

# Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

## Meeting Minutes

September 19, 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, Bill Juhasz – Principal, Crystal Huang – Treasurer, Olivia Berumen – Co-Secretary, Elizabeth Ritchie, Linda Wei, Gurjit Bains, Kathy Tsakumis, Mimi Wolf, Rosa Maria Salazar, Celine Vowles-Benko, Edna Hernandez.

### First Meeting Introduction of PAC and Attendees

Jen Dahl introduced the current and new members for the PAC, Jen Dahl as Chair, Pavan Padda as new Co-Vice-Chair, Mimi Wolf as new Co-Vice-Chair, Crystal Huang as Treasurer, Olivia Berumen as Co-Secretary and Mandy Lichtmann as Co-Secretary that will be on the next meeting. Each Attendee introduced herself and specified each of their children names, grades and how they participate in the PAC and/or the school as well as being new to the school. Jen extended the invitation to any dads to come and be part of our meetings and the PAC.

### Approval of the Agenda of the September 19, 2018 PAC Meeting

A motion was made by Rosa Maria Salazar to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting. Kathy Tsakumis seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

### Approval of the Minutes of the May 23, 2018 PAC Meeting

A motion was made by Elizabeth Ritchie to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2018 meeting. Edna Hernandez seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

### Volunteer Opportunities

Jen had a sign-up sheet and also confirmed that a notice was sent home and some people have already returned it. She passed a sign-up sheet in case anyone wanted to add her name on the list. Jen also introduced and described some of the volunteer opportunities available. First, she confirmed that we have volunteers in the morning to help the secretary to follow up on any children that don't come to school without explanation, to make sure everyone is safe. For all positions, there are always other parents already helping and anyone can get training from other parents. Helpers needed are for the Terry Fox run that will be happening on Oct 28. She believes it will happen sometime after lunch, but she doesn't have the exact time. There are a few openings for the crossing guard to help in the parking lot. For hot lunch helpers, Jen is currently sorting out how many there are, but confirmed that there is always a pizza day once a month where kids bring their money, and parents set up on the gym and sell pizza, among other snacks. We would need parents to help with handing out pizza and collecting money. We also have three pre-ordered lunch a month. A notice will be coming out soon to place the orders through munch-a-lunch. Liz confirmed that munch-a-lunch is open, but a notice will be sent out home today or tomorrow. Orders can be placed and the lunches available to order will be up to January. Liz said that some people don't realize that for hot lunch orders, they don't only have to order for example, from White Spot. People can order items such as popcorn or chocolate milk or any other snack items, without ordering the main lunch items offered.

A parent suggested that idea could be mentioned on the notice to help parents realize they can order those items. Liz confirmed that the notice is ready to be sent out anytime now and can't modify it now.

Jen confirmed that pizza day and hot lunches are a big fundraiser for the school.

Jen continued with the refreshment volunteer to bring refreshments at the PAC meetings. Jen confirmed that the school has a fruit and vegetable program twice a month; it is the BC Agriculture that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to the school to be handed out to children, so they can have a healthy snack at school. We need help from parents to help washing and preparing the fruits. Jenny is the parent that has the food certificate and oversees other parents helping out. The yearbook parent reps are to help for the yearbook, and we need two parents for each division to take pictures of the kids at different events and submit them to the yearbook. Multicultural representative is usually a couple of times a year when we need someone translating when we prepare the donation letter or volunteer sign-up. Regarding the Richmond District Parent Association or RDPA, we haven't had a parent going to that in a long time, and there they talk more about events in the district level. If you want to help but not sure on what, you are welcome to contact Jen anytime.

We have family photo night coming up in October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Edna is coordinating it this year. A notice will go out later this week about how you can sign-up online if you'd like a little family photoshoot. It costs \$25 and that money all goes to the PAC as a fundraiser. The photographer sets up in the gym and takes a quick 15-minute photoshoot in the evening. If you purchase something with Mountain West, you can get a free 8x10in photo. We need 10 families per evening for this to happen.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Crystal Huang, Treasurer, reported on all the updates from last PAC meeting. The statement shows that for hot lunch, in the end, we got about \$6,000 because the last pizza day was a huge sale, at over \$1,100. On pizza day we usually get \$900. Also, at the end we had a snack sale, and it generated about \$200. So, last year we meet our overall budget; we did very well. For this year, we will have one day less for pizza day. However, we have one more division, meaning more students this year, so the budget will be the same. For the Nova Foods, we got all the cheques in. Nova Foods is difficult to budget because the PAC gets \$0.35 for every meal parents order for their children. But the PAC actually has no way of knowing how many meals the parents are ordering, so the PAC has to go with whatever Nova-foods give the PAC as a rebate. Karen had said she feels that Nova Foods orders have gone up, but we got less money for this year. Crystal as a parent doesn't know much about Nova Foods because the school doesn't really promote it, so she has heard of Nova Foods from other parents. Crystal commented that other parents had introduced another vendor to her, but is unsure if permission is needed to deliver to the school or what the procedure is or if parents can order from the other vendor.

Bill Juhasz confirmed that food delivering is something that needs discussion because the school cannot have all sorts of vendors coming into the school and delivering food.

For the PAC operations we spent around \$150 on sport day cookies materials, and some of that was for the whole year refreshments for the PAC meetings. For the contingency, we spend \$126 for the PAC citizenship award plaque because the old one was full, so a new one was needed. We also purchased the leadership volunteer pizzas for the grade 5, 6, and 7 at the end of the year. The teacher allotments and the educational assistants were reimbursed for all their expenses. For the yearbook we didn't have any budget. Last year we had the all-digital yearbook, so it should be even. However, somehow we did

some late orders and not all payment was received from students. It was only \$12 short, so we let that go.

