



## **Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Minutes for the September 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **In attendance**

Jen Dahl, Co-Chair, Pavan Padda, Co-Chair, Catherine Wang, Treasurer, Mandy Lichtmann, Secretary, Bill Juhasz, Principal, Emily Qi, Shufen Tether, Kay Li, Charlene Zhang, Lynxian Zhang, Katerina Savel, Yvonne Chan, Gurjit Bains, Evelyn, Claire Xing, Johnny Xu, Lily The, Angela Louis, Alan Louis, Jenny Lai.

### **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Jen made brief introductions of the PAC Executive and all in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 2021 Meeting**

A motion was made by Pavan Padda to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Yvonne Chan. **Motion approved.**

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Crossing Guards - We are in need of a Crossing Guard Coordinator as well as Crossing Guard volunteers. Volunteers help control traffic and keep pedestrians safe.
- Yearbook Coordinator - Kay Li. Mr. Juhasz will continue to take lots of photos at school and during events as he did last year. If parents can contribute photos of Thompson students, it is greatly appreciated. Group shots tend to work best so we can capture all the students in the school, however, individual photos of your children dressed up for theme days and special days are welcome too.
- Translators needed for school newsletters.
- RDPA – Richmond District Parent Association. Volunteer to attend Zoom meeting monthly and note important items to share with PAC.
- Fruit and Veggie Coordinator - Jenny Lai. No more volunteers are needed at the moment.
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator - Celine Vowles. We need a new coordinator for next year.
- Special Events Coordinator – at the moment, there are no special events due to COVID. We will look at this for the future.
- Parent Educator Coordinator - Imelda Nurwisah. Arranges speakers.
- Hot Lunch Coordinators – we need an extra person to help coordinate. We have enough parents to help distribute food and we can do pizza day again.

### **Other**

Munchalunch – this is the pre-order system for a variety of hot lunches delivered to the school.

There is no Treasurer Report today. More details at next month's Budget Meeting.

Playground update: The playground will cost \$175,000 to build. Mr. Juhasz is waiting to hear back about a grant application for 100K. He is hopeful about the grant.

## Principal's Report

- Mr. Juhasz thanked everyone for coming and praised our strong school community.
- Mr. Juhasz has been at Thompson for five years now. He reported that the staff has coped very well during COVID.
- Divisions are not completed until mid week first week.
- We had gradual entry for kindergarteners, and Mr. Juhasz thanked the Grade 1 parents for their patience. We have two K/1 classes this year.
- Mr. Juhasz spoke about the myth that a student in gr 3 in a 3/4 split is learning at a higher level. This is not true. We have balanced classrooms.
- We are expecting a new Educational Assistant, so we will soon have six EAs.
- Meet the staff night is coming up. It is being formalized now. Teacher will speak in front of the class to parents and go over the shape of the year.
- CSL - Communicating Student Learning (progress report).
- September - Intake Conferences. What are your hopes and dreams for your child at school?
- November - parent teacher conferences.
- January – mid-year summary report.
- April – student-led conferences.
- June - final report
- Don't hesitate to let Bill know about any concerns as soon as they come up. Parents can contact their child's teacher with questions first. Bill is always available via phone, email or appointment.
- Parents should be familiar with the school web page and student's e-portfolio used by the teachers. We do not have letter grades anymore, instead there are performance indicators.
- Curriculum - the core competencies. Recognizing different learning developments. Teachers recognize this and teach appropriately. Teachers figure out each student's learning zone and personalize their learning. We have very progressive teachers. E-portfolios are used by all teachers.
- Gr 5/6/7 is a New class taught by Mr. Dimmick and Mrs. McCaskill – Division 21. They are co-teaching the class. Critical thinking in this class is highly encouraged and supported. Students are encouraged not to be bystanders.
- A proficiency scale is used in student reporting. Emerging / developing/ proficient / extending are the four categories. These are articulated in the e-portfolio.
- Students are outdoors in all weather, including rain and snow, so dress appropriately.
- It is Important to be fluid this year through Covid. Staff and students are adapting as we go.
- Terry Fox run is being planned, as is a cross country race.
- School band is on this year. Mr. Nazo is the band teacher. He is an incredible teacher and we are glad to welcome him back.
- Masks - almost 100% of students are wearing masks.
- Masks and Thompson wear are being ordered this year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. Next meeting October 13.