact information to get in touch with them.

Edna said there are some families who are interested in having family photos done and she will contact the studio.

Treasurer's Report

PAC gaming fund - \$25 per student received. If there is no PAC, we do not receive the gaming fund. In addition, the PAC requests personal donations from our school community. Hot lunches and Nova Foods sales also generate revenue for the PAC. The pumpkin fundraiser event plus the 50/50 draw at the Christmas concert also generate income for the PAC.

Earthquake preparation – granola bars purchased.

Jen said next month is our budget meeting.

Principal's Report

Technology & Use of the E-Portfolio

Mr. Juhasz said there were approximately 55 people at last night's (October 16) presentation on Communicating Student Learning, which was a great turnout.

Mr. Juhasz explained that the use of e-portfolios enhances and improves student learning. Many of the teachers in our school are tech-savvy, while some less but eager to learn and utilize the e-portfolio in their classrooms.

With the new curriculum implementations, students are able to think about their strengths as well as the areas they need improvement in, while thinking about taking their learning to the next level. Goal setting is now a large focus and it starts in Kindergarten. The staff is learning the new ways of thinking and learning and acting as reflective practitioners.

Our three 6/7 teachers are very dynamic and the use of the e-portfolio in their classrooms is amazing. We have about 6 teachers who are mentoring the other teachers. Some teachers already have their e-portfolios up and running, while other teachers are building the framework of their e-portfolio.

First Term Teacher Conferences

November 21 & 22 - First term teacher conferences. Parents will be asked to look at e-artifacts in their student's e-portfolio and arrange a teacher conference. Mr. Juhasz parents to think about what it is we need to do to support our students learning and encourage students to have a positive outlook on their strengths and the areas in which they need to improve.

Report Cards / Student Conferences

January – first report cards will be sent home. Mr. Juhasz explained there will be no letter grades for the Intermediate classes. He went on to explain that letter grades do not tell students or parents what they need to do better. This is assessment FOR learning and less teacher-centered. This is the shift in the new curriculum.

Instead of letter grades, there are proficiency levels:

Extending – replaces an A, students understand and can teach the material to a friend

Proficient – Students understand and can do it on their own

Developing – not quite proficient, but learning the concept. Students understand some of it, but are still learning

Emerging – I am just getting started, I learn best with help

Mr. Juhasz explained some ways in which parents can support their students learning; Parents can ask... "What are you proud of?" "I am pleased with how you did this work..." "What would you like to get better at...?"

November 21/22 – look at 4 artifacts and conference.

February 27 – actual report card with performance indicators – e-portfolio too

April 16/17 – 4 more artifacts and chance for conference (it may not be necessary to book a conference)

June 22 – Final summative report

Mr. Juhasz says he understands there are some parents who really want letter grades. The new curriculum is certainly a new way of learning and it is a big change. Students can embrace their needs for improvement and see it in a positive way with the new curriculum and learning practices. Mr. Juhasz said he expects to see a positive growth in both students and staff with this new shift in curriculum and learning.

This is a pilot project. Not all schools are using this system, but ours is. Mr. Juhasz has to send his drafts into the Board to approve. 19 schools are participating in this program. All of our teachers are participating in this program. In some schools, not all teachers are participating in the program. Mr. Juhasz is very proud of the teachers, particularly the ones who are not quite as tech savvy and are facing a steep learning curve with positivity.

Mr. Juhasz said he is happy to speak to any parent at any time about any concerns or questions.

Seismic Evaluation

Pavan asked about the seismic evaluation and when we will get it. Mr. Juhasz explained that Frank Dwyer upgraded the Delta district and is now part of the Seismic upgrades in Richmond. We do not know when Thompson's upgrades will get done or what exactly will be done. Data is now being collected to analyze which schools are priority. Mr. Juhasz does not see our school needing to be totally rebuilt as half of the school is seismically passable.

Data Projectors / Apple TV's / Whiteboards - \$13,300 approximate costs. Mr. Juhasz is working hard to trying to get this task rolling.

April 22nd – celebrating Vasakhi with a school-wide initiative. The students will participate in Bollywood dancing workshops in December.

Mimi is hoping for a PAC kitchen update and renovation. Mr. Juhasz said a big renovation will not happen, but he can put in a work order for painting and lighting updates. Mr. Juhasz said it is a well-used kitchen and can use a deep clean, but a major overhaul will not happen.

Liz mentioned that we no longer have Jalapeno Jack popcorn and instead it will be replaced by cheese popcorn. Popcorn will be available until January but for the next Munchalunch order, but in the new year, there will be no popcorn offered because the prices have gone up again.

Pavan said she did not see a vegetarian option for the Vietnamese menu online although others said they did see it.

Liz had some concerns about students buying multiple bags of chips and asked that servers keep an eye out for unusually large orders of chips.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at 9 am