All the divisions got their inside day games. Last meeting she mentioned that there was about \$8,000 for the projectors, and hopefully they can be installed this year. Crystal confirmed that that money is still there for use. Everything last year is went according to budget, we are in a very good shape to the start of this year.

For the gaming deposit and for having the PAC, the provincial government gives \$22 per student. We don't get that money if we don't have a PAC. This money is always being used to subsidize field trips and things that benefit all kids in the school because if we hold on to the money too long the government can take the money back. At the end of the last year all the gaming funds were pretty much used and the only amount left was about \$300. We also received funds from the pizza days, the Christmas concert and the pumpkin event last year, about \$3,000 left that we can still use that money this year.

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Juhasz confirms that they are having the first fire drill this year on that morning, when the PAC meeting was taking place. They will gather outside and then planned, strategically, to take all the kids for a school wide run. Then they will have recess and this will be less disruptive for the classes, and the kids will get their exercises. He sent an email with the newest newsletter this morning.

Running program – they are running a lot. Last year they started half way through school but this year they are starting right away. The kids are used to it, and those that pretty active are finding it easy, but those that aren't as active are finding it a little challenging. We added the Friday fun run, so the grade 4s raced last Friday. The grade 5s are going to be racing this Friday and whoever wants to race, they race, whoever doesn't, that's fine; they can just cheer the racers on. Part of the challenge is to have the strength to step up to the racing line; that is the challenge itself. This is competitive, but fun competitive. The other classes can come out and cheer them up. We are doing this in preparation for the district wide competition for cross country running that is coming up. When they casually have a run day, the kids run, walk and socialize. The students have to run three laps in a row and they have to learn the skill to pace themselves. They need to save the energy for the last lap where they need to have some fuel in the tank. Running will continue to prepare for track and field in May. Some of the classes decide to run the long route instead of around the school, but they do it occasionally, not every day. Mr. Juhasz will be making sure that there's always an adult on the long route in the street. He is confirming that they are working in their physical literacy a little more. The kids were proud of how well they did last year during track and field. It was neat to see the kids rewarded for their efforts.

Terry Fox Run – September 27, 2018.

District Wide Competition for Cross Country – October 17, 2018.

Volleyball starting up – everybody makes the team. There are no cuts to be first team or second team. Everybody plays as it is all about skill development and everybody having fun. When anybody comes up for the cross country team, everybody makes it to the team, as it the same for basketball and all sports in the school. This is the philosophy where there aren't any cuts in elementary schools.

Principal Juhasz will be speaking about the way they are planning to communicate student learning. Teachers will be doing intake conferences with parents. He says that they need to have the parent, the teacher and the child working together to achieve the child's success in learning.

Parents were pointing out some issues around the school. They mentioned tree roots that are making the pavement bumpy on the path by the gas box. Other parents pointed out the dumpsters by the cross walk are an issue if a kindergarten size kid is running to go across the cross walk, they might not be seen by a car coming in. Another point was made about adding playground equipment or replacing some playground equipment in the next few years. Some parents mentioned the newest playgrounds being built in the city are supposed to be for the way the kids play, but they aren't very safe or conducive to group play. Jen said her understanding is that the PAC would have cover all the equipment costs and the district would cover the installation to ensure that the installation meets all the safety specifications and requirements.

Principal Juhasz introduced intake conferences followed by another one in November when they would typically send a report card home. There will be things in the e-portfolio that will be assessments of work that the kids have done and reflections of students and teachers, to set goals. The report card coming home will confirm to what degree the goals have been accomplished. Teachers might send notes home to ask parent to check something on the portfolio.

Technology update – the district tech person who installs TVs and projectors is no longer working for the district. They are hiring someone for this position. We've been in queue and we're still on the same spot in the queue.

Painting update – the gym is half painted because the person that was working for the district isn't with the district anymore. They are hiring for this position. The gym painting will eventually be completed.

International Students – the school will be having two groups of international students. This is really good because the PAC supports the school through fundraising, but the school is making money too. Working together, our students will have everything they need for their learning. Principal Juhasz will be hiring a TTOC to work with these international students.

A parent asked if the afterschool program on Fridays is only for grades 4 and 5, and a parent confirmed that the afterschool program is for grades 4 and 5 and if there are any room left, grades 6 and 7 are allowed.

A parent asked if they'll be having clubs for students and Principal Juhasz confirmed that there was an increase in the clubs that they had from March onwards. He said it was because all the UBC teachers wanted to get some experience with extracurricular activities, as it will look good on their resume. This year each one of them will be running a particular club, and he thinks parents will be pleased. These clubs were great for students.

Principal Juhasz will be decompressing the events in June because there are so many events happening that month. He'll be looking to not overwhelm the staff. He'll be looking into moving the talent show to the winter for example. A parent suggested moving the grade 7s fundraising to earlier as well, and Principal Juhasz suggested that the parent committee might benefit from looking into this beforehand. Anything that can be done to decompress May-June in regards to the fundraising will work. A parent

inquired about if there will be a grade 6/7 camp. Jen Dahl asked if they will need the PAC support to start working on fundraising. Principal Juhasz confirmed that everything is booked for the grade 6/7 camp. The camp will take place in the spring. It will depend on what they want to do as far as fundraising, as it varies per year. Sometimes they are very active and sometimes they aren't as much. Sometimes the parents are happy to cover the bill and if they need assistance they can always speak to Principal Juhasz. The PAC subsidizes the camp evenly for all families.

Jen flagged to Principal Juhasz about the dumpster's position blocking the kids. Principal Juhasz confirmed that he understands the issue and that he was just told they were going to move the dumpsters. Parents came up with suggestions and Principal Juhasz will review them. He is getting some signs made for the parking lot as well and requested of input about what type of signs or where to put them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2018.