

Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Minutes for the September 30, 2020 Meeting

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

In Attendance

Jen Dahl, Co-Chair, Harjeet Manhas, Co-Chair, Pavan Padda, Vice Chair, Raj Chatha, Treasurer, Mandy Lichtmann, Secretary. Bill Juhasz, Principal, Gurjit Bains, Nicole Qiu, Sonia Seng, Kay Li, Jenny Pan, Jackie Cheung, Gillian Yen, Rosa Maria Salazar, Preeti Nijjar, Lily Tang, Danah Al Shakhshir, Ayman Al Zagha, Elizabeth Ritchie, Sivasankari Rajamani, Jenny Lai.

Jen Dahl, Co-Chair's Opening Remarks

- Introduced the PAC Executive – Jen Dahl, Co-Chair, Harjeet Manhas, Co-Chair, Pavan Padda, Vice Chair, Raj Chatha, Treasurer, Mandy Lichtmann, Secretary
- Parents in attendance introduced themselves

Approval of the Minutes of the February 26, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Rosa Maria Salazar to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Liz Ritchie. **Motion approved.**

Appointment of PAC Treasurer

A motion was made by Rosa Maria Salazar to appoint Raj Chatha as Treasurer by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Liz Ritchie. **Motion approved.**

Raj Chatha, Treasurer: If anyone wants to be Treasurer for next school year, it would be a great time to shadow Raj. This role must be filled by the end of this school year. It is like a “bankers” role.

Jen Dahl: Harjeet's Co-Chair role will also need to be filled by either a Co-Chair or Chair as Harjeet's son will graduate grade 7 this year.

Raj Chatha / Jen Dahl: Need a minimum of 3 people on the PAC Executive Committee in order to receive the Lottery Gaming Grant, which can be \$25 per student approximately.

Bill Juhasz: Every parent is automatically a member of the PAC and welcome to every PAC meeting and to participate in school activities.

Committees (presented by Harjeet Manhas)

Crossing guards needed for am and pm shifts. Traffic Control before and after school for 15 – 20 mins to safety in the school parking lot.

Hot Lunch Committee

Liz Ritchie, Head. Cash and Carry pizza days, 6 – 8 parent volunteers needed each time (but will likely not be happening this year due to COVID safety precautions). Liz needs two parents to help sort pre-ordered hot lunches when they arrive this year – it may have to happen outdoors under the covered area. Notice for online order through Munch-A-Lunch will come out within the next couple days.

Safe Arrival Program

This is not happening right now. Help Mrs. Fung, School Secretary. Volunteers listen to voicemail

messages left by parents indicating their children will not be coming to school and cross-check any absences with Karen & teachers.

Yearbook Committee

Volunteers needed to help create the yearbook. Online Picaboo program used. Traditionally, parents are asked to take photos throughout the year of students to contribute to the yearbook. This year, we will have to rely on Bill and teachers / staff to capture photo worthy daily happenings and special moments at school.

Fruit & Vegetable Program Committee

Volunteers with FOODSAFE certification to prepare fruit and vegetables for the students

Special Events Committee – ie. Terry Fox run, Teacher Appreciation (not sure if any special events will occur this year).

The main form of communication for volunteers is through WhatsApp

More hands on deck makes light work!

Principal's Report (presented by Bill Juhasz)

There is a focus on staff navigation during this unique year amid the pandemic. It is a dynamic situation that is constantly evolving. The children seem to adapt well to new situations; better than some adults sometimes. Staff are operating on temporary plans right now as things can change. There are many committee meetings occurring with staff. Our staff has a 'can-do' attitude. Children and adults are learning to be adaptable.

Transitional Learning

- learning from home
- 60% students are in class; while 40% are learning from home
- 5 resource teachers / 1 librarian – put together a plan and presented it to the rest of the staff that resource teachers would teach the transitional learners at the start of the school year
- Lessons are being offered by the District that students can sign in for – the workload for transitional learning was lessened for our resource teachers so they can focus on their daily jobs within the school

Assemblies / Events

During typical times, we would have already have many school events and assemblies.

Questions

- New parking area across Forsythe to the North still has a No Parking sign. It needs to be removed as you are indeed allowed to park there (Liz Ritchie)
- Inner parking lot – for parents with younger children to park and walk children to the door
- Roundabout area is for drop-off only – no parking
- You can park on the gravel area by the baseball field, not on the South side of Forsythe though
- Band – will be in one term only (Jen Dahl)
- Yearbook – yes we will have one, Mr. Juhasz will take photos as well as teachers (Liz Ritchie)
 - Yearbook helpers needed. Picaboo is an online program used to create the yearbook – very user friendly (Harjeet Manhas)

- This is the last year for Harjeet & Liz Ritchie on Yearbook Committee – looking for new people to take on Yearbook responsibilities and learn the ropes.
- Crossing Guard Duties – we really need volunteer crossing guards. Now there are 3 volunteers only but there are 10 shifts available (Harjeet)
- There will be sign-up opportunities for students in grades 6 & 7 to assist with Crossing Guard (Bill)
- Mr. Juhasz is very approachable. If parents have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact him by email, phone or appointment
- Will there be class photos? (Rosa Maria). Bill prefers the photo to happen later when some of the transitional learners will have returned.
- Home learners will be able to come in to have their photos taken
- October 9 is photo day
- Is Nova Foods delivering? (Jen Dahl). Private food delivery program. It is not currently allowed to operate in the Richmond School District. Mr. Juhasz is not sure if that will change.
- Is Fruit and Veggie program on? Food handlers must have Foodsafe certification. All 3 committee members have Foodsafe. Yes, the program will continue.
- Outdoor Ed – will there be outdoor education this year for grade 6/7s? (Liz Ritchie). Bill cannot say at this time – likely not, but maybe.
- Students are outdoors for recess / lunch no matter what the weather. Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for all kinds of weather.
- Staff are supervising classroom lunches now.

PAC Fundraising

Playground fundraising is the biggest initiative for the PAC (Jen Dahl). The playground will cost \$150,000 to replace.

E-Portfolio is a big form of learning / communication for parents at our school. Technology that PAC has supplied has been extremely helpful in providing the best tools. (Bill Juhasz)

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.