

PAC Meeting, Monday March 1, 2010

In attendance: Rob, Sheila, Kate, Wendy, Deborah, Alan, Catherine, Suzanne, Danielle, Mary, Colleen, Rina

1. Motion to approve minutes from last meeting seconded and approved.

Action item: Secretary to ask webmaster to post minutes on website.

2. PAC Chair report

a. Street traffic update. Robert noted that a parent contacted him about a traffic encounter at drop-off time. The parent was trying to cross the street after dropping off their child and was almost hit by a turning vehicle. Noted that the procedure if parents witness or are involved in a dangerous traffic incident is to call 911. A discussion of how to improve traffic safety ensued. Robert proposed producing and distributing a map of the drop-off zone. Some sort of physical presence by parents or grade 6-7 crossing guards were discussed, but problems with confrontations and organization of these efforts were raised. In the end, there was general agreement to ask the Vancouver Police to conduct a safety awareness campaign.

Action item: Chair to contact his police contacts to request safety education campaign.

b. Situation in Div 1 and 2. Div 1 and 2 have many more designated students than the ministry recommended limit of three. Robert gave update of his correspondence with VSB regarding this situation and how to support the teachers of these classes. Said the VSB reply said the problem was district wide, but did not offer concrete ideas, requested input for how to go forward. Deborah offered a very informed discussion of how support for designated students works at the school. In the end, there was general agreement that the PAC should take VSB up on offer of a meeting.

Action item: Chair to contact L. Green to request meeting to discuss support for classes with large numbers of designated students.

3. Secretary report

a. Principal Search Letter. Kate noted that the PAC has drafted a letter with our thoughts and recommendations regarding the upcoming principal search (Bruce has informed the PAC he will be retiring this year).

Action item: Secretary will send draft letter to PAC e-mail list

b. Annual Facilities Grant letter. Kate discussed rationale for PAC letter lobbying for reinstatement of Annual Facilities Grant. Noted there had not been a reply to Hudson PAC letter sent via snail mail but discussed response by Premier to similar Canadian Parents for French letter, and thoughts of Patti Bacchus (expressed to Robert), Hudson's school board trustee, disputing these points.

c. VSB Alternate Calendar Proposal letter. Kate discussed VSB's proposal to shorten the school year by 10 days and lengthen the school day by 17 minutes in 2010/11; impact to Hudson would be to lose Friday early dismissal. Discussion of whether to send draft letter which did not support the proposal due to concerns about negative impact on student learning as a parent letter or a PAC letter.

Those present voted to send letter as a PAC letter.

Action item: Secretary to send letter as PAC letter.

4. Treasurer report

a. Budget update. Sheila noted that budget was in good shape. She reported that through a fluke conversation, she was able to obtain a full complement of microscopes as requested by the teachers for

a third of the cost.

b. Spring Fundraiser. Sheila described a proposed spring planter fundraiser and asked for input on pricing. There was general agreement to offer a quantity discount. Those present voted to proceed with the fundraiser.

Action item: Treasurer will proceed with Spring Planter Fundraiser

c. Hot Lunch program. Sheila, Wendy, and Deborah discussed the idea of offering a family discount for Hot Lunch orders in order to encourage more participation in the program.

Those present voted to experiment with a family discount for the next Hot Lunch order.

Action item: Wendy and Deborah will proceed with family discount.

5. Members-at-Large reports

Robert read Lisa S's update on the Gr. 6 & 7 Haiti fundraising: "The school raised a GRAND total of \$461.65 for Haiti relief. I think this is pretty impressive and was very well coordinated by a group of gr. 7 volunteers plus the assistance of gr. 6 coin rollers (that's a job) and gr. 6 and 7 families who contributed baked goods for the bake sale."

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting set for 3rd Monday in April: April 19

7. New Business

a. Hailer. Suzanne asked parents how they were feeling about the Hailer switching to electronic distribution. A discussion ensued; some missed the paper copy, some said it was OK but they would like an e-mail notice of when the new Hailer was posted (a discussion of the problems of e-mail notices ensued), others voiced strong support for reducing the amount of paper going home. Alan suggested that the teachers could add an item in student agendas noting when there was a new Hailer available and there was general approval.

Action item: Chair will ask Bruce to ask teachers to please add Hailer agenda item

b. Book Sale. Rob noted Book Sale was delayed due to Olympics, would occur after Spring Break.

Meeting adjourned