

École Peace Arch Elementary

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PAC

October 15, 2024 – 6:30 PM

“We would like to acknowledge the shared, unceded territory of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen, and other Coast Salish Peoples on which we work, play, and learn.”

Location of Meeting: School Library

Present at meeting: Chair – Shannon Versluis Vice Chairs – Karlie Cirocco/Mikki Kinnaird
Treasurer – Heather Johnstone Secretary – Fiona Kehler

Attendees – Stephanie Gilmour, Sonia Bisla-Pereira, Sarah Stotter, Tarina Taylor, Natalie Whitmey, Kirsten Yanicki, Amber Yaciw, Kristen Fryer, Jenn Morgan, Adam Schubert, Tia Ball, Philip Linklater, Susan Nazem, Amy Alto

Meeting called to order October 15, 2024 @ 6:34pm

Introductions PAC Executive & School Administrators

Principal’s Message: Phil Linklater & Susan Nazeem

- Newsletter sent out to the school Oct 11 with upcoming events.
- Staff have inquired about funds for classrooms/events.
 - PAC stated at our last meeting & budget presentation that we’re trying not to fund activities that don’t benefit a majority of the student body vs one or two classes/grades. We have started the year with less cash and are trying to maintain equity across grades and both English and French programming. Teachers are encouraged to use their classroom & fieldtrip funds before approaching PAC for additional funds for their classrooms.
- Some of the outcomes of the shuffle of classes in Sept:
 - In addition to the loss of a division and that teacher means there is less prep time in the budget.
 - For this reason, our music teacher Mrs. Blackman will be @ Katzie Elem. one day a week (Wednesday) instead of full-time @ Peace Arch.
- Mr. Linklater will be retiring January 1st. New Principal placement TBA.

Chair’s Report – Shannon V

- Boo Bash – our goal for this year was to create community and have fun events for families.
 - For reference: Last dance was 2019, 200 tickets sold in 3 weeks. Originally priced at \$3 we ended up giving them away at the end. We had the same rules for no drop offs. Snowball dance was primarily aimed at primary students but was also attended by intermediates.
 - This is a totally new event to Peace Arch - We based our Halloween dance on other school’s events/experiences to have an idea of what to do and what to expect. Some schools take 2 hours to sell out, South Meridian is currently at 60% sold as of this meeting. We heard you; people want to have a party.
 - Our tickets sold out in 2.5 days. Emails went out in advance of sales through our Hot Lunch site, and through Nicole @ the office. It was on our social media channels; paper notices went home through teachers, and we have posters on classroom windows. The

reality is that we must comply with the gym capacity & fire code, we cannot add more tickets. We will not be letting people in at the door without a ticket.

- Some parents were very upset at not being able to purchase tickets before we sold out. PAC received several emails from families ranging from anger, frustration, questions about how or why, and even some threatening or demanding messages. Overall inappropriate, and it was kind of embarrassing from a school perspective that people reacted that way. Overall feedback is that most families are excited and happy regardless and we're going to go on with the dance as planned.
- It created opportunity for us to learn and grow moving forward.
 - Can we do another day – that's asking the same people to do twice the work and we're all volunteers. There are not enough volunteers on the current day signed up for just one time slot so we can't do 2 without a lot more help.
 - Can we add another time slot on the same day - would also be a logistical issue to tell people their ticket was only valid for half the time. Then get everyone out of the gym and then new people in. Again, would need probably twice the volunteers. Additionally, if we made it primary and then intermediate - families with kids across primary and intermediate may have issues logistically with attending or volunteering
 - We started a waitlist. 28 names were on the waitlist, we've managed to get 10 people tickets so far off that list. A lot of families are working it out on their own with people deciding to have one parent attend and give the other ticket away. We may have more people decide last minute they can't attend and that would help allow us to make our way down that wait list.
 - Why make it be all ages at once vs aiming it at primary or intermediate – part logistics about families across ages and part not knowing who would even want to come. Primary students also typically require more interaction or supervision from their parent, and we get more volunteers from intermediate parents.
 - Is it a policy to not provide tickets to volunteers – That wouldn't change the number of people we're allowed to fit into the gym. The other problem is that if they don't show up for their volunteer shift, we can't take their ticket or add a person in their place without notice. At this point it's almost totally about numbers, we can't put any more people in the gym.
- How to get more parents signed up for Hot Lunch website so that Kindergarten kids who aren't getting hot lunch in round 1 can get emails from the PAC ASAP in September.
- Next year if we want to do it again, and someone wants to take it on and wants to tweak it to make it better then we're open to the help. We started planning in June and so we have a lot of notes about what we've learned so far, ideas that we've considered.
- PAC Events & activities so far: First day of school, Meet the Teacher night, World Teacher Day, held our first Donut Day for the year, Hot Lunch Round 1 underway.
- Upcoming before the Winter break: Boo Bash, Neufeld's fundraiser, Winter Raven, Gr 7 & 4 fundraising
- Raven spirit wear pushed to the new year.

Financial Report – Heather J

Refer to the appendix. A: 2024/25 Budget Report Oct 14/24 B: Fundraising Summary – October 15

C: Balance Sheet as of October 15 24

- Gaming Grant final amount came in higher than projected by about \$1000
- Term Deposit grew from interest accrued.

