

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: April 12th, 2011 Meeting started at 6:37 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

In attendance: Parents (approximately 20), 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 Sheila C. Motion passed.

2. Traffic & Safety Update - Robert

- a. Robert will be receiving new replacement pylons to mark the driveway on York St. tomorrow. These pylons are brighter and easier for motorists to see compared to the old, faded ones that are there now.
- b. Hopefully before Easter, Robert and Police Officer Dad Chad 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 chocolate or sweet and a printed map to help drive the message home. Robert will be looking for some volunteers to help with this.

3. Choir Update - Robert

- a. Catherine has about 20 participants in the choir so far. Practices will begin April 13th.
- b. Next year, Catherine would like to ensure that choir has forms for sign up at the end of the previous term. Fall is an exception.

4. June 23rd End of the Year BBQ – Robert

- a. Robert began the discussion about Hudson's Graduation and End of the Year Party by thanking Deborah for booking the same BBQ services as last year and helping to finalize a date.
- b. Robert mentioned that there was still a fair amount of organising that had to be done before all was arranged for June 23rd. Here are some of the issues:

- i. Food orders – How much extra food do we order? Last year was a sunny day and many people attended who may not have planned to go, so there were many people who expected to buy food that didn't pre-order it, despite having to pay a premium. Unfortunately, there was not enough food for all who wished for it.
- ii. Dance/DJ – Last year's DJ was expensive and despite guidance about when to play certain song lists, the dance did not foster the enthusiasm that was expected. All parents and teachers agreed that the dance/dj should be structured and supervised, but how can there be more success without costing an arm and a leg?

One parent suggested that we provide a dance instructor to give dance lessons, run "spot dances", dance games and dances with glow sticks. Two suggestions of specific dance teachers were the Hip Hop Instructor Natasha (Ms. Batstone would have her contact info) and Marion Rose (contact info could come from False Creek Community Centre).

Mitch L. offered to see about using the school's sound system with a slight upgrade from a music supply store (like Long & McQuade) so that we wouldn't need to hire a DJ just for their equipment. He said he was willing to oversee the music for the evening, allowing some kids to take a turn deejaying with their own ipods/itouches hooked into the set-up sound system.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Mitch to see what the school has in the way of equipment and what may be needed to run the music.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Check to see if a dance instructor could help to run a portion of the dance to make it inviting and interactive.

- iii. Bouncy castle – It was decided that we don't need to go with a bouncy castle again this year. It will reduce cost and there won't be the line-ups and worry about injury. Instead we can bring soccer balls and alternate play stuff for the little ones on the field if the weather permits.
- iv. Chaperones – Again this year, we will need volunteer chaperones so that senior students can come without parents. It has been noted over the years that the grade 6 and 7's do not want to come to the bbq with their parents. If they cannot come by themselves, three quarters of them choose not to come. Ms. Browning would prefer that students come supervised by some adult (so the kids are always safely monitored). She came up with some

ideas to bring kids to the bbq even if parents needed to be there. Perhaps we could bribe the top grade students to a free meal if they come, tell them that they needed to volunteer or pressure them all to “join Ms. Browning for a dance”.

- v. Deborah mentioned that there will be volunteers needed for June 23rd and she has a spreadsheet to help organise exactly who and what is needed.

5. District Parent Advisory Council – Robert

- a. Robert advised that there is a District PAC meeting coming up that the PAC Executive will not be attending. Instead they will send a proxy form. If there is anyone interested in taking this on in the future, please let Robert know.

6. Secretary Report - Chantal

- a. Chantal reported that the book drive generated about 8 boxes of books for Ms. Nikon to look through before the PAC sets up a small book sale near the end of the school year. Ms. Nikon and some of the teachers will hopefully find valuable books to add to their shelves. From what Chantal was able to see, there were good quality books in good shape in both French and English that were donated.
- b. Chantal also told parents about Kate G.’s Hudson Recommended Book List Form that has been sent home with students in their backpack. This is an invitation for students to anonymously share their favourite books with their peers and a great way to give kids a list of recommended books for their summer reading. Something new on the form this year is Kate’s challenge for intermediate students to put pen to paper and describe their favourite books in one sentence, helping others learn about their favourite reads. A list for each grade will then be compiled by Kate and distributed.

