

Hillcrest Elementary School - PAC Meeting Minutes

Monday September 25, 2023

Parents in Attendance: Kayla Vannieuwenhuizen (president), Caitlin Newton (treasurer), Kristy Cruikshank, Jenny Kucy (DPAC), Savannah Edis,

Staff in Attendance: Allie Tyssen, Jodi Garries

Guest:

Meeting called to order: 7:32 pm

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded traditional territory of the Secwépemc People of the Shuswap Nation

1. Review of Minutes

Kristy Cruikshank made motion to adopt the May 2023 minutes; Caitlyn Newton seconded. All in favour – minutes accepted

2. Message from the Principal: Jodi Garries:

- Welcomed DPAC members, welcoming back parents and PAC
- 302 students enrolled in the 14 divisions
- Staff this year mostly the same - some updates are:
 - Grade 5 new partner for Allie Tyssen is Erin Sudbury
 - Two new music teachers (insert names)
 - Two more CEA's to be hired – postings are out
 - ECE this year is new and works in Kindy classrooms – shared role with Bastion (insert name)
- School fees due, many parents have paid, most by e-transfer – lots of options if parents are struggling to pay – can get in touch with Jodi if extra help needed
- Terry Fox run Sept 26th at 1:15pm – donations can be made via school or link
- Parent Connect forms are coming in nicely – electronic method is more efficient way to get these done
- Photo day Thursday, School spirit wear due this week
- Truth and Reconciliation Day coming up
- Apple fundraiser and cultural performances at the end of the month, families and younger siblings are welcome
- Retakes for photos for end of Oct, Remembrance Day mention for Nov

3. District Update – Marianne VanBuskirk:

- Truth and Reconciliation coming on Monday. Will be here Friday for the flag raising.
- General overview of her role, family, history in the school district.
- Welcomed anyone to contact her via email and cell phone
- Check website for policies and governance that come to the board
- Back to referring so won't be able to attend as many PAC meetings this year.
- Looking at summary report and student progress from last year at tomorrow's board meeting

- Discussion of the tumultuous Shuswap summer, several staff without homes, thankful that North Shuswap Elementary school is still there and students were able to come back last week
- The Sept 20th gathering was a slight disruption, gathering of people that walked to the school district office. Approximately 180-200 protesters. Superintendent Kriger stayed to discuss, the goal to make sure all students and all staff feel safe in the district.

4. **Teacher update – Allie Tyssen:**

- Thanks to the PAC for food on first day of school, coffee and treats, pizza on open house night, and the breakfast program is amazing,
- Friday is orange shirt day and raising Swecepmec flag on that day as well – tying the two together – Dodi Jones is coming to sing, drum and land acknowledgment.
- Lachlan from the Observer will take photo from the roof.

5. **DPAC – Christie Wright, Jenny Kucy (sp?):**

- Christie Wright – vice for DPAC in attendance.
- Overview of BCC PAC initiatives like menstrual products in washrooms, funding for playgrounds, rules around gaming grants – looking for consistencies across the province.
- Food equity: active PACs have great food programs to help even out food inequity which is a current concern.
- Trying to keep track on H&S issues, water stations, talking about parent survey's sent around about what PAC's do.
- Jenny Kucy talking about opportunity to connect and be open with parents at DPAC and have general discussions and then start official meeting after.
- General discussion covers workings of the DPAC and how it services parents, Anybody is welcome to attend meetings. Next meeting Thurs Oct 12th, formal meeting starts at 7pm (social beforehand starts at 6:30) – there will be prizes! Can find link on website. Looking for new people to join!
- DPAC Rep possibilities – Celeste Hayward volunteered to be representative for Hillcrest PAC. She would like to also bring a more indigenous representation. Emily Slaus seconded.

