

PAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023– 7:00pm

In person and Zoom

1. Welcome/Call to Order – Esther F. 7:02 pm

Attendance:

In person: Esther F, Jackie A, Charlotte D, Leanne L, Sherisse E, and Jessica M

Zoom: April H

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

4. Principal's Report

- Positive Behavior Support initiative along with have a heart is about random acts of kindness and classes have been working on a book. This aligns with pink shirt day and talking about what is a bully and how to be kind.
- Walking initiative has been successful and will continue.
- It was noted that there has been a lot of late families recently and parents are reminded the supervision starts 15 minutes before school.
- Teachers Mrs. Hills and Mrs. Gillingham have been organizing a recycling initiative and have collected a lot of plastic. The school is helping to support the greener initiative.
- The school talent show has received a lot of interest and may require two shows. The school will keep parents posted regarding the schedule.
- New bark cards will be available shortly and will reflect the new swag.
- February budget was discussed, and it was explained that expenses include office supplies and learning resources. It was noted that projectors needed to be replaced on the sunny side of the school.
- Staff explained that a grant was received for aboriginal day and planning is currently underway.
- It was explained that the PAC has been supporting the Operating Budget of the school for many years which helps to support the general budget. A Technology spending spreadsheet was presented, and it was explained that because of the Mac platform the school was in a deficit of \$7000.
 - It was explained that teachers spending includes craft materials, Mother's Day gifts, and books for the classroom. Spending is currently on track as they have spent half of their budget.
- Staff noted some items to consider when discussing the PAC budget include
 - Back and forth books
 - Grade 5 year end celebration
 - June 27 school event
- Upcoming events include
 - Mentor Monday

- Movie Night
- School hike to Mt. Thom
- It was noted that break the rules day raised almost \$1000 for charity and students had a wonderful day.
- The school basketball team has been practicing and participating in games. Mr. T is volunteering his time to coach the team.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Fundraising totals include
 - Seed sales \$250
 - Purdy's \$1239
 - Movie night at \$700
- It was noted that spirit wear is not a fundraiser and PAC may do another order in September.

6. DPAC Report

- The Committee explained that the DPAC representative was able to attend tonight's meeting and a report was posted to the PAC Facebook page. Below is the report.
- SCHOOL MEALS:
- There is a movement to encourage our MPs to put school food in their upcoming budgets. If you are interested in joining, you can click this letter here, make a copy and add in your info, and send to your MP: https://docs.google.com/.../1oJMHvEoH_UW.../edit
- INCLUSIVE ED WEBINAR:
- Shelley Moore will be giving a district webinar, paid for by DPAC, on inclusive ed. It's on Wednesday and the facebook link with all of the info is here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/562627898936835>
- SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:
- I attended the early February school board meeting in person (on my own behalf to ask some questions about a policy that was on the agenda). I've received some questions about it, and we discussed the meeting at the DPAC meeting since it's gotten quite a bit of attention.
- Here are the questions/suggestions I requested they bring back to the board for discussion:
- Since the in-person capacity at board meetings is limited, can they include online participation for parent questions?
- Since the in-person capacity is limited, can parents/guardians of SD33 public school parents be prioritized? Can guests who are Chilliwack residents be prioritized?
- Here are some notes about the board meeting:
- The school board DPAC rep (Margaret Reid) said that she, Trustee Westerby, and Trustee Maahs have been discussing how they can work to create better communication between the district and parents, since this seems to be a consistent issue.
- No parents at the meeting were cut off at the mic. I was the only parent present who spoke, and I stopped speaking because my time was up. All of the other speakers were not parents, and some were not Chilliwack residents.
- School district board meetings are not town halls- they are corporate board meetings that guests are invited to witness and speak to the agenda. There may be town halls in the future

(this was a question brought up at DPAC that is being discussed), but board meetings will continue to be open to two public comment sessions, 15 minutes each, with each speaker limited to two minutes, and to subjects that are on the agenda. In addition, any parents can email school board trustees at any time about any issue.

- If you have any concerns about books in your kiddo's classroom or the school library, you can request in writing that your child not have access to that material. If you'd like to challenge that it should be in the school at all, there's a policy for that! Any parent or guardian can speak directly to the librarian at their school about their concerns. If you're not able to resolve it, you can then speak to the principal. If it is not resolved at that level, the office has a form you can fill out to request a review at the board level. It's then sent to a committee that includes;
- One school administrator selected by the CAA, one district staff chosen by the Superintendent, one teacher chosen by the CTA, one teacher-librarian chosen by the CTLA, One parent selected by DPAC, and One student chosen by the student council of a secondary school when the dispute exists in another secondary school.
- And if you have made it this far 😊 here is my personal thought- I think the most effective way to understand what is happening in your kiddo's classroom is to get to know their teacher and build trust with them, and connect with other staff and admin. They are the people that are best equipped to address concerns you have. It is easy to get caught up on concerns at the board level, or online, that often have nothing to do with your child's experience. I think that building the best relationships we can, with our community educators and our kids, is going to be what gets the best results when we are worried or have questions.

7. Committee Updates

- Food
 - Smoothie day
 - The last smoothie day was on February 22nd with Mrs. Gillingham's class. Lots of parent volunteers helped and the event ran smoothly.
 - The next smoothie date is March 15th with Ms. Sinclair's class.
- Spirit Wear
 - The website is now closed, and the committee expects to be distributing clothing after spring break.
- Fundraising
 - The Soup fundraiser earned \$400.
 - The Neufeld fundraiser will be from March 6th to the 30th and distribution should take place April 6th
 - Growing Smiles will take place again this year and the delivery date will be before Mother's Day.
- Events
 - Another movie night will be held on March 10th and parents are encouraged to vote for the movie on Facebook.
 - Committee members are planning a scavenger hunt in April and hope to incorporate the 10-year anniversary of the building at the event. This event will be spring and bunny themed.

- Purchasing a bigger popcorn machine was discussed as the old machine is not keeping up with demand. It was noted that the gaming grant money could be used to purchase the machine.

8. Chair Updates

- The Budget for next year was discussed, specifically where to focus funds.
- The Evergreen project was discussed and how best to cover expenses. It was agreed that the PAC would cover this project.
- The Committee reviewed previous year's budget and it was noted that the strategic plan budget has been earmarked for \$4000 per year.
- It was noted that the affordability fund may or may not roll over into next school.
- Discussion ensued regarding the PAC funding extra classroom supplies, the grade 5 water slide trip and other activity days.
- One school one book was discussed, and it was noted that if the program received a bigger budget there would be more book options. It was suggested that four options be presented to the PAC and the Committee would choose. The committee agreed to discuss this further with Ms. Falk.
- Previous years' budgets were discussed, and it was agreed that the smoothie budget could be reduced.
- Staff confirmed that the year-end carnival will not take place and students will be going on trip instead. It was noted that a pamphlet will go home allowing students to choose an activity.
- It was agreed that the Committee will create a proposed budget for next year and vote on it next month. The PAC will post on Facebook to receive feedback from parents.
- The Committee voted and approved to purchase a new popcorn maker using the gaming grant fund.
- Parents were reminded that May is the PAC AGM, and a nomination committee is required to send out forms to elect new members.
- It was noted that Shantini is currently working on the constitution.

9. Other business

10. Adjournment at 8:22 pm

Next Meeting April 25, at 7:00pm.