7. Treasurer’s Report - Sheila

- a. Spring Planter Fundraiser forms have been sent home in backpacks. Orders will be due April 26th and plants and planters will arrive conveniently just before Mother’s Day, May 6th. Coincidentally, those are similar dates to the Grade 7 Fundraiser for their Graduation for Pies and Cookie Dough.
- b. Sheila reported that we received an additional \$1300 from the provincial gaming grant, like all schools in the province. This works out to be about \$5 more per student than the allotment of about \$20/student/year. This money is to be put towards arts and sports. As we have already used fundraising money of our own to pay for arts and sports activities, she suggested that we use \$300 of this recent revenue to cover some miscellaneous expenses such as the School Planning

Committee and PAC holiday and appreciation gifts and keep the remainder \$1000 to allot to Centennial and/or playground expenses coming next year. The vote on this decision was put off in the meeting until all issues from members-at-large were heard.

8. Playground Equipment Update – Gary

- a. Gary has been working on getting quotes for the replacement of the wooden playground equipment which will be removed by the VSB for safety reasons. Once we have some quotes, we hope to see if we can get donations or sponsors. So far, Gary has received quotes from one provider. Replacement costs for the swing and monkey bars would be \$21, 000 and the monkey bars, swings and climbing wall apparatus (attached to the monkey bars) would come to \$24,000. He suggested that if the project was put to tender, the cost could probably be brought down.
- b. Gary posed the question about how parents feel about getting sponsors. He said perhaps Lululemon, for example, would be willing to make a sizable sponsorship or donation. Parents batted the issue of sponsorships around rather uneasily and it was decided that we would check out possible sponsors and then take a vote.

9. Principal's Report – Mrs. Browning

- a. Robert asked Ms. Browning to talk about what policies were in place when a teacher takes a leave. He wondered why sometimes the students are the news bearers instead of correspondence keeping parents in the loop. Ms. Browning cannot speak about individual cases because of privacy issues and requests that may be pending at the district level, but in general her goal is to establish a stable Educator on Call to take over for the entire length of a teacher's leave so as not to disrupt the student's learning. Communication with the parents will be done when Ms. Browning has all the information from the district, the union, the teacher and the Educator on Call assignment.
- b. Ms. Browning attended the Budget Meeting today and reported things were not as bad as expected. There is an 8.41 million dollar shortfall - an 11 million dollar shortfall was expected. The deficit was decreased due to a government grant in January 2011. Consequently there will still be some layoffs but not as many as expected. The shortfall should not affect Henry Hudson specifically. According to Ms. Browning, this Board and our trustee is listening and has decided to let administration jobs be cut instead of frontline teachers and teacher assistants.

- c. Ms. Browning has been working on the school's attendance numbers for next year, which change from day to day. Projection of attendance should be submitted May 2011. Right now, it looks like we will be gaining students on the French Immersion side and perhaps lose some students on the English side.
- d. Robert asked Ms. Browning whether there would be any changes to the school schedule next year. Ms. Browning reported that the school board will review the school schedule with input from teachers, administrators and parents. The verdict seems to be that the new schedule is not all negative – it just depends on who you ask. The increase in days off and longer weekends have proven to allow teachers to be able to rejuvenate and rest more than before, so there have been fewer sick days and hence fewer Educators on Call fees. Fewer discipline problems occur with a shorter lunch period as most discipline issues occur during the last 15 minutes of lunch. Ms. Browning does feel that it is unlikely schools will return to half days one day a week as a 75% consensus of the community is required. Also the time leftover on Fridays was supposed to be a collaborative time for teachers, but teachers have already put in their time. Consequently, the Educators on Call would get paid for a full day, working only half of it.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Robert has a contact where parents can comment on the school schedule through the District PAC. He will communicate this to our parents.

10. Teacher's Report – Mme Boyd

- a. Mme Boyd relayed information about the Grade 7 Pie and Cookie Fundraiser that is going on to raise funds for the grads harbour cruise and party.
- b. Mme Boyd also mentioned that May 5th will be a VSB city-wide Earthquake Drill in schools which brought up the issue of how to best prepare ourselves for such a catastrophe. Ms. Browning reported that there is a specific protocol by the VSB, including a student release procedure. One of the parents, Andrea C. Is working with Bridget to see what Hudson has in the way of earthquake supplies and procedures. This was to be discussed further in the meeting after the CPF update.

11. Centennial Committee Update – Alan

- a. The next Centennial Planning Committee meeting is coming up Monday April 18 at 3:15 pm in Room 18 (Madame Boyd's French K classroom) – all interested staff and

parents are welcome. Thank you to Chantal for making sure notice of this meeting has been in the weekly email reminders distributed through the class representatives. Anyone who can't attend who wants to stay more informed of the planning progress, please join the email update list by sending your email to me, Alan Patola Moosmann, at apatola@telus.net.

