

**Thompson Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Minutes - DRAFT
for the October 13, 2020 Meeting**

Welcome

Jen Dahl welcomed everyone at 9:01 am.

In Attendance

Jen Dahl, Co-Chair, Mandy Lichtmann, Secretary, Bill Juhasz, Principal, Catherine Wang, Treasurer, Kay Li, Gurjit Bains, Imelda Nurwisah, Tom Chan, Angela Louis, Shufen Tether, Lyuxian Zhang, Vanessa Zhang, Anna Zhu.

Approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2021 Meeting

Shufen Tether made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2021 PAC Meeting. Jen Dahl seconded the minutes. **Motion approved.**

Playground Update

- Frank Geyer - oversees maintenance at the District and he is Mr. Juhasz's main contact
- In June our playground grant application was brought to the Board of Trustees
- an application for a \$165 K grant was approved for Thompson by the Board of Trustees. Thompson is the only school in Richmond that is being put forward for a playground grant
- We are now waiting until March / April 2022 for approval from the Ministry of Education for funding. Mr. Juhasz is optimistic that our grant will be approved, but it is not a sure thing. He does feel that fundraising can proceed.
- Fundraising ideas – Imelda N. said that her and Jo W. had discussed fundraising ideas, like gift card sales around Christmas. Mr. Juhasz said fun school spirit things like "Principal for a Day" for raffles are usually successful. Other suggestions included a Car wash. Pub night Mr. Juhasz suggested if we have a Christmas concert, we can do raffle draws there.

Treasurer's Report – overview by Jen Dahl

- Our PAC usually requests donations from Thompson families. Tax receipts are issued for these donations. Funds raised can be allotted to regular operations and/or playground fundraising.
- Hot lunch - last year we had some credits for families from cancelled lunches due to COVID.
- We did make some money on hot lunch during the 2020/2021 year, but there are still some credits.
- We are in quite good shape nevertheless.
- We continue to receive the Gaming Grant - some of these funds can be put towards playground
- Domino's did not deposit a cheque from pre-covid times. Jen is suggesting we write the cheque off, as 2 years has passed and the cheque can no longer be cashed. We have these funds set aside for the cheque and would like to free them up for other uses.

Motion to release the funds from Domino's cheque

Jen Dahl made a motion to release the funds held for the Domino's cheque for \$328 (cheque #830) in 2019. Imelda Nurwisah and Angela Louis seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Hot Lunch Coordinator - Yvonne and Linda would like a third Hot Lunch Coordinator.
- Crossing Guards – We are still looking for volunteers for shifts before and after school. Thanks to Raymond who has been helping out a great deal in the parking lot.
- Mr. Juhasz will work on signage for the parking lot
- Where the crossing Guard stands, there is a yellow pillar that is easy to hit with a vehicle because it is short and not visible to taller vehicles. Mr. Juhasz says we need better signage.
- Parents should allow older students to walk in to school.
- Construction on baseball field is happening currently, so the gravel parking spots on Forsyth are being used by City vehicles a lot of the time.
- One of the parents got a ticket while parked on the gravel lot that has a “No Stopping” sign. Mr. Juhasz, Jen and Raymond will do a walk around to check on signs in that area and contact the city.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Juhasz continues to be impressed with our school community and our response to heeding COVID expectations.
- FSA – Foundation Skills Assessments are occurring for grades 4, 7, 10
- These assessment look to see that students are on track for learning the curriculum. It is a general assessment.
- Some parents worry the tests are stressful to students. Mr. Juhasz suggests the tests are not very different from assessments done in school.
- The Fraser Institute takes the data and ranks schools based on results. Mr. Juhasz asks if it is fair to rank schools on this test? Not necessarily. There are lots of factors that impact test scores and there is more to a school community than FSA results.
- Cross Country Race - 80 Thompson students participating in the race tomorrow! Excellent enthusiasm and participation! Run is at Garry Point after school.
- Garry Point parking for Cross Country race - parents should pick their kids up from school tomorrow and drive right away to Garry Point area. The parking there is going to be very busy. Best to walk in. Carpool is also suggested.
- Kudos to Mr. Twyford for bringing so much enthusiasm to the cross country running program.
- Our students are a little more competitive in sports compared to when Mr. Juhasz first came to the school. They are putting in more work to achieve goals and striving to do their best.
- Mr. Juhasz is working on a new school web page
- The school is gearing up for Halloween.
- If students are late, they must knock on the class windows to be let in - Mr Badyal's and Mrs. Hare's classes are the only classes with no door to the outside.
- Some parents suggested parents who live close to the school could offer their driveway parking spots for parents with young children.
- Mr. Juhasz suggests cooperative driveway share if parents are interested. A parent representative could coordinate parking in nearby driveways whose homes are close to the school – Shufen Tether offered her contact information.

- Yearbook publishing date discussion. Hopefully we will have Sports Day this year and include photos. All pages of the yearbook can be completed and sports day will be the final addition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Next meeting Nov. 17, 2021