

Trafalgar PAC Minutes

16 February 2016

Attendees: Karen Sadler, Gord Lau, Alison Scarlett, Nora Harmsworth, Jessie Chen, Annie Yang and Judy Zhu, Megan Jenkins, Chen Cai, Shaleena Jeraj, Jacquie Lavoie, Sarah Kramer, Ruby Wong, called in: Lorie Srivastava

PRESENTATIONS

Dave Deepak – Principal of Prince of Wales for the past six months

Spoke very highly of his PW as a strong academic school, like a private school within the public school system. He said that PW offers its students an excellent education and many opportunities to join clubs and athletic teams. He said that discipline problems and bullying are at a minimum. He offered an open invitation for prospective parents to visit the school. He said that this year there is 450 applicants for 30 mini-school positions, and that for the whole school, there are only 22 positions for out of district students.

Several teachers are applying for Trafalgar to be a part of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network. Teachers Laure Larpent, Amy Grainger and Aimee Pollard are leading this initiative. There are 10,000 ASPN schools in more than 181 countries, but only 70 UNESCO schools across Canada and only one in British Columbia so far.

UNESCO schools have the overall goal of promoting peace and international understanding and developing sound practices for promotion of UNESCO values inside and outside of the school. Children benefit from the different connections made around the world. They also benefit from the school's emphasis on UNESCO's pillars of learning: learning to know to better comprehend the world, learning to do to be able to participate in the global economy and society, learning to be to fully function in a democratic society and to live in peace and harmony.

A UNESCO candidate school can apply for membership any time from two years after application. The teachers believe that Trafalgar already meets many of the UNESCO criteria already, as Trafalgar already has an International Dinner and a Lunar New Year event, etc. Nevertheless, a few new initiatives may need to be implemented, like observing UNESCO spirit days.

MEETING

1. Approval of January minutes

Motion – Karen

Seconded – Megan

2. Treasurer's Report

As of 4 February 2016, PAC's Community Chequing account at BMO (Arbutus branch) has \$29,798.80, though not all transactions are reflected due to us not having yet received the latest bank statement; so this balance has not yet been reconciled.

The PAC's Gaming Grant account, also at BMO, has \$213.16

In November, the PAC voted to allocate \$11,500 from the Gaming account towards the playground. The funds have been transferred, though it is not yet reflected in the latest bank statement.

The largest expense that was paid in January was the playground, as specified under "Special Projects" on the financial statement. The PAC budgeted \$159,135.10 to the playground, and sent a cheque for \$154,118 to the VSB.

An informal check with the bank reveals that we have \$84,463.57 in the regular Community chequing account right now. Lorie will confirm the balance once we have received the latest bank statements. The PAC is in much better shape than anticipated even after payment for the playground has been made. The PAC still needs to set aside \$10,000 for PAC business next school year, and should set aside monies in a GIC for large future capital projects such as the playground.

If all obligations have been met, then the PAC would like to ask for a priority list from the Administration as to what they would like the PAC to fund – example, more for the library, technology, etc.

Motion to accept financial statement as presented:

Motion – Megan

Seconded – Karen

Motion to add Jacqueline Lavoie to the Grade 7 French Immersion account and the Graduation account, both at Van City on Dunbar

Motion – Shaleena

Seconded – Megan

Motion to remove Adele Tremblay from the Grade 7 French Immersion account and the Graduation account

Motion – Gord Lau

Seconded – Jessie Chen

Motion to increase the Spring Festival from budget from \$1,000 to \$1,650. A greater budget than last year is required because the PAC will be selling food (instead of calling in food trucks) and the PAC is paying not only for lion dances at the Friday

event, but also at the Thursday assembly.

Motion – Gord Lau

Seconded – Jessie Chen

3. Report from Admin

An ideas fair on the new strategic plan will take place on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Prince of Wales school.

A revised Trafalgar School Tech Policy has been formulated by a school committee that includes students. The new policy will be presented at the Pink Day assembly. Cell phones will not be used at lunch or recess without permission. If a student uses a cell phone without authorisation, it will be confiscated. For the first offence, the student can retrieve it him/herself. On second and subsequent offences, the parent must sign for it.

The Spring Festival assembly is taking place on Thursday, 18 February at 9:15 a.m.

The Spring Festival PAC event is taking place on Friday 19 February at 5:00 p.m.

Hall monitors have been effective at keeping kids outside at recess and lunch

Shaleena asked the Principal if it was possible for the children to stay inside on rainy days.

Answer: Library is open from 8:30 in the morning

There is not enough space and supervision in the school and the activity room is busy. Reverse lunches in which kids play and then eat might be considered.

The principal would be happy to have lunch hour clubs and Karen suggested that a lunchtime club sub-committee could be formed.

A short term Behaviour Support Worker will discuss zones of regulations. She may be available to speak at PAC meeting so that there will be a common language throughout school and home

Playground – A thank you letter will go to parents regarding their contributions to the playground. It will also ask for volunteers to construct the playground on Saturday and Sunday April 2 and 3. The work requires at least 20 strong parents, otherwise the PAC will need to pay \$10,000 to a company for the construction. The space net will come afterwards.

The playground celebration will take place in May or June.

Bronwyn will post pictures of the playground in the main hall.

There are some concerns with Hot Lunch/food delivery: one teacher observed a lot of waste for the first spaghetti and meatball meal, also too many extra containers

and aluminium foil tins in the waste bins.

Hot Dogs – some teachers feel it is too much to have hot dog days every week due to the large queue that forms in the hallway. Since the gym is used for PE until 12:10, the children can't enter the gym any earlier. Moreover, hot dogs are messy; example, ketchup gets down the halls. Some teachers suggested that kindergarten hotdogs should be delivered. Another suggestion was that the hotdogs could be distributed in the undercover area.

Grade 4 French Immersion classes are raising money for their Camp Jubilee trip, and will be selling blank notebooks for their fundraiser.

Aaron Gliders is tasked with Traffic safety. Tanya who has a child in Grade 4 has been lobbying for a light at the pedestrian cross walk near Choices on 16th Avenue. Once installed, crossing the street will be much safer.

The talent show will take place over two days with the performers performing twice so that kids can see the performances in smaller assemblies.