

PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov 28, 2023

Time: 7PM

Location: School Library

In Attendance: Leanne, Marie, Sherisse, Emily, Charlotte, Jaime, Esther, Dana,

Welcome/Call to Order 7:03pm Leanne Letham

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: adopted by Emily

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Marie, seconded by Emily

Principals Report

- Charlotte was very proud of all the students' behaviour on Tuesday at the assembly. They listened well and were respectful. An Indigenous lady came in to perform and played some powwow music and traditional dancing. Charlotte would like the kids to continue to expand their cultural awareness as we include more diverse guests in our assemblies.
- Mrs Motz's class is rocking the reading competition right now in regards to money raised-good job! This competition supports the Ruth and Naomi non-profit organization. They gave a personal call to Charlotte saying how thankful they are for Yarrow Elementary kids supporting them. They very much appreciate it.
- We have 5 senior citizens we will be supporting this season by making sure they are taken care of in regards to food and supplies.
- The Gr 4's took their FSA's recently. We had a 3 year goal of getting all the kids on track for reading and math. We ended up reaching our goal this year!! We even have kids extending past that goal. Charlotte is very impressed with the results.
- The school recently hosted Math Night and about 50 people came out, it was a success!
- Pancake Buddy Breakfast was Monday. Everyone ate with their buddies and then went out to play.
- The book fair is coming up, there will be no online sales, only in person this time.
- Report card term ends on Dec 8th and Dec 18 report cards go home.
- Smoothie day Dec 13
- The Christmas concert will be on the 20th, the back field will be open for extra parking.
- PAC pizza lunch is Dec 22. Santa will be there and students are encouraged to wear holiday sweaters.
- Jan 8, 2024-Welcome back to school!
- This year report cards will have a change in format to be more user friendly. Please reach out to your teacher if you have questions or feel in the dark.

- Charlotte applied for a disc swing for the playground to offer a more diverse inclusive playground experience for kids with different needs.

Technology

- Charlotte looked at technology spending since 2017/18. \$126,700 has been spent on technology (the PAC has spent approx \$46,000 of that). Should the PAC continue investing large amounts of funds to technology as it comes or honour the contract of \$2000/year invested to be taken out after 5 years and used by the school?

Treasurer's Report

- Jackie Harper resigned for health reasons. We appreciate all the work she has done over the past year!
- The PAC appointed a new treasurer for the remainder of the 2023/2024 year - Emily McLean (she brought cookies!).
- 03/04 PAC Finance report was shown with breakdowns from each account as well as incomes, expenses and balances.

DPAC Report

- Jaime Kampman is our DPAC rep!
- There is no district wide breakfast program-most schools have their own if there is a need. It takes approx 5 years to process and start a program. Each school looks at their needs to see if they need a program set up and goes from there. Yarrow is one of the schools where it is not needed at this time.
- Staffing issues were a big conversation. There are 15,000 students in SD33 right now. There have been 50 uncertified TOC's hired in the past 2 years which has helped morale. There is a stop date for this practice though.
- 70-80 untrained EA's hired in the past 2 years (they have some basic training).
- Chilliwack Teachers Associations met, a teacher shortage is still happening unfortunately and schools are packed. Overcrowding is a huge problem.
- FSA's in Chilliwack have the highest completion rates in the province!
- DPAC believes parents should be able to exempt their kids from the FSA's if they want. DPAC received \$5000 from the district for more educational services for parents.
- Bussing issue came up, district has acknowledged bussing issues that have come up. District will keep working on this issue.
- Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) report was released

- It supports a system wide focus on improving student outcomes and life chances for every student in BC with a particular emphasis on Indigenous students, children and youth in care and students with disabilities.
- What do PAC's want from DPAC this year? Top answers were: Cyber bullying, anti-racism, inclusive and accessible playgrounds

Chair Report

- **Strategic Plan**
 - Not much work done on this at this point. It needs updating because our classroom startups, end of year, One School/One Book etc, has all changed. It needs a revamp. It has to be presented to the PAC and voted on. We will put it in the agenda so parents will know when the vote is.

Overview

- ***Fundraising** –(Marie)
 - We had two fundraisers at the same time:
 - Purdys raised \$970
 - Fundscrip raised just over \$900 (Let the PAC know if you have any feedback from this fundraiser as it is the first one we have done-is this something we would like to do yearly?)
 - Everything has arrived at the school waiting to be sorted.
 - We are done fundraisers for the year!
 - Our expenses have overtaken our income so we need to look at other ways to bring in money.
 - Emily applied for a grant for Christmas treats at the school concert so there will be free treats that evening.
 - If you can come up with a community event, you can apply for it with United Way, it is very easy. The waiting time is about one week and they are very generous. Money can come to the PAC this way too if parents want to apply.
 - Looking forward to 2024, we would like to have an auction in the spring. Please contact PAC if you are interested in being involved with this- we have heard it is a very good fundraiser.
 - We will be asking parents with businesses to donate something for the auction and also approach local businesses. Let us know what you can donate!
 - Sherisse mentioned an idea for a fundraiser: local businesses from Yarrow and YAC pay \$100 for a business “ad” in a yearly newsletter allowing other members of the community and school to know and support them.

- ***Events** – (Sherisse)
 - Childcare Night was a success! It was our first one so it wasn't terribly busy but if it becomes a staple, it could be a good regular source of income and fun night for kids.
 - The next one will be around Valentine's day to give couples a date night.
 - We had one parent volunteer besides the PAC members and their families as well as a few Grade 5 students and grade 6 alumni. If we have any more kids to babysit next time we will need more volunteers. The volunteers did an amazing job!! We were able to give the kids a fun active night without screens (until the very end when we wanted to wind the kids down for parent pick up).
 - Next one we might get funded by United Way to provide pizza supper so parents won't have to rush after getting home from work.
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- ***Hot Lunch** – (Leanne)
 - No one has stepped up to be hot lunch coordinator so Leanne will continue to head this up.
 - Popcorn Day-Dec 14
 - Should we extend this to preschool and daycare?
 - Coffee & Treats-Tuesday, Dec 19.
 - Marie got a love grant for a coffee truck to come provide drinks for parents and teachers in the morning. They will arrive at 7:40 but more specific info is coming and will be posted online. If you are a parent in a rush, there will be to-go cups of coffee and bags of treats available.
 - Christmas concert treats were discussed. It was decided that hot chocolate/coffee/tea would be too messy but we could maybe sell popcorn and water

Other Business

- One School One Book is coming up in the new year, the book is still to be decided.
- The PAC has budgeted \$1500 for this
- Vicki (librarian) is looking into book ideas. She will choose a few ideas and then the staff and PAC can view and vote
- If parents have any ideas, you can let us know!
- "One and Only Ivan" is an idea. It is a kids book with a movie that could be viewed as a school on a PAC movie night.

Next Meeting Tuesday January 30, 2024 7PM YCS Library