

North Saanich Middle School Parents Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting



MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2012

7:00 P.M.

NSMS SCHOOL LIBRARY

ADMINISTRATION	Kal Russell , Principal	
PAC EXECUTIVE	Kelly Glover , President	Rebekah Hunter , Vice President
	Christine Bennett , Treasurer	Kerri Tuggle , Secretary
	Jen Langard , COPACS Rep	
PARENTS	Andrew Bowler	Robert Downey
	Sheri Love-Yasue	Nancy Noel

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION

Minutes from the September 11, 2012 meeting were adopted.

M/S/C – Christine Bennett / Kelly Glover

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHRISTINE BENNETT

DISCUSSION

Account Balances

- **General** **\$13,496.80**
- **Gaming** **\$14,546.31**

It was noted that the PAC has received additional gaming funds since the last PAC meeting. Gaming funds are received through a grant given by the British Columbia Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch in which all public and independent school parent advisory councils (PACs) are eligible to receive \$20 per student annually.

Teacher Requests for PAC Funding

The PAC has received a few funding request forms from teachers which were discussed and voted on.

Teacher	Requested Item/Purpose	Amount	PAC Decision
Mrs. Paquette	Guest Speaker Mark Hancock – Funding requested to bring in a guest speaker to come speak with grade eight students. The costs include return transportation via the Clipper and a \$130 honorarium. Mr. Hancock would present Lesson Plan - a powerful touchstone for understanding how easily group dynamics can be transformed into group control.	\$250.00	M/S/C A. Bowler / N. Noel

Mrs. Paquette	Dodgeballs - Grade 8 Leadership Group ~ Playground Pals – This group would like to purchase a package of 6 orange, fuzzy dodgeballs. Dodgeball is a very popular sport and these balls would for outdoor use.	\$157.95	M/S/C C. Bennett / A. Bowler
Mrs. McDonnell / Mrs. Paquette	Youth in Action – Funding requested to help this group work towards their initiative of partnering with other schools to adopt a school in Kenya. These funds would pay for office supplies, t-shirts, stickers for Vow of Silence day, Smencil sales, "1000 X 5" Children's Book Recycling Project, Think Pink event, 5 days for Freedom, Hunger for Humanity and other miscellaneous expenses.	\$955.00	M/S/C C. Bennett / R. Downey

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

KAL RUSSELL

DISCUSSION

Upcoming Events

- **October 18** – BC Shakeout Drill – province-wide earthquake drill. It was addressed that PAC has budgeted \$500 to help equip/stock the earthquake container. Christine stated that there are a few parents that have expressed interest in helping with earthquake supplies. These names will be compiled and then we can move forward on obtaining new earthquake supplies.
- **October 24** – Parent Involvement Meeting with Dr. Kevin Elder
- **October 29** – Percussion performance for students
- **October 31** – Halloween – will organize some sort of costume/activities/fun
- **Triathlon** – Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Timmermans are working together to start organizing this year's event
- **November 8** – Remembrance Day presentation

Evaluating School Needs – Math and Reading

School admin staff have been looking at determining and assessing some of the school needs and it was discussed that making math work is a priority. The second priority is working on reading support as there is small percentage of students in this school that really struggle with their reading. They are looking at developing a way of supporting these children in various ways. One of their big pushes is to not pull kids out of their classes too much, to make the extra support be in small groups and very fluid. They will be asking for support from SD#63 Literacy Instructional Support Teacher Diana Wiseman to help develop this program so that it is successful.

COPACS REPORT

JEN LANGARD

DISCUSSION

Jen provided a briefing of issues that were discussed at the last COPACS meeting:

Parent Education Coordinator

The COPACS group has appointed a Parent Education Coordinator who distributed a sheet to each of the schools to get an idea of what type of parent education topics the various schools would like to see made available this year. Jen circulated this sheet around to everyone at the meeting to mark down various education topics of interest. It was noted that this would be a great opportunity to address grade 5/6 transition anxiety.

Bussing Concerns

One of the parents at the COPACS meeting addressed concerns with children with special needs / physical disabilities riding on different busses to school and issues that have arisen from this (late for school, early dismissal, etc). The end result of the discussion was that they were going to make an inquiry with the School District.

ERASE Bullying

School District #63 has been busy with the implementation of the ERASE (Effect Respect And a Safe Education) program. ERASE is a government initiative to reduce bullying and manage any potential threats in schools. SD#63 is

now undergoing bullying and threat assessments. There will be a 5-year training program for staff in order to establish a safe school culture. Online bullying reporting tools and stronger codes of conduct are also in the works. One of the non-instructional days will revolve around the anti-bullying program.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REBEKAH HUNTER

DISCUSSION

PAC Executive Positions

Rebekah addressed that the PAC Executive is still looking for a PAC President. Kelly Glover volunteered for this position and was warmly welcomed. Kelly was voted in by acclamation.

M/S/C – Christine Bennett / Rebekah Hunter

Fundraising Ideas / Update

Fundraising ideas were discussed:

- **Marigold Nurseries** – This fundraiser most likely will run in the Spring – possibly May
- **Fish Fundraiser** – Karen Booth has corresponded with the PAC Executive and is interested in running a fish fundraiser. Christine Bennett will liaise with Karen and obtain further information.
- **Night Before Late Night Shopping** – It was discussed that this is an easy fundraiser for the PAC to undertake as it simply involves selling tickets for the Hillside Mall *Night Before Late Night* shopping event. Jen Langard volunteered to look after this.
- **The Archers Band** – It was suggested that having The Archers play an event would be a popular fundraising event that could possibly interest not only the school population but also members of the community.

Global Friendships

It was discussed that NSMS hosts Japanese students every March. A parent helper usually coordinates phoning NSMS families regarding the possibility of being a host family. Christine stated that there are a few parents that have expressed interest on the parent volunteer forms. Sheri Love-Yasue volunteered to help work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Grade 5 Transition

It was addressed that some of the new grade six students are still experiencing anxiety over the transition into middle school. It was suggested that maybe the school or the PAC could do more for future grade fives to help ease the transition. Mr. Russell stated that he is working with a group called FRIENDS which is a program that works with children and anxiety.

Split Classes

Questions were answered regarding the rationale for split classes. Mr. Russell answered these questions and discussed that it creates diversity in learning and that there is extensive research supporting that this is a very successful method of teaching. Deep Cove Elementary is hosting an information evening on multi-age classes (split classes) on Wednesday, October 17 at 8pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.