

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: February 8th, 2011 Meeting started at 6:35 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

In attendance: Parents (approximately 15), principal Mrs. Browning and teacher Mme Boyd. A full list of attendees is available from the PAC Chair upon request. For privacy reasons a full list is not posted on the web site.

1. A motion to approve minutes from January 2011 Pac meeting by Gary W. was seconded by Andrea M. Motion passed.

2. Traffic & Safety Update - Robert

a. Robert will be looking at replacing pylons that block the driveway on York St. to keep vehicles from trying to turn around into the school grounds. This will make sure these pylons are more visible and cars will not be turning around during student drop-off and pick-up.

b. Also Police Officer Dad Chad and Robert along with a few more volunteers will be holding an educational meet & greet for drivers at drop-off time to make sure that parents drive responsibly and drop-off students with care. Parents will receive a candy or sweet and a printed map to help drive the message home.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Robert will add that parents are not to use the staff parking lot under any circumstances.

3. Choir Update - Robert

a. Catherine has 44 or 45 students in the choir this season.

b. Further, the advanced students have been auditioned for a chamber choir as something new. As a result, 14 students will make up a chamber choir who will work on a two-part harmony piece.

c. Choir funding is still on track to be positive for the PAC. Suggested that unused funds at the end of June be rolled into general revenue.

4. Secretary Report - Chantal

a. Chantal reported that finally, all divisions have a class representative for email communications and class contact lists.

- b. Ms. Nikon has been working with Chantal to set up a book drive this year – much like last year’s – to coincide with a French Book (by *Savoir Lire*) and possibly Kidsbooks Fair at Hudson during parent/teacher conferences happening in mid-March. More information and request for parent volunteers will come as arrangements are made.
- c. Chantal pointed out the Hudson PAC bulletin board that is in the main entry of the school (outside of the library) that will be more frequently used to post meeting dates, centennial planning and meetings and other items of interest for parents who may have time to take a look while at the school.

5. Treasurer’s Report - Sheila

- a. Planter Fundraiser forms are ready to go out for the spring fundraiser. Orders will be due April 21st and plants and planters will arrive conveniently just before Mother’s Day, May 8th.
- b. Sheila looked into a coffee fundraising option that was brought up in the last month and determined that it would be too expensive to reap the benefits.
- c. Sheila shared a card that was sent to thank Henry Hudson PAC for sponsoring a story time with Diane Hall (a former teacher at Hudson). The sponsorship will be donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation (Grandmothers for Children of Aids in Africa - GOGO’s). The card is on the bulletin board outside the library.

6. Playground Equipment Update - Robert

- a. There was discussion about what would best replace the wooden playground equipment that is being taken out by the school board. Robert reported that Christine O. brought an article to the PAC’s attention (Vancouver Sun, *Taking Back the Playground*), suggesting children may gravitate towards more natural play areas than pre-fabricated, contrived play structures, based on child studies. Chantal will post this article on the PAC bulletin board by the library for anyone wishing to see it. Sheila and Robert both suggested that we look into alternatives to the expensive plastic play structures by being creative while abiding to safety codes and budget.

7. Principal’s Report – Mrs. Browning

- a. The Fraser Institute Report Card on schools has recently come out with Hudson ranking 720 out of 875 – not a favourable score. One possible reason for the lower scores on English at Hudson could be that the tests are given to grade 4 students (many of which are in French Immersion at our school) who begin English studies

only in September of the same year. Mrs. Browning reiterated that the ministry does not condone the study as a fair assessment of a school's ranking among schools. Nevertheless, families unfortunately tend to be discouraged by this ranking if it is poor. Mrs. Browning says this ranking doesn't carry too much weight in her professional opinion.

- b. The Foundation Skills Assessment will be taking place in February for students in grade 4 and 7. This offers a snapshot of the students' progress in February. Teachers may find this assessment useful in order to determine whether a student has improved between grades 4 and 7. Parents have the choice to opt out if they do not want their children to participate in the testing. It is a two hour test, half on computer, half on paper. Marking happens the weekend of March 5/6th and results become available at the end of March sometime. Mrs. Browning welcomes any questions from parents about these tests.
- c. A survey of school satisfaction will be sent home with grade 4 and 7 students in paper form soon. This is a survey the ministry collects to find out how satisfied parents are with their school. The survey can be completed on paper or online.
- d. Mrs. Browning was asked about how teacher Mr. Muress is doing as he has been sorely missed around the school and by parents. She reported that he is healing well and is in good spirits.
- e. Robert mentioned that Monica M. had received a copy of the Hudson Parent Handbook from the office and found that it was a most useful reference. Mrs. Browning stated that the Handbooks are available in the office for anyone who wants to pick one up.

8. Teacher's Report – Mme Boyd

- a. Thank you once again to the PAC for the Smart Boards and computers, the performances and Hip Hop and Gymnastics Programs. The recent performance of Acrobats from Kenya was breath-taking and the children enjoyed it thoroughly. Hip Hop and Gymnastics have been booked for next year.

9. Centennial Committee Update – Alan & Mme Boyd

- a. Official date for the Centennial Celebration will be June 21st 2012.

- b. Alan has put together a draft planning sheet of tasks to work on for the events of next year. They also decided to set up meetings on one Monday of every month (except March) for the rest of the school year open to all who wish to attend, bring their ideas and help plan the events. This is a great way to set the stage for parents/PAC and teachers/administration to work together to make light work of a big endeavour. The first meeting will be to see what other schools have done, what mistakes should not be redone and to get ideas percolating about how to celebrate 100 years of Hudson in events and even in the school curriculum. The dates of these meetings are: February 28th, April 18th, May 30th and June 14th at 3:15 in Mme Boyd's classroom.

- c. Robert suggested that all monies collected for the Centennial should go through the office instead of through the PAC. Mrs. Browning agreed.

10. School Planning Committee – Mitch

- a. Mitch reported that the members of the SPC (Mitch L., Chantal M., Monica M. and Mrs. Browning) met to get a handle on what the group should be thinking about in order to put together a school growth plan. After the scheduled Pro-D day in April where Mrs. Browning gets a chance to meet with the teachers, the group will work together to draft a school plan for 2011-2012.

11. Canadian Parents for French/PAC Speaker – Robert

- a. Robert announced that Kate G. from CPF had arranged with the PAC to sponsor an educational speaker about multiple languages in families. The speaker, Sallie Boschung will present at Hudson on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2011.

12. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting: Monday, March 7th at 6:30 in the library.

13. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Raven was seconded by Marie at 7:34pm. Motion passed.