

Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes
For the February 26, 2020 Meeting

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Jen Dahl at 9:00 am

In Attendance

Jen Dahl, PAC Co-Chair, Harjeet Manhas, PAC Co-Chair, Pavan Padda, Vice Chair, Crystal Huang, PAC Treasurer, Bill Juhasz, Principal, Rosa Maria Salazar, Elizabeth Ritchie, Johnny Xu, Catherine Tong, and Kathy Tsakumis.

Approval of the Minutes of the Nov 27, 2019 Meeting

A motion was made by Pavan Padda to approve the minutes of the November 27 meeting. Crystal Huang seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Harjeet Manhas – Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to Raj for bringing refreshments this morning.

Yearbook – Sophia Hsieh’s last year and Linda Wei will be Yearbook Coordinator next year.

Parking Lot – volunteers needed on Monday / Wednesday afternoons.

Hot Lunch, Safe Arrival, and other volunteer groups going well.

Volunteer Draw – monthly draw to show appreciation for parents who volunteer. Winner for the month is Johnny Xu.

Jen Dahl – PAC Updates

Gr 7 Bake Sale is this Friday. Food items include pizza, juice, baked goods – no hot lunch volunteer help required.

Burnett Gala is on March 6 at Riverside Palace. The cost per ticket is \$50 which goes towards PAC fundraiser for a baby grand piano and scoreboard for the gym.

Family Photo Night Feb 26 and Feb 27 – Discussion led by Harjeet and Pavan. There are 14 families signed up online. For next year, we should look at the timing to get more families interested – possibly October and consider having a Christmas/Winter backdrop option for families. It was agreed to talk about setting a date at the May meeting.

Parking – There still is a problem with illegal parking adjacent to Gibbons ballpark and at the drop off zone. Bill is going to prepare a reminder notice to leave on cars that are parked in these areas.

Yearbook – Linda is heading next year, but we need more volunteers to make collages and take photos. It was suggested to spread the word at the next Kindergarten orientation.

Staff & Parent Appreciation Lunch is on Wednesday, April 22. There will be a call for volunteers the week before. It will most likely be Potluck so a notice will be sent out a couple of weeks before the event.

Treasurer’s Report – Crystal Huang, Treasurer

A statement of cash flow as at Feb 25, 2020 was presented by Crystal.

For parent donations, Johnny offered to donate the remaining amount of \$245 to meet the budgeted amount of \$5000.

Hot Lunch – pizza days have been sold out. Dominoes did not charge for one of the days due to an error. Nova Foods rebate is in good shape.

Christmas concert 50/50 - \$377 profit; need new person to head it for next year.

PAC operating is to include coach's gifts.

PAC contingency includes condolence flowers/card for Thompson family. Clear One badminton - 50% profit for PAC with a net amount of \$530.

Rosa asked for clarification about the Burnett Scholarship. It is awarded to a Thompson graduate going onto post-secondary/other program. Mr. Juhasz clarified that both the PAC and the school has a budget for kids who needs financial assistance for participating in extra-curricular activities.

PAC will be purchasing a set of glass plates for the parent and staff appreciation and for the Grade 7 Dance to support the school's goal of sustainability. We will budget \$100 for the plates and a sturdy storage container. We will also look into renting table cloths for the events and report back at the next meeting.

Principal's Report

Mr. Juhasz shared that a parking update will be shared with parents to serve as a reminder in the next newsletter.

Class Balance Tally – this tally is used to create combined classes which used to be called split classes. Currently, we follow a combined curriculum model where strengths and weakness are made aware to both the student and the teacher.

This information helps make class compositions for the next year. Teachers review academic strength, gender balance, number of leaders, and the number of ELL Level 1 and 2's to help create balanced/combined classes. The goal is to have a mix of abilities in one class rather than placing high achieving kids in a higher grade level.

New Report Card – Thompson is the only school in the district participating in the eportfolio pilot project. Mr. Juhasz asked for parent feedback on the Mid-Year Summary of Learning. Parents felt that there was not a lot of specifics provided under each section.

Mr. Juhasz explained that the pilot project uses eportfolio as a way to break from the traditional report card.

The Ministry will likely go ahead with this model and teachers will use a MyEd platform in June. The intention of the Mid-Year Summary of Learning is to be brief so that student work is reflected in the eportfolio. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher for further insight about their child's learning.

Personal Electronic Devices School Level Policy – Staff, parents and students need to work together on the issue of the responsible use of technology (cell phone, camera, iPad included) as a tool in our school.

There is a need to adapt the current policy to make it parent and student friendly. The goal is to open communication and promote appropriate/responsible use of social media.

Cell phone rules will include: keeping phone on silent mode in backpack, use only outside of school time, classroom use only if directed by teacher, no personal use at recess and lunch, etc. Also, students should not be taking photos of other students and posting on social media without consent. As some students are being reminded several times, Mr. Juhasz stated that after the second time, he will take the phone away and involve parents if necessary.

Staff and parents will model using their phones appropriately for work purposes, taking photos for yearbook/school Instagram/school spirit and follow procedures for lockdown. Parents are not to use their phones for facetime, watching videos, or taking personal phone calls outside the classroom.

Extra-curricular activities – basketball is up and running, track and field training will begin after March break for grades 3 and up (some grade 2's will be encouraged to participate) as well as Ultimate and gardening clubs.

The gym will be painted in March and there is some work being done in the outdoor garden with the Gr 7 legacy to pay for the plants. There will be extra log, mulch and planters in the back as well.

We will need to start planning for a new playground soon - perhaps start adding one equipment at a time in stages. To fully replace the primary/intermediate playgrounds, we will need to seek outside grants from corporations and businesses in the private sector and possibly offer a plaque for big donations.

Student and parent surveys – Student assessments occur in grade 4, 7, and 10. Parents and students can complete the survey on the school website. Surveys are based on students' learning experience in the school.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Wed, Apr 15 at 9 am.