

École Peace Arch Elementary PAC | Sept 20, 2016 | Meeting MINUTES

6:30 pm | Peace Arch Elementary Library | Email: peacearchpacnews@gmail.com | Website: peacearch.hotlunches.net

President	Erin Harvie	16 Attendees
Vice-President	Elizabeth McCrank (absent)	Erin Harvie, Laura Creech, Deb Thorvaldson, Fiona Eckert, Kristen Fryer, Arin Bird, Fiona Kehler, Maria Ramsey, Rowland Wallenius, Alynne Penner, Larae Ravenstein, Simmie Rai, Mary Quintana, Tamsin Lehn, Shelley David, Marija Petkova.
Treasurer	Laura Creech	
Secretary	Kristen Fryer	

- Welcome to first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting of 2016/2017 school year by Erin H.
- **PAC meetings will alternate this year: Tuesday/Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm in school library.**
 - Meetings: Wed. Oct 19th, Tues. Nov 15th, Wed. Jan 18th, Tues. Feb 21st, Wed. Apr 19th, Tues. May 16th.
- ALL parents and guardians of Peace Arch students are welcome, and are voting members of the PAC.
- **PAC Website: peacearch.hotlunches.net. This is not just for hot lunch!** If you have a child at Peace Arch, please register for this website to stay up to date with our school community.

Admin Report ~ Deb T.

- Warm welcome to Peace Arch's **new Vice-Principal, Fiona Eckert**; off to a great start.
- The school has enthusiastically launched right into the musical production of **Oliver!**, directed by Al Pitchler.
 - Grades 1-7 participating; two entire casts; there will be a "prequel" scene with a French component.
 - **Wed., Sept. 28th, 3:00pm: meeting for parents who are interested in helping with production**
 - "Shaw On Demand" currently has *Oliver!* (the musical) and *Oliver Twist* showing for free.
- The **school mural** should start this week, & be completed in time for *Oliver!* On wall to the left of the gym doors.
- Cross-country and soccer are underway. Go Ravens!
- Wed. Sept. 28th: Cops for Cancer will be visiting the school. Terry Fox donations are divided between 'Cops for Cancer' and the Terry Fox Foundation. Terry Fox Run is Friday, Sept. 30th.
- In June the school will celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary along with celebrations for Aboriginal Day.
- Great enthusiasm from the staff for the school's **Learning Commons** construction, planned for this year.
 - What is a Learning Commons? From <http://aslc.ca/blog/what-is-a-learning-commons-anyway>:
 - "A learning "space" that is both physical & virtual – a place to experiment, practice, celebrate, learn, work & play..." How is it different from the traditional school library? "Traditional school libraries are seen as quiet places full of printed books, people reading and librarians 'shushing'. A Learning Commons takes school libraries into the 21st century. Yes, we still have printed text, and there are still people reading, and there is still a librarian... There is a hum of activity with students talking, learning, searching for information on a variety of devices, focusing on content creation and synthesizing of information. The Learning Commons becomes the hub and the heart of the school; a place to collaborate to build inquiry learning and critical thinking skills in students; a place for technology integration and experimentation; a place that is 'owned' by students and staff alike."
- Administration's doors are open; happy to work with parents and our school community.

Vice-Principal ~ Fiona E.

- Has had a nice warm welcome from the staff and parent community; she taught at Peace Arch about 10 yrs ago.
- **Traffic safety** is an area of concern at our school.
 - Seeking parents able to assist with supervision of crosswalk; Deb will pursue getting a crossing guard.

Treasurer's Report ~ Laura C.

- **Last school year (2015/16) PAC raised just over \$47,000.** The BC Gaming Grant generates approx. \$10k/year, and can be spent only on extra-curricular expenses.
- Chess club starting up again after *Oliver!*; Ms. Walsh to be the teacher sponsor, and Laura C. the parent sponsor.
- A teacher has requested funds for a **5-week yoga program** (once/week) for the entire school.
 - Discussion about the \$6,000 cost of the program; perhaps only for intermediate? Staff to discuss.
- Detailed report on last year's actuals, along with projected expenditures for this year.
- New sports jerseys needed for Grade 6 & 7 teams. Laura C. to investigate further.

- Projected Operating budget = \$21,125. Projected Gaming budget = \$15,500. Projected Capital Expenditures budget =
 - i) \$10k for Learning Commons
 - ii) \$3k for yoga (with possible future discussion to fund an additional \$3k if requested – would require approval by PAC vote)
 - iii) a \$30k set-aside this year for savings towards a new school playground (savings required over 3-4 years). Discussion that this set-aside would only occur provided the Cheque Writing Campaign raises sufficient funds to cover the rest of the approved budget items.
- **New playground structure:** the yellow metal/wooden playground structure is on its last legs; need to investigate cost of replacement, & possibility of grants from City of White Rock and private community groups like Rotary.
 - **Seeking parents interested in taking on this project, preferably Kindergarten or Gr. 1 parent.**
 - Will do better job of advertising our next PAC meeting to Kindergarten parents, and have further discussion on creating a committee for the Playground.
 - Discussion about how to highlight items other than the playground in our Cheque-Writing Campaign for fundraising; it's a long-term goal, and will take 3-4 years to fully fund.
 - Important to point out to parents how our fundraising is helping ALL groups of students at the school: primary, intermediate, English, French, sports, arts, etc.
- Emergency Preparedness: some new equipment will be needed this year, and next year we'll need to increase the budget to begin replacement of emergency food rations.
- Noral E. would like to ask a staff member at the school to organize students to water and care for the planters in the courtyard outside the office. Leadership club?
- **MOTION: to accept the Proposed PAC Budget for 2016/17.** Moved by Laura C. Seconded by Fiona K. All in favour, no one opposed. Motion passed.
- Discussion about Cheque-Writing Campaign. Laura C. and Shelley D. to investigate adding new website re. CWC fundraising; or perhaps adding option on Hot Lunch order to make a donation (no tax receipt would be available if donating directly to PAC though).

Other Business ~ Erin H.

- Rowland W. – **District PAC (DPAC) Report:** last year we pushed for more capital funding for Surrey School District with letter-writing & phone campaign. Our PAC supports keeping this momentum going, especially for the new high school in South Surrey.
- Julie R. – proposes purchasing school-owned **Band books** for next school year; music books that belong to the school and are signed out by band students each year. Approx cost is \$15 each; suggestion for parents to donate their child's old band books back to the school.
- **Grade 7 Fundraising:** done by Grade 7 students and parents; the Grade 7 Farewell Ceremony is paid for by PAC; Gr.7's do movie nights, popcorn, candygrams, doughnuts, freezies, etc. to raise money for camp and year-end outings; request from PAC for the Grade 7 fundraising coordinators to please stay in touch with PAC.
- Tamsin L. – **CPF (Canadian Parents for French):** Cougar Creek French Immersion is newly opened, and its library is in need of **primary French books**. There will be a yellow box available in our library for donations.
- Admin will look into the possibility of our PAC starting a Facebook group to keep our parent community engaged and informed. Maria R. volunteers to administer the group if given green light.

We need parent volunteers for the following positions! Please email if interested:

Erin: peacearchpacnews@gmail.com or **Shelley:** peacearchhotlunch@gmail.com.

- Hot Lunch Coordinator: **Shelley D. is looking to train replacement or share position.**
- PAC/Hot Lunch Website Administrator: **Shelley D. is looking to train replacement or share position.**
- PAC Hot Lunch Volunteer Coordinator: (vacant)
- Spring Fling coordinator: (vacant)

Meeting adjourned 8:03pm.

Next PAC meeting is Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Library.