

Hudson Elementary PAC Meeting minutes

22 June 2016. Called to order 6:08 pm.

1. Minutes from May 18th approved: Jerry/Marina B

2. PAC Chair report. Fantastic year with lots of new things. Lots of learning processes this year and will be easier next year and even more new activities. By Term 3 we had 24 activities! Next year we would like to have days to celebrate multicultural events, e.g., Cinco de Mayo, winter solstice. Spring fair was a big success and made a small profit. Kids had a great time.
 - a. Retroactively vote to approve the fair; it had been discussed but not formally approved. Motion carried.
 - b. iRide program was a big success. First year is free, next year \$750, 3rd year \$1500. Motion to approve \$750 out of this year's budget, \$750 next year, and \$750 following year. Couldn't reach every kid in every class, but we would like to continue program and try to make sure kids who haven't had the chance to do it yet will be able to. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer report. Rob presented spreadsheet of current budget (2015-16) vs actual. Note that hot lunch is the anchor fundraiser for the PAC. At the very last minute, munchalunch closes the accounts and we will move the money and close out the year; there might be a bit more income and there will be more expenses to come, so that will probably be down a bit. Spring fair was intended to be revenue neutral, replacing year-end BBQ, and the income from it hasn't hit the treasury yet.

4. New budget:
 - a. Predict carry forward of \$15,000 from this year to next year. Reduced expectations for hot lunch, and increased expectations for direct donation. Population this year was 380 kids or so (as of Sept 30), and gaming grant usually \$20 per kid. Still focusing on not having "fundraisers" per se.
 - i. Ian would like classroom fundraisers of bake sales, popsicles etc come to an end. Also it confuses parents who think these are PAC events, why are we sending loonies and toonies to school, etc.
 - b. New budget expenses: we've broken items into four main categories and "other". Teachers provided us a wish list and we went through and back and forth with principal.
 - i. Education enhancement: things that help education process.
 1. Some novel sets are very old and need replenishing.
 2. Handwriting without tears helps a lot of students with printing & fine motor skills
 3. Classroom materials \$100 per class, plus \$100 from flex fund from school board per class. School purchasing can make our dollars go far.
 4. Document cameras are teaching tool. Mme Tso explained how useful they are. (Between school and PAC we have Epson projectors in every classroom.)

5. Class materials for resource teachers; they need special resource books and equipment for kids.
 6. Class set of laptops. We acquired one set last year, and want another set. Have to work through VSB to procure them. John has worked with technology teachers and decided what will work best. Set of Dells for \$300 each, plus a cart. Goal to have one set on each floor. School already has a set of iPads. There is always a waitlist for the class set of laptops.
- ii. Enrichment: adding to the education
 1. Guitars would be new. Drumming experience was terrific, and more music the better. Teachers exciting about guitars, $\frac{3}{4}$ size, to be taught by Mme Perella. We've lost band for next year due to budget cuts.
 2. Field trip funds. That has gone down a bit due to other priorities.
 - iii. Activities: fun, school-wide activities
 1. School team support: buses, juices & snacks, jerseys.
 2. Used to budget for Carnival but we can get federal government money for French festivals, which will cover Carnival. Jump rope for heart we also get outside funds to support.
 3. Sports day increased budget to provide 380 smoothies from booster juice or similar.
 4. iBike; see 2.b above
 - iv. Other: everything else!
 1. Drying racks; put paintings etc there to dry. Used by most primary kids.
 2. Student subsidies. Activities offered by community schools team (CST) cover kids who cannot pay full fee. For PAC programs, we offer the same for financial assistance for our programs. Also we make agreements with instructors to offer some spots at reduced fee.
 3. PAC meeting catering and babysitting will come down if we reduce the number of meetings next year.
 4. Pay it forward fund currently has \$1500. Putting aside funds for French immersion exchange or other trip that needs financial assistance from PAC. Currently suggesting putting 10% of direct donation for next year into this fund.
 - v. Less carry forward this year. Previous budgets have been very conservative due to uncertainty regarding hot lunch revenue, but now it is more stable.
- c. Budget Discussion.
- i. We didn't fulfill everything from teacher's wish list, e.g., library funds can come from school and scholastic fairs so we left them out. Laptops for resource teachers, decided to focus on tech for students. School wide events and fairs is a new item, so we can come together in the fall and choose some things to celebrate. In the future we will have more kids in grad events; do we need to make this a price per head? School population for next few years is larger; we've reached the end of small grade 6 & 7 classes. We will soon reach 400 or 405 kids maximum. Some in-catchment kids are being placed at Shaugnessy which is quite far away.

