

# PAC MEETING MINUTES

## HJORTH ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Location:** Hjorth Library  
**Date:** Oct. 30, 2024  
**Time:** 6:00pm  
**Facilitator:** Ryan Howett, VP &  
Wai PAC Chair

### Number of Attendees:

4x PAC Executives & 11x Hjorth parents and Vice Principle - Ryan Howett

Regrets: Reena Chohan

### 2024 PAC Executives:

President/Chair Name: Wai Akdogu  
Vice President: Nam Kohli  
Secretary: Elena Maria Medina Diaz  
Treasurer: Jean Coyler

### 1. Call to order

- a. **Meeting started** at 6:05pm
- b. **Introductions:** PAC Executives and parents introduced themselves, how many kids they have at the school and what grades they are in.

### 2. Approval of October 30<sup>th</sup> Agenda

Priti Motagi, 1<sup>st</sup> Motion, Nam Kohli, 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Nam Kohli, 1<sup>st</sup> Motion, Elena Maria Medina Diaz, 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 4. Executive Reports

#### a. School Principal & VP Report

- i) **School Year 2024**, we currently have 345 kids in the school, we have 15 divisions. In the first week of September, the teachers evaluated all students on a number of categories classroom dynamics to balance the groups classes accordingly.
- ii) **Meet the Teacher BBQ Event**, the turnout was very successful, much larger than last years BBQ. School is accepting feedback on how the parents thought of the event and what they could do better in the future. The parents enjoyed the event and liked how there were classrooms tours before the BBQ. There were enough hotdogs, but chips and beverages were sold out quickly, so we discussed maybe they could take pre-orders prior to the event to have a better idea how many people would be attending.

- iii) **Terry Fox Run** – was a successful event. Reena and Ryan mapped out a block run around the neighborhood. There was also a draw for Terry Fox T-Shirt.
- iv) **Indigenous Week** – the event was educational and successful. The students enjoyed learning about the indigenous culture, ceremonial drumming, music, art and other fun activities from the indigenous group that spent a week at the school teaching about their culture.
- v) **First Quarter Student Reports** came home this month, parents are encouraged to have conversations with their child(s)' teacher(s)' and see how their progress are and learn how they can both support the child.
- vi) **October 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>** - Halloween Pumpkin Contest, voting ends at the end of the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please pick up pumpkins at the end of the day or the pumpkins will be disposed over the weekend.
- vii) **October 31<sup>st</sup>** – Kids can wear Halloween costumes to school, with exceptions to no masks, no weapons and fake blood.
- viii) **November 1<sup>st</sup>** – Day after Halloween, kids can come to school in pajamas.
- ix) **November 4<sup>th</sup>** – School will be celebrating Diwali on the following Monday, the Celebration of Lights, optional, children can to wear their traditional clothing.
- x) **November 8<sup>th</sup>** – Pro-D Day on this Friday (No School)
- xi) **November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Day the following Monday is no school. (Which makes this a 4-Day Weekend with the Pro-D Day on the Friday)
- xii) **In Early December** – (Date TBA) Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus Photos, PAC is considering to plan and prepare a fundraiser to incorporate with this event to make it more fun for the families. Depending on the number of volunteers we can get, we can do something fun (Examples: Reindeer games? Sell popcorn? Have silent auction? Rent-a-Table for local artisans to sell their crafts/products? – any suggestions is appreciated.) With any raffles type events like 50/50 prize draws, PAC will apply for a gaming license.
- xiii) **Winter Concert** is in mid-December, (Date TBA)
- xiv) **November Hot Lunch** – The School has prepared a Pizza Day by Panago Pizza. Slice of pizza, chips and juice box \$6, Pizza only \$3/pc
- xv) **School Issues** – Principal and VP are dealing with students' using racial slurs and foul language at school. Let's help reinforce this behaviour is unacceptable, educate your children that this is not acceptable language. There are other ways to express their emotions.
- xvi) **School Councilor.** There are no School Councilors for students to speak with at the moment, but the teachers are trying their best in assisting students in this area. School feels the gap is missing and hope to find a professional for this position.

- xvii) **Afterschool Programs** – Parents are asking how to register. There are many programs available but many programs may be fully booked now, but you are still able to get on the waitlist. Please see the office for a waitlist form.

**b. Financial Report**

- i) **Account Summary** \$14457.60 (From September Statement)  
ii) **2024 Gaming Grant** \$6,480.00

**c. PAC Report**

- i) (PAC – stands for Parent Advisory Council) There was not much to report at the first meeting, PAC Executives would like to thank and welcome all parents for coming to the Monthly PAC meeting. Here is where you can be informed, get updates on what's going on in the school, discuss how we can fundraise and do fun things for the kids, provide families with expert programs and presentations, we would like to provide a safe place for parents to share their questions and concerns. We are hoping to have a wonderful year this year.

Last year, we were newly involved PAC and had fun participating at a couple events and a quick last-minute Mother's Day Raffle. This year we look forward to meeting more parents, plan more fun things for our children. We hope to build a strong Hjorth PAC community to help support our kids and families.