- b. The list of ideas for the centennial celebration generated at the March PAC meeting has been transcribed (thank you to Christine) and posted on the school website (thank you to Mahlah).
- c. Summary of brainstorming exercise: Suggested elements chosen by more than one small group from all the ideas generated by the large group brainstorm include – decade rooms with photos and other memorabilia, musical entertainment, food, a garden, souvenirs, historical timelines/stories, banner to promote the event.
- d. Thanks to Rob for setting up a facebook page for the centennial and linking it to the school website. Everyone is encouraged to take a look: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Henry-Hudson-Elementary-School-Centennial-2011-12/155040267886315>. We have already had some response from alumni.
- e. Other suggestions/contacts to follow up on: connections with former teaching and administrative staff, visit city Archives to review any material related to the school and surrounding neighbourhood, follow up with Vancouver Sun staff blogging on this year's school centennials.
- f. We have connected with Maryanne Kempthorn, VSB Media Services librarian, and Len Drugge, volunteer chair of the VSB Heritage Centre. The latter group has digitized a file of old photographs relating to Hudson and Mme. Nikon is confirming how to access these online. We need to sort out the parameters around using images from this source in any promotion of the centennial, as they are VSB "for internal use" property.
- g. Discussions with Maryanne and Len have also resulted in our having a copy of the VSB library's Hudson school history file, which contains a brief historical essay covering the period from the purchase of the site in 1910 to the mid 1960's, with a large appendix in the form of brief annual reports on the school's activities from the mid 1960's to the late 1970's. These reports typically include a staff list, student awards, a summary of notable events of the year, a list of educational field trips, etc. Some highlights from this rich document (which I will make more copies of):
 - i. During the 1971 BC Centennial some senior students did a film project on school history which aired on channel 8 – perhaps some footage is archived somewhere?

- ii. The first PAC (or Parent-Teacher Association, as it was then known) was started in 1919 but laid down in 1924 due to lack of interest and “poor attendance”. Another was not formed until 1944. The first PTA lunch cafeteria service program was started in 1945.
 - iii. Among notable people who attended Henry Hudson was Nat Bailey, the founder of White Spot and for whom the baseball stadium is named.
- h. We have been focusing on the main centennial celebration -- Thursday June 21, 2012—but any ideas for run-up events or themes for displays and activities throughout the 2011-2012 school year are welcomed!

12. School Planning Committee – nothing to report

13. Hot Lunch Update – Robert

- a. Robert reported that we still need to fill Deborah’s big shoes in the Hot Lunch Program. This program raises \$10,000 in revenue for the school.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** PAC to send out an email/letter to ask the Hudson community to come forward with proposals for the 2011/2012 year Hot Lunch Program. The plan will be to vote on proposals at the June PAC meeting.

14. Canadian Parents for French - Robert

- a. Robert announced that CPF has a special discount for tickets to the Children’s Festival. CPF members can receive a 50% discount on a performance by Mauvais Sort, a popular "folk 'n roll" band from Quebec. Tickets include entrance to the five festival interactive zones. For details, visit: <http://www.cpf.bc.ca/vannorth/index.php/events>. Orders should go through the CPF.

15. Earthquake Supplies – Andrea C.

- a. Andrea C. met with Ms. Browning on April 5th and, with the school engineer’s help, they investigated the beige, tarped building next to the kindie building where the earthquake supplies are stored. At one time the VSB provided some earthquake supplies to all the schools but it has since expired. And our supplies have also been flooded. The school engineer has done his best to dry out the supplies and he has water-proofed the shed. But the supplies that are in our storage are not plentiful enough for the school and staff population. Ms. Browning reported that she is pretty sure it is up to the PAC to maintain a 3 day ration of supplies for the school’s population. This is a surprise to the PAC. Many parents and the PAC were caught unaware that it falls to us to fund this. With recent disasters in New Zealand and

Japan, parents in attendance felt shaken to realise that our supplies leave the school seriously unprepared for a disaster.

- **ACTION ITEM:** PAC will make the earthquake supplies issue a standing item to find out more, update what we have and learn where funding can come from.

16. Vote on additional \$1300 (from the gaming grant)

- a. The additional grant money (\$1300) enabled us to have a surplus in other areas, and therefore, in lieu of other funding, we can afford to replenish the earthquake supplies and some other miscellaneous items from our general revenue. It was put to vote that \$300 from the gaming grant be used for miscellaneous appreciation and holiday gifts for the PAC and the SPC. The remaining \$1000 would be best suited for earthquake replacement supplies and/or it would carry over to the 2011/2012 school year's finances. The suggestion was voted in unanimously by attendees.

17. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting: Monday, May 9th at 6:30 in the library.

18. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sheila C. was seconded by Chantal M. at 8:05pm. Motion passed.