

PAC Meeting – September 14, 2010

Henry Hudson School Website: <http://hudson.vsb.bc.ca/>

Henry Hudson PAC Website: <http://hudson.vsb.bc.ca/pac.htm>

Held in the Library of Henry Hudson School

Present: parents (see separate list), teachers (Mr. Mures, Ms. Miladinovic, Mme Boyd, Mme Cathy, Mme Suzanne, Margot Kaiser), and Principal, Mrs. Bridget Browning

PAC Meeting started at 6:35pm

1. Motion for approval of minutes from June 2009 PAC meeting by Sheila C.. Seconded by Gary Watson. Motion Passed.
2. Random 'straw poll' taken as to what day works best for PAC meetings. By show of hands, Mondays (~3 people), Tuesdays (~12 people), Wednesdays (~7 people).
3. Thank you to the PAC Executive, Sheila C. and Andrea MacLeod for their contribution as Co-Treasurers. Also a big thank you to Kate Gregory and Lynne Spencer for being Co-Secretaries for the PAC (note both Kate and Lynne were unable to attend the meeting). A special mention to thanks to Kate Gregory for her exhaustive work during the summer to research and prepare the document that was delivered to the Trustees and VSB regarding the HH pre-consideration closure issue.
4. A very big welcome to Mrs. Bridget Browning our new Principal.
5. PAC Chair Report
 - a. Q&A Session regarding Closure Pre-Notification
 - i. Robert gave an update regarding the pre-notification closure issue for Henry Hudson. For those parents who are not aware of the full sequence of events, please visit the HH PAC website for more information.
 - ii. Robert described how the VSB is calculating capacity numbers for the school using an old maximum number of 365 which would require several rooms (art, computer, and lunch/daycare) to be repurposed to classrooms. Bridget mentioned that these numbers are old and the Facilities Department at the VSB is relooking at the data.
 - iii. The actual maximum capacity for HH is approximately 300 – 310 students. The total number of children enrolled in HH as of Tuesday, September 15th is 282.
 - iv. On October 4th there is a Board of School Trustees Meeting at the VSB and Robert asked if there was anyone who would be interested in attending it with him to email him. This is the meeting where they decide which schools continue to be considered for closure.

v. Questions from the Floor:

1. Brad (grade 2 daughter) – Will parents be able to speak at the meeting? Answer: We are not sure of the format.

Monica (grade 2 daughter) – Will Bridget go to the meeting? Answer: Yes.

Brad – Is there a benefit for parents to attend en masse? Answer: Robert will find out if a lot of people would make a difference at the meeting. The benefit is to stay professional, stick to the facts and the budget.

Heather (grade 3 son) – Is it worth parents emailing trustees before the meeting politely and professionally? Answer: It is a good idea to send letters etc. to the politicians as they count them all to help determine what the 'hot topics' are. Once all the #'s are stabilized at the school, Robert will send a letter to the MLA, Minister of Education, and the Trustee why we should be off the list.

Mora (grade 2 son) – What is the timeline of the process? Answer: We are currently on the "Possible Consideration for Closure List" which was announced on or around June 23rd, 2010. After this, there is 60 days until the VSB determines who moves to the "Recommended for Closure List". If HH is on this list then there is a public consultation process and the final decision for closure will be on December 31, 2010. If HH is deemed to be closed, that would happen at the end of June 2011. Note that Bridget is doubtful that HH will be on the list.

b. Halloween :

- i. Haunted House: Sandra Richardson and Susan will be putting together the Halloween Haunted House attraction again for all the children at the school. They are looking for 6 volunteers to help with the set up and take down of the sets. Sandra also is wondering if there can be additional activities for the younger children. The six volunteers who put up their hand at the meeting are Brett, Susan Hynes, Cheryl, Paul, Gary, and Darren. \$213.82 was spent by the PAC for this event in 2009. Motioned by Robert and seconded by Susan that it be passed to allow for a budget of \$300 for the 2010 Haunted House event. Motion passed.
- ii. Pumpkin Carving: this event is still happening. Likely the Monday or Tuesday before Halloween. This is a parent / child event where people provide their own pumpkin, carving tools, and bags to carve their pumpkins as a group in the gym.

