

Walnut Road Elementary School
PAC meeting minutes
October 8, 2014

Start time 7:00PM

1. Welcome Back!

Introduction of new executive members:

Chair: Marsha Pike

Vice chair: Aric Chu

Secretary: Irene Yan

2. Principal's / Vice Principal's Report

- There are 630 kids this year in 26 divisions, one division down compared with last school year. Five new teachers are hired this year.
- Thanks to the fundraising by the PAC, we purchased 100 chairs and two trolleys.
- The highlights is the school musical. Mr. Al Pichler is hired to direct the musical, assisted by the music teacher. Auditions start October into November, and the practice will start on March 23. The performance will be on April 22-23 by children from kindergarten to Grade 7, with 2 complete casts.
- More parents are needed to sit in the School District Planning Council.
- Friday (October 10) afternoon will be Terry Fox Run, and thanks to parents for donation of oranges. Parent volunteers are needed to cut oranges as well as to act as road marshals.

3. Treasurer's Report (Bob Gill)

- We have a deposit of \$13,040 from the provincial government which goes to the gaming account. The gaming account has \$42,692.14 and the organization account has \$28,773.65.
- Bob will focus on draining the gaming account to benefit the kids and to ensure those funds are used in three years. It is applied every three years. \$15,000 – 20,000 will be spent on technology.
- Receipts can be sent through email to Bob to get reimbursed.

4. Committee news:

- Hot Lunch program (Mike)
Parent volunteers are needed for the hot lunch days. Please send email to wrpac@hotmail.com so that arrangement can be made ahead of time.
- Family photo night (Kelly)
The event will be next Wednesday evening. 2 – 3 volunteers are needed for this event to give directions for the big crowd and to help check off names on the list.
- Earthquake preparedness: Mike L offered his services to assist VP Ms. Cutway with the Earthquake committee, more volunteers are needed.
- Spring Fundraiser: Family Fun/Carnival night, will be held in May, date TBA. Bobbi and Kelly W will lead the committee, a sign up sheet was passed around. Everyone is welcome, lots of help is needed. Please email wynhoven@shaw.ca if you are able to volunteer.

5. Current & Upcoming events

Frost Road PAC – seminar for parents/children

Terry Small, “the Brain Guy” presents “How to Get Better Grades” on Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Principal Ms. Stacey said the speaker is very engaging and very reputable.

6. Safety issues (Ms. Stacey)

- Road safety situation around the school has improved a lot in the past 2 – 3 years, however, there is still room for improvement. We still find people speeding on the road during school hours and making U-turns in front of the school on 82nd Avenue, which are against law and create dangerous situations for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

We are trying to get more attention from the public, and there will be a campaign with RCMP and other organizations named “Think of me”. Any suggestions to improve the safety and protect our kids are most welcome.

- Arson happened on September 11, and we were fortunate that the damage was not very big, but still it’s a great warning to us. To keep our facilities safe from harm, all entrances and exits to the school grounds are locked on weekends and holidays, and all fences or gates that could possibly provide access to the roof will be removed and/or replaced. Security guards are hired to patrol the school ground during the Halloween Friday night. Aric suggested a camera system be installed to monitor the school but this can only be decided by the school district.
- One parent asked how many children go to school without breakfast. Ms. Stacey answered that she was concerned that there is any kid going to school without breakfast at all. We have a compassion fund of only \$500 so we can get some food for children without breakfast, however, if we find out that any kid go hungry on a regular basis, some other actions have to be taken.

7. Curriculum transformation (Ms. Stacey)

The curriculum transformation by the Ministry of Education is underway, which is a big shift of curriculum and assessment of the past. The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. The curriculum is grade specific and subject specific. It will be the center of teachers’ professional development in the next 2 – 3 years, and it will be great that parents can come along. For more details, parents can visit : <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Meeting end time: 8:10pm

Next Meeting: 7:00pm, Wednesday November 19th