

BERKSHIRE PARK ELEMENTARY PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
2020-2021 General Meeting (Via Zoom)
Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tabitha Rodgers, Alexandra Eastman, Angela Benincasa, Talia Rattan, Gurvinder Singh, Jen Chahal, Mr Lam

Welcome and Call to order: Tabitha Rodgers (President) at 2:27pm.

Adoption of General Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve as presented: 1st Talia, 2nd Jen

Introduction of PAC Executives:

PAC Executive team for 2020-2021 school year

- ✓ President: Tabitha Rodgers
- ✓ Vice President: Alexandra Eastman
- ✓ Treasurer: Angela Benincasa
- ✓ Secretary: Talia Rattan and Gurvinder Singh

Report:

(Thank you Mr Lam for joining our PAC General Meeting, on a Saturday, to present your Principal's Report)

Principal's Report

(Mr Lam)

- First of all, I am so thankful we are able to have the majority of our students return into the school building to continue their learning journey. I am also thankful the district was able to provide the Surrey Blended option for many families. Currently, we have just over 300 students in the building and just under 100 on the blended learning program.
- Even though, we lost some very good teachers last year, we have some amazing teachers that I was able to hire. There is a really good collaborative spirit among the staff and are learning from each other on new ways to support students' learning. As a staff, we still want to make learning and coming to school a fun and memorable experience despite the fact we are living through a global pandemic but without compromising health and safety standards.
- Upper intermediate team sports might look a little different this year, maybe more of intramurals within the learning cohorts instead of playing other schools
- I have emailed the Hip Hop instructor and see if we can have school wide lessons in our cohort groups even if it means not having a school wide performance. We will plan one month at a time and will work with PAC on things we can do.
- The government Foundation Skills Assessment exams for grade 4 and 7 students have been moved from October to January 2021.
- The school has purchased 15 new laptops for students' use, which should be arriving sometime next week. We currently have about 25 laptops in good working order. Our goal is to have two class sets of 30 for the students to develop their computer skills. We also have quite a few iPads, which is good for now.
- We want all the students and staff to be familiar with using Microsoft Teams. I have informed the staff to be prepared to go to online teaching at the "blink of an eye" if for any reason a class has to go into self-isolation for two weeks or whatever may happen in the near future.
- If there is a COVID exposure at Berkshire Park, I will receive a phone call from my assistant-superintendent. I will inform the staff via email and then the parent community via email using the school's web site. The same way you currently receive electronic newsletter. Fraser Health will do contact tracing and decide who will need to self-isolate and who will need to self-monitor. If there is a COVID exposure, we (including myself) will not be told who it is (student or staff).
- The Fraser Health area does have the largest number of COVID cases in the province, so it is understandable that Surrey schools would have the largest COVID exposures. However, we are glad that so far there have been no transfer of COVID cases in our schools. We will continue to be vigilant with the children washing their hands regularly with soap and water and maintain Fraser Health's health and safety standards for our school.

- Thank you for your understanding of no parents or visitors allowed in the school building, but please do not hesitate to reach out to your children’s teachers whenever you need to discuss any concerns or questions you might have for them.
- We are also closing the parking lot gates at the end of the school day until a school bus can enter to pick up some students. On a few occasions, the bus was not able to get into the lot because cars were blocking the entry by waiting in the driveway for the children to arrive. We also have seen children darting through the traffic in the parking lot. We do need to consider safety over convenience, so thank you for your understanding.

2020-2021 Budget Proposal

(Tabitha Rodgers)

- (Presented on Zoom shared screen)
- Motion to approve 2020-2021 budget proposal as presented:
 - Approved: 1st Gurvinder, 2nd Angela
 - Opposed: none
 - Passed unanimously

New Business:

(Tabitha Rodgers)

Fundraising: Due to covid, the PAC is limited to restrictions by the province and district, meaning no gatherings, or general population contacts with the school. “We CAN still fundraise though!”
 Keeping with the PAC fundraising statement and intentions from last year *-to keep fundraising purposeful-* PAC is planning the following fundraisers, while keeping in mind that things are ever changing in so many ways!