c. Additional Ideas for the PAC:

- i. If anyone has any other additional ideas for the school that they contact Robert Ford as the PAC wants to support these in any way we can so it is a successful event / activity. This also helps with scheduling and funding.

d. Raffle Update:

- i. Last year was the first time that HH held a raffle as the Gaming Grant was cut in half. This money was used to fund PAC activities and as such had to be made up. This year although the Gaming Grant has been restored, we will still hold a raffle to fundraise for the PAC.
- ii. Prizes – if anyone has any connection to a business or is a business owner who would like to donate a prize (not more than a \$500 value) please contact Robert Ford ASAP. A big thank you to Kathryn (Cedar's mom) for the donation of a Mt. Baker cabin in the off season.
- iii. This year instead of sending tickets home with the children (almost half were never returned) there will be ticket sellers.
- iv. The money raised needs a vote on where it will be used for the PAC. This vote will be done next meeting.

e. New Webmaster:

- i. The school and PAC needs a new webmaster to keep all the information up to date online. Last year the school began to put the newsletter and most information on the website to reduce printing costs. Mahlah has graciously volunteered to be the new Webmaster. A big round of applause for Mahlah was given!

6. PAC Secretary Report

- a. This was skipped as both Secretaries were not at the meeting. Postponed to next meeting.

7. PAC Treasurer Report (Sheila C.)

- a. Last year ('09/10) there was an expected Net Income of \$1100 that would be rolled over into the '10/11 year. In fact the actuals were quite a lot higher and as a result we are rolling over \$9,700 into the year. The Hot Lunch program netted \$10K and is the biggest fundraiser for the school. The end of the year BBQ was in the red.
- b. Sheila mentioned that the Teacher Wish List was almost completed with the exception of thermometers as there was no information on pricing etc. Marvin will ask the Teachers for a new wish list for this year and have it back to the PAC.
- c. Note that there is also a GIC for \$5,000 that is earning interest and is available as a cushion for any shortfall.
- d. Amy (grade 7 son) asked if the goal was to spend all the money. Answer: The goal is to spend what we need and to keep a small cushion for years where there may be larger wish lists from

teachers or a funding shortfall. Amy also asked where the money was spent last year. Answer: Gymnastics, Creative Writing Course, Hip Hop, Transportation for trips, Library Spinner, Microscopes, Classroom books, Kindie Puzzles and Games, DVD's, Sports Day, Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony, Year End BBQ, and Halloween Haunted House.

- e. Chelsea (grade 2 daughter) – Is it possible to have a list of all the fundraisers for the year on the website so that parents can have a sense of what is coming? Answer: Yes, good idea. Action item for PAC to provide information to new Webmaster.
- f. Mora mentioned that it would also be good to put some of the “wishes granted” on the website so the parents can see where the money is going. Answer: Yes, good idea. Action item for PAC to provide information to new Webmaster.
- g. Sheila mentioned that cash is also an acceptable form of funding the school PAC if a parent / family wants to donate without buying anything.
- h. Lisa asked if a summary of PAC news in a bulleted form could be on the website to keep on top of issues that the PAC is looking at. Action item for the PAC to provide information to the new Webmaster.

8. PAC Treasurer Holiday / Spring Fair Fundraising Event (Sheila C.)

- a. As there are a lot of various types of fundraisers for the school there was a thought that it might be a good idea to consolidate some of the fundraisers. This event could even consolidate with the Hudson Out of School Care (HOOSC) craft fair which has always been successful. This event could be where the Poinsettias are sold instead of through a form home. A tentative date is late November early December.
- b. It was put to the floor how many people thought that a fair would be a good idea. The majority of hands went up.
- c. No volunteers emerged from the meeting to manage the Holiday Fair. Action Item to put a note in the Hailer to ask for help. Sandra Richardson said she can help with the Spring Fair, but not until she is finished working on the Halloween event and she is also on the Centennial Committee.
- d. There is also a desire to do the same thing in the Spring. No further discussion was had on this event as the Holiday Fair is to be dealt with first.