**5. Old Business**

N/A

**6. New Business**

- a. **2024 Classroom Funds** – Last year we provided \$100 per classroom, \$100 for IST and CYCW, and \$50 for LST to buy additional supplies, like stickers and prizes for the classroom. Would the PAC want to do it again this year? Yes - All in favor.
- b. **2024 Leadership T-Shirts** – Mr. Howett asks to purchase T-shirts for the Leadership Program. Approx. 20-25 kids participating in the program, the shirts will be worn on days of leadership events. JD Clothing Printing who does the Grade 7 Hoodies, estimated \$11 +tax per t-shirt. Final Invoice will be billed to PAC directly. PAC Approval? Yes - All in favor.
- c. **2024 Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony** – School asking for \$600 to purchase decorations, cake and award metals. We had donated \$300 last year. Open for discussion next meeting.
- d. **2024 Sports Day** – This year the School is asking PAC to provide a hot lunch for the students on Sports Day. Last year, PAC did a concession on sports day. There was a bit of conflict with the kids being distracted. Students were coming to the concession and missing their relay stations. To avoid this, we should discuss and plan a better strategy for future concessions.

**7. Open Discussion**

**a. Hot Lunch Program (Parent Review)**

- i) Overall the Hot Lunch Program this year was much better than last year. Most parents say that the food is bland and has no taste.
- ii) A couple parents reported that they pulled out their child since they noticed food waste.
- iii) A couple parents reported that their children prefer the hot meals rather than the cold sandwiches.
- iv) Another parent said that they noticed their kids liking the meals and happy to see them eat the variety of hot meals – rather eat sandwiches everyday.
- v) Additional snacks are now given with the meals when mentioned on the notice that the meals do not come with snacks. Mr. Howett reported that this decision was reverted and now giving snacks with meals. He also mentioned that some teachers have snack baskets in their classrooms for unopened snacks that can be left for kids that would like a snack during the day.
- vi) Mr. Howett will relay these concerns and suggestions to the school caterer.

**b. Online Payment System** – Some parents ask if the school has an online payment system. Mr. Howett explained that the school does not have an online system due to dealing with cash and online payments. This will cause extra work for their staff and staff prefers to keep it cash-only for now.

**c. Inclusion & Anti-Bullying** – A few parents spoke up about concerns about their child being bullied at school, about skin color, violent threats and/or being pushed around by other peers or older kids. Currently, the school staff are getting training to deal and talk to the children in these situations.

**d. Consequences for Concerning Behaviors** – Parents comments and asking could there be more consequences for the concerning behaviors, so the kids can learn its wrong – rather than being too soft with consequences. Mr Howett explains that him and Mrs. Chohan is having meetings with parents and child on a case-by-case situation. The max consequence is suspension. Some parents raised the concerned that this could be counter intuitive since some kids may feel a suspension is a day off from school. So parents are asking if there are other discipline options. Another parent suggests educating in a classroom group settings, not single out the bad student but ensure the whole class is educated and aware of the bad behaviors and the consequences. Another parent mentioned that some kids maybe learning from other students, home environments, and/or exposure to the media where kids just mimic what they think looks cool or funny, and not know any better, some don't even understand what they are saying. In conclusion, as parents, we need to take this opportunity to teach more of this at home and work together to prevent it from bring it into the school.

**e. Educational Prevention Presentations from RCMP** – We briefly discussed about having community RCMP come speak at the school. Maybe higher authority can influence students better than parents or teachers if concerns

escalade to bigger problems. A couple years ago there was a Gang Prevention Presentation for parents at the school. Maybe we can look into other presentations for the school. PAC Chair can reach out to RCMP Block Watch Coordinator and Crime Prevention to see if they have resources for the School.

- f. Lunch Monitors** – PAC was wondering if school needed more monitors at lunch time. Mr. Howett, confirmed that they have about 10 school hired employees monitoring the playground and school property. They do not permit parents coming on school grounds during school hours.
- g. Peer Mediator** – Suggestion was made where each classroom could have a Student Mediator to help mediate conflicts, before going to the teacher for help. This can be a great leadership opportunity for students.
- h. Fundraiser Ideas that need volunteers**
  - i) **Hot Lunches & Local Donations**
  - ii) **Catalogue Fundraisers** – Sell Ornaments, Chocolates, Spices, etc...
  - iii) **Raffle Baskets** – Get school letter to go to local businesses to ask for donations, to create gift baskets, or sponsor events, etc...
  - iv) **Year-End Carnaval** – If we can get enough parent volunteers, we can create fun game/activity stations, sell popcorn, have a concession, etc...
  - v) **Family Movie Night** – We briefly discussed movie in the gym, projector setup, gym mats, we have someone with a popcorn machine, we can do it for after school, or early evening so young families can attend. Early evening we can provide pizza or hotdogs for dinner. All in favor.

**8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 6pm

**9. Meeting Adjourned: 7:24pm**

For more information about the PAC, ask a PAC Executive or if you have any questions or concerns you can contact the PAC at: [hjorthpac@gmail.com](mailto:hjorthpac@gmail.com)