- ii. Question: grad events. Did they also fundraise for these? No, some kids did it themselves. Some years they do fundraise a bit.
 - iii. Proposal: Some parents would like to see outdoor school overnight trips. These would be teacher-led activities. Grade 6/7 teachers for next year looking for an outdoor school camp opportunity; can use pay it forward funds for example. Allan: idea for pay-it-forward fund was large scale educational field trip, e.g., French exchange, camping trips.
 - iv. Arts & sports enrichment: should be 4 activities, 2 sports 2 arts. Arts umbrella, maybe Grouse Mountain snowshoeing, drumming, prefer not badminton but perhaps Parkour again. These activities are decided by committee comprising several teachers and two parents.
 - v. Fair number of parents of incoming Gr 7 class saying no to idea of Quebec exchange. If teachers support idea of younger grade outdoor school, perhaps this would be good use of field trip funds. Perhaps index pay it forward or grad event funds to number of gr 6/7 students each year.
 - vi. Consensus that we would like to see Gr 6 & 7 trips every year. Teachers would have to take it on, and we could take pay it forward or field trip funds. Parents will consider doing some research on these opportunities and propose. [Post-meeting information addendum: School has tentative plan for Camp Elphinstone next year.]
 - vii. Victoria suggests bringing in food for cultural events, to be part of budget for cultural events.
 - viii. Mme Perella currently teaches her own class guitar with borrowed guitars. We want to get a class set of ¾ size guitars. But would guitar instruction would still be for her class only? Maybe with a guitar set we can have guitar instruction for more classes; PAC funding is meant for school-wide. Can we find someone from CST to teach guitar, as an after school or lunchtime activity? Some discussion that she does teach different classes. Maybe Kits High School students, some talented musicians there. Let's go back to Mme Perella with some questions and whether any flexibility re pricing; this is a large item and we need to feel will be widely used and used into the future. [Post-meeting information addendum: There are 4 teachers (2 English, 2 French) signed on to use the guitars now, and the PAC will work with CST for an after school program. \$150/guitar is the student discount price from Long & McQuade.]
- d. Motion: adopt preliminary budget as-is with final budget to be adopted in September. Carried. (Rob/MarinaP)

5. Principal's report:

Gr 7 leaving on June 28th. Get as many students in as possible to watch.

Volunteer tea June 27th here in library in the morning.

School closure consideration list was circulated. Hudson not included for potential closure. Ultimately up to the trustees.

Milton Randall drumming workshops for 2 days were very well received. Even able to get younger kids to do it, kids had a great time. Very reasonable price compared to other performers for 2 day activity.

Staff appreciation lunch yesterday was well received, lots of food, thank you!

First school newspaper published. A school father had it professionally published for free, activity led by one of the middle grade teachers. Sets it in motion for more kids to be involved next year.

Junior/Senior choir did a 45-minute concert, led by Catherine. Really pleased to see kids singing in front of a large audience. Two more senior choir concerts done at local lodges.

Earthquake kits will be going home with kids next week; not storing any unclaimed earthquake kits over the summer.

Lost and found table: look at it as we walk out today. Encourage kids to look at that next week. Everything unclaimed will be discarded/donated. Small items are in office lost & found.

Year end newsletter to be sent home next week.

6. Teachers' committee. Tech committee achieved goal where each teacher has a Google account and has access to Hudson internal schedules of all kinds. Next year hope to have more training for Epson projectors.
7. SPC: Plan to continue next year, dealing with new curriculum
8. DPAC: See attached report.
9. Committee updates
 - a. Hot lunch: Marina B reports successful year, new items, kids are happy. Next year even better. Thanks for all the volunteers that help with hot lunch. Hope to have more volunteers next year. Sysco delivers food to us now; Marina B still shops herself for some things. We lose a lot of money on Paypal transactions; we may need to incentivize people to pay only once per term. Paypal takes 2.9%. Maybe we will go to cash & cheques, or postdated cheques. We will consider modifying the payment system over the summer.
 - b. Spirit committee: all but 9 sports team jerseys have turned up, and Ian thinks there are two more in lost and found. Next year need to go to \$30 deposits for jerseys. Also maybe sell jerseys. Some changes to selection of spirit wear items as well.
 - c. Grounds committee. Waiting to hear about materials we are allowed to use.
 - d. Communications: maybe move to MailChimp next year for weekly reminders. Ian: next year both PAC and school have to get permission to send emails to everyone. Hannah will include

in school package permission for PAC to be allowed to use email associated with school account.

10. Activities

- a. Babysitting roster update will go out again before summer
- b. Rachel: idea for activities related to her experience as naturopath and Ashtanga & Iyengar yoga teacher. Potential yoga program Mon/Wed evening in the gym, at \$7 per person, and get the babysitters to do babysitting at \$2 per person. Also she's doing free classes all summer Mon & Wed on the green at 12th & Larch. Maybe other parents also could be encouraged to offer their special skills to school community.