Hot Lunch - *not possible as of current, too many general population contacts, not worth the risk*

Masks & Water Bottles (Local company, Health and Safety) – The need for these is not going away, so why not show our school spirit with the things we need & use daily

- Jen recommended to look at options for shirts and sweatpants again
- PAC will investigate this, may be a challenge to do due to inability to try on for sizing

DSF Catalogue (Canadian, Holiday gifting & home decor) – Unfortunately, we cannot have our annual Xmas market this year, which is our kick off to our school holiday season. As many people are not going to malls and instead ordering online, this is a great addition to our fundraisers! A bonus is that we can also share the ordering link with family and friends to help support our children, and our school.

- Brings back parent memories of when they were in school

Purdy’s (Canadian) – Holiday Chocolates campaign, as well as some fun random chocolate sales through the year – similar to the bars over the previous few years, but we don’t want JUST the bars, there are so many others, including NUT FREE! Purdy’s unfortunately has been struggling with Covid, so this is a ‘help each other’ campaign.

- Attendees excited this will be a school-wide fundraiser

Book Fair - Virtual (Literacy) – We had to cancel our in school book fair unfortunately, HOWEVER, Scholastic’s goals are to continue advocating for more literacy in as many homes as possible, therefore they are working on virtual book fairs! PAC is working on setting this up.

Milk Program (Local, Health) – *Tabled due to: cohort structure, timeline to begin distribution, lost a Milk Program co-coordinator, nearly 100 students in blended learning. Plans to resume for January 2021. PAC has records of those who paid for second half of 2019-2020 milk program, and the unused credit will be applied when distribution resumes.

Neufeld Farms (Local, Health) – They are currently undergoing a fundraising program restructure and as soon as we have more information from them, we will send home the information.

Clothing Drive (Free, Wellness (decluttering)) – Likely many families took time over Covid shutdown to declutter homes. This year’s donations drop-off will look different. PAC looking at drop off schedule and physical distancing guidelines with cohorts in mind.

Popcorn Day – Students really enjoyed popcorn days last year. PAC has a popcorn machine in house, however due to covid guidelines, parents cannot be in school for popping and delivery of each bag. PAC will contact Kernels to look at purchasing from them this year to continue popcorn days.

In-school activities

Field Trips and Concerts – district has stated to schools that field trips are ok, but students must be transported by bus, no parent drivers. How that looks for each class will be determined by the teachers. Concerts however will obviously be a no go due to gathering restrictions. We are considering and discussing still having the Dance lessons for the students at years end, perhaps with a videographer so students will still be able to show their parents.

Halloween (typically Photos and Parade) – unfortunately for this year the school cannot hold the costume parade. PAC has determined with Mr Lam that we can have our yearly costume photos. To adhere to guidelines this will only be with students in same classes. The PAC will also have candies for each class, delivered in a bag to the class teacher, to limit contact touchpoints. Each class will have their own activities, so watch for details from your child's teachers. Consideration for a door or classroom decorating contest with prizes – Mr Lam to discuss with teachers.

Christmas (typically Market, Hot chocolate and Movie with PJ day) – We cannot do the market or hot chocolate due to physical distancing guidelines, and limited distribution opportunities for parents to help on site. In place of the market we will have the DFS fundraiser, and instead of hot chocolate, the PAC will provide some sort of Christmas goodies for classrooms and will be delivered in a bag to limit contact touchpoints. Again, perhaps consideration of decorating contest. Perhaps make the door a 'tree' they can decorate. – Mr Lam to discuss with teachers.

- Prize recommendations from attendees: Juice and chips for a classroom movie afternoon, Ice cream sandwiches, pizza party (pizza party not possible due to not being individually packaged)

Stay connected with us for community building, events and fundraiser updates, share new ideas, and hear more about these fundraisers we've discussed, by joining our PRIVATE Facebook group! Simply search 'Berkshire PARK PAC' in your Facebook, and answer the security questions - note: we do not approve anyone who doesn't answer the membership questions

Open Forum: No requests for discussion brought to floor

Next PAC Meeting: November (Date and Time TBD, based on parent feedback and Executives availability)

Adjournment of meeting: There being no further requests for discussion, meeting adjourned at 3:18pm by Tabitha Rodgers

Meeting minutes reported and submitted by: Tabitha Rodgers (October 12, 2020)