9. Principal's Report – Bridget Browning

- a. Bridget introduced herself. She came from Garibaldi Annex and before that was the VP at Sir Wilfred Grenfell Elementary. Prior to that she was a Grade 7 teacher at Beaconsfield . She has

been with the VSB for 34 years. She has been very warmly welcomed and is happy to be a part of Henry Hudson.

- b. She made a special mention of how lovely the children are and how many of them have come up to her to welcome her and ask her how her day is. She says they are very delightful.
- c. The first two weeks have been chaotic but that is normal and there has been a lot of shuffling in the first week (also normal).
- d. The school was able to place all of the children in the catchment with the exception of two children.
- e. Numbers as of today, September 14th are: English 172 children spread over 7 divisions and French 110 children spread over 5 divisions for a total of 282 children. There are three new staff this year, Jean Marc Doucet the Grade 4/5 French teacher, and Nancy Moorehouse and Lisa Payone the Grade 1 / 2 English teacher.
- f. Andrea Batstone (School Administrative Support) (not available at the meeting – Bridget read a note from her) wants to streamline the paperwork that all the children have to get back to the school in the first month. She needs volunteers to help with all the form to get it into zip lock bags. Sheila, Raven, Andrea, and Marie Donaldson volunteered to help.
- g. Sheila –_Asked Bridget a question about how a couple of years ago there was a huge shuffle_resulting in changes to the school classes. Are we stable enough to avoid that this year? Answer: The numbers are ok. We are waiting for board approval for the organization. There are a # of special needs children in the school that need to supported in terms of class organization. Bridget says that she can't guarantee that any class shuffling won't happen but she doubt it will.
- h. Jessica –_Asked Bridget a question if the school is full. Answer: 282 is pretty full for this year._~300 – 310 is totally full.

10. Teacher's Report – Marvin

- a. Marvin introduced the teachers in the room.
- b. Thank you to the PAC for the money raised for the wish list and the Grad Leaving Ceremony.
- c. Note that the Terry Fox Run is to be held on Thursday, September 30th in the morning. Notices will be going home next week.
- d. Mora asked if we could get to know our teachers better by having a monthly profile on the_website. Answer: Marvin thought it was a good idea and he will ask the teachers at the next meeting.

11. SPC Update (Monica)

- a. Monica made a general comment on the mandate of the SPC which is that it is an Advisory Body who major responsibility is to consult with the school community in developing, monitoring, and reviewing the School Plan for improving student achievement.
- b. There are three parents on the SPC and two (Deborah and Zan) are leaving this year as their children are in Grade 7. SPC elections are held in January.
- c. Robert spoke about how the SPC worked hard last year in collaboration with the VSB and the teachers to support the special needs children. There is a creative solution currently being worked on and should be finalized soon. We are 2 – 3 weeks away.

12. Centennial Committee Update (Sandra Richardson)

- a. HH Centennial will be 2011 / 2012 (the school opened in 1911 / 1912)
- b. The committee has had a huge amount of teacher support in that they are collecting information and archives are being pulled up. There are also families who are alumni from the 1940's providing great records for the event.

13. Choir Update (Robert)

- a. Last year was the first year there was a choir. The limit was 20 kids and they had to know how to read.
- b. This year, there is no limit (they are hoping for 30 kids to cover costs) and reading is optional (parents must help their kids learn the words). There will also be podcasts where the children can listen to the songs and learn the words from home.
- c. There is a tentative October 6th recital by donation. The cost of the choir is a set fee or "Pay What you Can".

