



JAMES THOMPSON ELEMENTARY

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Meeting Minutes Wednesday September 18, 2024

Attendees: Nicolle Kit - Co-Chair, Terry Nowak - Co-Chair, Pavan Padda - Vice Chair, Catherine Wang - Treasurer, Gillian Yen - Secretary, Kevin Vines - Principal, Gurjit Bains, Victoria Ho, Joanne Ho, Regena Chiang, Kay Li, Danah A, Angela Louis, Albert Wei, Jenn Munch.

Welcome

9:00am Nicolle Kit welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of May 29, 2024 Meeting

Albert Wei made a motion to approve minutes from the May 29, 2024 PAC meeting. Pavan Padda seconded the motion. All in favour. **Motion carried.**

Principal Report

- Principal Kevin Vines grew up in Richmond, went to McRoberts Secondary. Kevin has two young children. He was at Homma Elementary as a Vice Principal for 4 years and then Diefenbaker Elementary for the last year and 4 months. He used to teach a large 5, 6, 7 class with another teacher. It was an amazing experience and he felt excited to be here.
- Our school has 260 students, 11 divisions, 30 staff, 5 resource teachers, 6 Educational Assistants. 2 noon supervisors, Strong Start and Montessori on-site.
- The School Playground is coming together slowly. We were told that the small playground should be ready this week and the full playground would be ready by next week but just getting pushed back. The community built on August 24, 2024 was a special way to join the Thompson community. PAC Playground Committee would be welcomed to arrange any grand opening celebration.
- Kevin said he would continue to communicate through the WAAG (Week-At-A-Glance). Open for feedback, hoping to share thoughtful, concise, clear information parents needed. Parents liked it a lot and found the newsletter very helpful.
- Staffing update: Newest Educational Assistant - Ms. Allua Nife Aroh, she will be working in two classes. We also hired Olivia Roxburgh and Sally Green in Division 8, they would be here until Ms. Perez returned from maternity leave. We are still waiting to hire one more noon supervisor.
- *"Meet the Staff"* in the morning of September 19, 2024. Two sessions: 8:00-8:20 am and 8:20-8:40 am. It would be like an Open House for parents to meet the teacher.
- Different route for Terry Fox this year so we would be running around the school. The staff felt that it was important we stayed together as a community.
- Pro-D Day on Friday September 20, 2024. Ellen Hsu, a member from the Social Responsibility Team of the Richmond School District would be here. Our school has a

strong foundation in the school story, this Pro-D Day was important for staff to align themselves and continue to hold space for that social responsibility that the school has.

- Extra-curricular - Student Leadership already started this week with grade 6 and 7. Great to see students stepping up and taking on leadership roles with crossing guard, lunch monitors, office monitors, assembly and morning announcers.
- Volleyball practise for Grade 6/7 in early morning with Mr. B. They would coordinate some games with other schools. Cross Country Run coming up with Mr. T on October 22, 2024.
- Parents were concerned that the sports event schedule was not communicated properly last year. They would like to get either an email or an updated schedule on the school website. Kevin said he could get the staff to send him the schedule and put it to the WAAG.
- Last week, Mike Charlton who is the administrator for all of Emergency Preparedness visited our school and checked the emergency bin. He was impressed and informed us that everything was up to date. District started to take care of that now. There would be new student reunification form. Evacuation drill next week.
- Assembly on Friday September 27, 2024 at 9am. Peter White, speaker on Recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. No school on Monday. Individual Photo Day - October 2, 2024 working with Edge Imaging this year. November 8, 2024 photo retake day.
- Parents were encouraged to subscribe to our school's calendar from the school website.

Volunteer Opportunity at Thompson

- It would be Catherine's last year at Thompson. PAC was looking for a new treasurer who could shadow Catherine. Regular playground accounts would be closed, make sure to be accurate, bookkeeping. Regena would be able to help.
- Volunteer opportunities and crossing guards are always welcomed. Job description and responsibility, availability required were important so parents interested would know what to expect and plan for it. PAC should get our communication on the school website and translated version would go out with the WAAG.
- PAC has a parent WhatsApp group chat.
- Regena suggested that it would be a good idea to have one or two parents volunteer for each class. Danah said the parking lot was chaotic at pick up and the school should keep working on improving that.

Munch-A-Lunch

- Our 1st hot lunch was on Friday September 27, 2024. Yvonne was there helping every Friday. She had been looking for parent volunteers to take over. Contact Nicolle if anyone would like to help.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05am

NEXT PAC MEETING: Wednesday October 16, 2024 at 9am in Thompson School Library