6. **PAC Business:**

- 2023/2024 Board: Kayla V. is now PAC President, Holly is PAC VP, Caitlyn Newton PAC Treasurer, Fiona McCallum PAC Secretary
- Caitlyn offers review and approval of 23/24 budget:
- Applied for and got 1K community grant from Walmart
- Savanah made motion to adopt the 2023/2024 budget; Celeste seconded.
- Serena (Food Action Society) - Mary will be taking over school food role as Serena steps into another role
 - Feeding Futures - money from gov't to help fund school food; this will bulk up the money received for the breakfast program (based on survey from last year showing that grocery shopping was a big burden on funds). Caitlin

- wondered if we would still use breakfast program support (grant program) – yes, we will. This will boost the program as we have run out of money in past.
- Last year soup was a PAC hot lunch. Soup program is free this year. If continuing with free soup day realistic that we need 4-5 parents to serve and deliver the soup to students in a timely manner. Discussion on best way to deliver lunch and have grade 5 leadership initiatives. Discussion on composting issues with the soup – how can this be managed – teachers feel it is very messy at the classroom level.
 - This year there is an option to offer a universal whole school program at a cost of \$5.00/student. Hesitation from PAC and volunteers that it will be overwhelming to service that many kids at once. Morgen Smith asked after other options; Serena / Mary had an idea to use multi-culturalism, food from another culture and cooked at the school. Kayla asked who would help (students could be an option but not full class at once).
 - Kids could choose whether or not to participate in either of these programs.
- Breakfast program:
 - 354 breakfasts served in one-month last year. Kirsten Randhawa send letter to discuss how the program will run and what the menu will be this year (same as last). So far it seems there are enough volunteers.
 - Hot Lunch program:
 - Discussion of how program runs, Kristy's last year, talk about Food for Funds and how to delicately deal with students at need and how parents can be made aware that orders for their kids can be covered.
 - Give teachers a master list each hot lunch of which kids are entered into the system in their division and they can keep an eye out as to who could be a part of the program.
 - Some discussion about having hot lunch free for whole school and having 'option payment' to help offset costs – potentially a future option?
 - Jodi may consider putting something into an email and mention that both the school and the PAC can offer support – mention the Funds to Food option for those that may want to donate
 - Hot Lunch shadow? Savannah may consider it.
 - Fundraising:
 - Apples wrap up on Oct 4th – 32 boxes sold to date – need 80 to put an order in, push to make this happen.
 - Purdy's – Jo Hamilton will manage this again and get things nailed down this week
 - Pointsetta's are also in the works, more info to follow.
 - Mabels Labels – signing up this year, very easy and straightforward. Available for one year
 - New suggestion for West Coast Seeds – concern about time of year as fundraiser would have to be run after the holiday season (for early planting), tabled for now (have to be accepted as a PAC in order to have the option to run)
 - Fountain Tire – mention Hillcrest when services done and money will be put towards your school – Hillcrest receive approx. 1K from them last year.

Donated 3500 last year to schools in the district (doubled amount from last year).

- Halloween Dance – would like to try this year (evening Friday Oct 27th, 6-8:30ish, mini concession, fun community evening), parent participation required, with the school's permission. Going to provide more logistics so that staff can weigh in on the idea. Suggested to have parents pre-register so that PAC has an idea of numbers.
- Holiday shopping event for students: would involve school putting out request for gently used items to be donated along with wrapping paper. School would be transformed into shopping mall and for 0.25 or by donation kids could pick out one gift for a person that is special to them. Could be a big learning curve but be a community event and eliminate barriers and allow kids to feel that they bought a gift. PAC has asked Jodi to run this idea by the staff and get their feedback – will do this at next Staff meeting which is Oct 10th.

7. Long-term Fundraising Goals:

Jodi – teacher wish list:

- Standing annual items: field trip funds per division, principals discretion fund, general funds for each division, lrt, music, librarians (\$100/ea) could use discretionary money. Swim, gymnastics or dance, grade 5 farewell and traditions – so that parents only have to pay \$25/max per students.
- New wish list: extra money for library books 1K – for specific topics. Guided reading books – 1K. New FM systems – 2.3K per system, ideally 2 needed. PE outdoor equipment \$600. Screen projector and sound system in the gym – long term project and does PAC want to be a part of this – no idea on cost as yet.

8. Other:

- Staying with Monday's at 7:30 for PAC monthly meeting.
- Allie Tyssen considered a Zoom link for parents to log in to PAC meeting. Something to consider.

9:26 meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – October 28th (back to Mondays)