11. End! Thanks to everyone for tons of work! Especially our chair Marina P. Meeting closed at 7:56 pm.

DPAC representative report to June 22, 2016 Henry Hudson PAC meeting

Alan Patola Moosmann reported:

The last few months have been particularly busy at the Vancouver School District level, with many issues meriting parent attention.

1) Vancouver School Board:

- a) Budget – the Trustees voted on April 28 not to accept the budget prepared by staff which proposed a number of cuts seriously affecting students and families in order to cope with a shortfall on the order of \$24 million from provincial funding. The Board has a legal obligation to pass a balanced budget by June 30 and will meet again next week for a final vote on whatever revised budget staff will propose. Rejecting the budget again will open the possibility that the Trustees may be fired and replaced by a provincial appointee, and will also make a strong statement in opposition to the continued underfunding of the public education system in general. The full budget proposal and process details are viewable at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/>
- b) Long Range Facilities Plan and Seismic Upgrades – the plan to close some schools over the next 15 years in order to meet the province's requirement for overall use of school facilities at 95% capacity and provide swing spaces to carry out the many seismic upgrades more quickly has been accelerated to address the budget shortfall as well. Twelve schools (not including Hudson) are on the list for potential closure by September 2017 announced on Monday, with a public consultation process to follow in the coming months. For details see <http://engage.vsb.bc.ca>
- c) Five Year Strategic Plan, dovetailing somewhat with plans to introduce the new curriculum – For more information see: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/vsb2021>

2) District Parent Advisory Council:

- a) DPAC has made some progress in addressing issues of financial reporting and communication with PACs and holds its AGM and election of new executive members tomorrow night. [Post-meeting information addendum: The new DPAC executive has a variety of both returning and new members, with outgoing DPAC secretary Morgane Oger elected as the incoming chair. Two of twelve seats remain unfilled. Another year of rebuilding to become a more effective voice for parents is ahead. Unspent funds from this year's DPAC budget will be disbursed equally among Vancouver PACs; we will know the specifics (likely around \$200 per PAC) as the next school year starts.]

- 3) British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
 - a) Results of this year's AGM, including all resolutions passed, can be seen at www.bccpac.bc.ca
 - b) BCCPAC has been issuing a number of press releases in response to the various small amounts of funding recently released on a district by district basis by the province. These are viewable at the same website. The consistent theme of BCCPAC's response has been that this piecemeal approach demonstrates that the existing funding model for public education is broken and needs reform.

- 4) Parent Advocacy Network
 - a) Responses to date to PAN's questionnaire (previously reported on) to political representatives of all provincial parties detailing the underfunding of public education since 2002 and asking for their explanations and proposed remedies are available through <http://www.panvancouver.ca>
 - b) PAN and Families Against Cuts to Education's joint BC Ed in Red Campaign continues, with tools to assist interested parents in contacting government people to express concerns about underfunding of public education available at <http://www.panvancouver.ca/news>
 - c) PAN's focus moving forward towards next year's provincial election is to work to ensure public education becomes a prominent election issue. To this end parents involved with PAN have been meeting with local MLA's of all parties over the past two weeks to get their sense of the state of public education and the feedback they are hearing in their ridings, their ideas about how to address concerns about funding, quality, etc, and their advice on how parents can be effective advocates in the election process. Information summarizing the MLA's responses will be compiled and posted on the PAN website.

Serving this year as Vice-Chair (external) and DPAC rep for Henry Hudson has been a steep learning curve, both rewarding and frustrating; it seems to me challenging if not impossible for one person to maintain and communicate an informed overview of what's happening with the VSB, DPAC, BCCPAC and the various local parent non-partisan advocacy groups. I do continue to believe it is an important role for our PAC to make as much information available about all of these, and the issues facing our public education system, to Hudson parents so that they can make informed choices about what actions to take and how personally involved to become in working for whatever positive change seems needed to them at the system level.

It has been a pleasure to start to take on the task of getting the information out over the past year and I would be happy to continue (and improve!) over the next year; my suggestion is that we consider establishing a “wider public education issues” committee and canvass Hudson parents in September to see if anyone is interested in volunteering in this capacity. The committee lead could be the person in the Vice-Chair (external) position, or some other structure may make more sense when we have a sense of how much interest there is. More people engaged in the work would make it possible, for example, to have someone take on the role of a delegate to BCCPAC, which our busy PAC executives over the last many years have not had the time or energy to do, and to have a number of observers each focus more closely on specific VSB issues as the seismic upgrade timetable, the long range facilities plan and the new curriculum. I hope that we will consider this kind of experiment for the coming school year.