14. Multicultural Potluck (Deborah)

- a. This is a Welcome to Hudson potluck event. Families are encouraged to bring a dish from their culture to share with others (or something they like to eat). It is a well attended event and a great opportunity to meet other families.
- b. Teachers are more than welcome to attend. Marvin will let the teachers know when it is and invite them to join us.

15. Family Photo Fundraiser (Robert)

- a. This is a family portrait that costs \$15 for the sitting fee and a free 8x10 photo. The full \$15 goes to the PAC. A great way to get dressed up and take your Christmas Card Photo early!

16. Cross Country Update (Brett – unable to be at the meeting – Robert spoke on his behalf)

- a. Practices will be from 8:15 – 8:45am. They are looking for two teachers to volunteer to help with the group. Marvin will ask the teachers.
- b. The practices will be on school grounds until more parent volunteers then they can run offsite.
- c. Sandra mentioned that the younger children should be separated from the older children so the training is age appropriate. That is why we need two teachers to volunteer.
- d. Maybe the PAC can sponsor a small clinic? How much would this cost?

17. New Business

- a. HOT LUNCH forms went out this week. The lunches will still be on Thursdays. They are looking at a new supplier to bring in new food for January – something new and perhaps healthier.
- b. CLASS REPS – Each class needs a PARENT class rep. A class rep gathers all the email addresses of their class and is the communication portal for all PAC communication. As this is usually run by Kate, this is postponed until next meeting.
- c. MEET THE TEACHER – will there be a formal meet the teacher evening? Answer: No, this is done teacher by teacher.
- d. HISTORICAL #'s of the SCHOOL – What have the numbers been in the past for the school and what has the basement been used for in the past? Answer: Bridget will do some research and follow up.

18. NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, October 12th. 6:30pm

19. Meeting adjourned 8:03 moved by Raven, seconded by Andrea.

ACTION ITEMS	Status	Person Responsible	Due Date
Robert will find out if a lot of people would make a difference at the Trustee meeting on October 4th.		Robert Ford	ASAP
Anyone with prizes they would like to donate to the raffle, please contact Robert Ford ASAP.		Parents	Sept 22 nd

Money raised for raffle needs a vote on where it will be used. Secretary to add to agenda for next PAC meeting to be held Tuesday, October 12th.		PAC Secretary	Oct 12 th
PAC Secretary Report – postponed to next meeting as Kate and Lynne were unable to attend the Sept meeting.		PAC Secretary	Oct 12 th
Marvin to ask the teachers for their wish list for the 2010 / 2011 year.		Marvin	
Put a list on the website of all upcoming fundraisers and projected dates so parents can plan in advance.		PAC Exec & Mahlah (webmaster)	
Put a list of all “wishes granted” on the website so parents can see where the PAC money is going.		PAC Exec & Mahlah (webmaster)	
Put a note in the Hudson Hailer to ask for volunteers for the Holiday Fair.		Robert Ford	ASAP
Put a summary of PAC news in a bulleted format on the website for parents to stay informed.		PAC Exec & Mahlah (webmaster)	
Marvin to ask the teachers at the next meeting if they would be interested in having a teacher profile on the website to help the parents get to know them better.		Marvin	
Robert and Brett to find out how much a cross country clinic would cost.		Robert and Brett	
Marvin to ask the teachers for two volunteers for the Cross Country group.		Marvin	
Class rep discussion – postpone until next PAC meeting		Kate	Oct 12 th
Bridget to follow up on school size in the past and basement use.		Bridget	

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE	
Multicultural Potluck Event	Wednesday, September 29 th
Family Photo Fundraiser	Wednesday, September 29 th
Terry Fox Run in the morning	Thursday, September 30 th
Trustee Meeting – VSB meeting where school closures will be discussed	Monday, October 4 th
Tentative Choir Recital – by donation	Wednesday, October 6 th
Pumpkin Carving night – Parent / child event	Week of October 25 th Date TBD
Holiday Fair – Consolidated event for fundraising also possibly in conjunction with Henry Hudson Out of School Care	Late November early December

PDF to Word