- Hot Lunch Round 1 we sold more than anticipated, numbers look higher now as we have not paid all the vendors for this round yet. After December we'll have the final net revenue for this round.
- First Tweekie Tuesday donut day was a little over \$1K in revenue.
- Boo Bash ticket sales funds haven't come into our accounts yet, we anticipate more funds brought in through concession as well. Primary goal of the event is building community; not intended as a large fundraiser.

Fundraising Updates

- **Hot Lunch – Stephanie G**
 - So far so good 2 weeks in. Monitors & Volunteers are awesome, no complaints, no issues. Great responses for the additional items this round. Changes to menus are typically at vendor discretion not our hot lunch leaders deciding to adjust the menus.
- **Grade 4 Fundraising – Karlie C & Stephanie G**
 - Grouse Mountain, day trip – Date TBD – Around \$50/student for admission and transportation plus additional funds needed for providing lunch on the day for the students.
 - Reach out to Nicole to find out how many students & how many busses will be needed for budgeting.
 - Gr 4 volunteers will run Hot Lunch Panago in November – one Tweekie Tuesday in Term 2 TBD – Snack Shack @ Winter Concert to raise funds.
- **Grade 7 Fundraising – Kristen F & Kirsten Y**
 - Gr 7 volunteers will run a Hot Lunch in term 2, and November tweekie Tuesday.
 - Use more of the funds raised this year to subsidize the cost of all the grade 7 field trips etc. instead of going overboard on the year end lunch/dance.
- **General PAC Fundraising – Shannon V**
 - Neufeld's – We're seeking a volunteer to run the admin & preparation side of the fundraiser this year. Many long-time PAC members are in their final year(s) at the school and will be happy to teach someone new the ropes. Email peacearchpac.info@gmail.com if you may be interested.
 - Tweekie Tuesdays will continue to run about once a month through the year.

PAC Events & Committee Updates

- **Boo Bash – Shannon V**
 - See above
- **Winter Raven – Jenn M & Exec**
 - During the school day, in the gym and outdoor courtyards around the school. Classes come out in groups during one of three sessions on the day to participate in games & activities, there's treats and popcorn and hot chocolate.
 - No cost to students, not raising funds. 100% free & fun times for all students.
 - Date TBD – Needs to be before the Winter Concert (Potential Dec 12)
 - Will need many parent volunteers & some donations. Details will be sent out after Halloween.
- **Garden Committee – Mme Workun & Mme Chalifour**
 - Teachers will organize opening ceremony to take place in Spring before spring break. Garden boxes are allocated to divisions for the year.
 - Indigenous support worker will be working with students and local Indigenous leaders to name the garden project.
 - Fundraiser – seed sale end of January possibly through Westcoast seeds.

- Grants/Bursaries from last year to pay back the loan from PAC last year to get the garden project started.
- **Spring Fling – Mikki K & Jenn M**
 - Ideas saved & vendors contacted for this year.
 - Save the date: April 25th
 - Slightly new format this year to lighten workload on volunteers and organizers. Replacing silent auction and raffle baskets with a 50/50.
 - Plan to book EMS student leaders ASAP for volunteers.
- **Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Update – Amber Y**
 - Membership Fee has been waived to make it free to join CPF this year! Plan to make a flyer to send out and encourage PAE parents to join CPF. You don't need to know any French, just support learning the language.
 - Events/Funding available to schools for French events through CPF.
 - CPF perhaps hosting French Movie night @ a school but open to all FRIM students/ free entry w/concession to raise funds.
 - CPF hosts a camp each summer, would love for more Peace Arch families to join this year.
 - CPF Website has resources for teachers, youth and parents. Printables etc would love to share with our school community – perhaps include some in our PAC newsletter each month.

New Business / Q&A

- **From Previous Meeting**
 - **Emergency Preparedness** – Who does the bin out back belong to? **We've gone back 18 years and can't find evidence to support that it belongs to the PAC.**
 - **Sensory Pathway** – Did the staff decide if we're going to install it indoors? **Mr Linklater & Mme Wilson with students will lay it out on the gym floor this week and plan where to install the pieces. Hopefully the district can install over holiday break.**
 - **School Musical** – Did we find out if Al Pitchler is available? Are the Teachers on board with 2024/25 school musical? **Mixed response from the teachers about the disruption caused by rehearsal schedule. Find out if Mr. Pitchler is even available before any further serious discussion.**
 - **If Mrs. Blackman wants to jazz up the Winter Concert this year she is encouraged to reach out to PAC as we have funds to support.**
 - **Anything parents can do to vocalize to the district to ensure we don't lose our division or lose our teacher and/or get them back** – Meeting with teachers this week to work out the numbers and plan for next year. Work with district planning staff to ensure we're not setting ourselves up for failure. Potential for a 3rd Kindergarten class in FRIM but then might not have space if the English side changes and then need a classroom we may end up with a class in the library or gym.
 - **Any update on the new portable** – We would love to use it after the fire suppression system is installed per city of White Rock requirements – needs a trench dug from the gym to the portable so plumbing can be installed by the school district. Still hoping to have this completed by end of calendar year
- **Did we hear from the City about the warming center location** – What it came down to was 3 spots that could be used: Centennial park, outside City Hall or the Police Station. Sources also went to council and said they could use their facilities perhaps for daytime warming center. No decision was reached, will have to find out more after the next council meeting.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Steph G - Second: Amber Y - Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Next PAC meeting Tuesday November 19 2024 - School Library - 6:30pm