

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: September 13th, 2011 6:30 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

In attendance: Parents (approximately 40), Principal Mrs. Browning, Teacher Mme. Boyd, Teacher Mr. Muress. 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 the minutes from the June 9, 2011 PAC meeting (which included an addendum in the form of the Hot Lunch Program proposal prepared by Wendy) was moved by Gary and seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.
2. Wealthy School Revolution. The group heard a presentation from a representative of Wealthy School Revolution, which is a modern way to fundraise for schools by buying groceries on line and picking them up at the school. More information is available at www.wealthyschools.ca. Monica has set Hudson up with a fundraising account and will be trying the service herself before the next PAC meeting.
3. PAC Chair Report – Robert
 - a. Extracurricular Program.
 - i. Choir. Robert reported that the sign-up forms will be coming out soon for the first term's Kindergarten to grade 7 choir. It is open to all students, whether or not they are of reading age, since if the children cannot read, the choir director, Catherine, will make all songs in their repertoire available in MP3 format so the students can learn the words by listening to the songs. For this centenary year, the choir may produce a CD in the theme of 100 years of music.
 - ii. Drama. One upcoming extracurricular program is an afterschool drama program for students in grades 4 to 7 to be taught by Jody. More information will be coming soon.
 - iii. Chess. Robert mentioned that a "Chess at Lunchtime" program may be starting this term.
 - iv. Cross Country. Robert reported that this has not been organized yet.
 - v. Choir Profit. Robert reported that we have a \$1000 profit from last year's choir, and that he would like to propose that \$500 of that amount be used to replace the piano in the gym (which is currently used by the choir for performances) with a slightly less-used piano. Discussion ensued about whether a piano could be acquired through assistance from the Vancouver

School Board, but Principal Browning advised that there is no program for such purchases. The VSB does provide two free piano tunings per year. There are four pianos in the school, all of which are way past their prime, and only two of which are worth tuning each year. One parent suggested that we ask the VSB's piano tuner to perform an "inspection" of any potential piano before we commit to buying it.

A motion to approve using \$500 from the choir profit from the 2010/2011 school year to purchase a working, second-hand piano was moved by Christine and seconded by Chantal. Motion passed.

- b. Vision Statement for Parents. Robert introduced the Vision Statement for Parents, citing that there had been a few incidents of bad behaviour by parents in the previous school year, which unfortunate events inspired the creation of this document. Some discussion ensued, but it was decided that discussion of the Vision Statement for Parents be put on hold until the next PAC meeting.

4. PAC Secretary Report – Chantal and Christine

Chantal explained that each division at Hudson has a parent volunteer who acts as a class representative and improves communication between the PAC, school, and parents. For example, the class rep might send out e-mail reminders about school events, or inform parents about items that miss the Hailer, such as afterschool programs, clubs, community events of interest, etc. Parents have found this is a great way to keep informed and organized.

As the classes have now been finalized, parents interested in acting as class representative for their child's class are encouraged to approach Chantal or Christine as they will be assembling the list of class representatives for all Hudson divisions.

5. Treasurer's Report – Sheila and Andrea

- a. 2010/2011 Financial Statement. Sheila reported that last year was a successful one in terms of fundraising, but we were caught off guard near the end of last year when we discovered that our emergency supply shed contained outdated and/or destroyed supplies, and that there was no plan in place to monitor and maintain the currency of the contents of the shed. We are therefore coming into the new school year with a surplus of \$3,500, which is about \$1,000 less than we had hoped for, but that \$1,000 has been allocated for the purchase of emergency supplies.

In 2010/2011, the hot lunch program brought in \$10,000, and we hope to be able to repeat this in 2011/2012 with our new hot lunch program which is being run by Wendy.

A motion to approve the 2010/2011 financial statement was moved by Andrea C. and seconded by Alan. Motion passed.

- b. 2011/2012 Budget. The 2011/2012 budget is being prepared. Last year we received an additional gaming grant, but this year we will be getting \$5,500 instead. We hope to raise significant funds through the hot lunch program and other smaller fund raisers, especially since this is the centennial year, but we are unsure what kind of funds we will be able to generate this year.

We still need to find the means (approximately \$22,000) to be able to pay for a new playground (after the School District removes the old wooden one on the Cypress St. side of the school). We have applied to Rotary, but haven't heard back from them. We will be approaching Lululemon (whose corporate headquarters are around the corner from the school) to do a corporate sponsorship.

Other fundraising ideas were discussed:

- Mabel's Labels: Andrea C. has set Hudson up with a fundraising account. All orders must go through <http://www.hhes.mabel.ca/> in order to benefit our school.
- Clothing Drive: one parent mentioned that Big Brothers will give \$2.50 in exchange for one bag of gently used clothing.

If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please bring them to a PAC meeting!

6. School Planning Committee ("SPC") Report

The school's current SPC members are Chantal, Monica and Mitch. The SPC consists of the principal and the three executive members (parents) that are elected each year. The role of the SPC is to look ahead to the upcoming year and come up with a plan for the school, which plan will also become the focus for the teachers in that year. The SPC meets at least 3 times during the school year. Elections for SPC positions take place in January of each year.

The group reported that the current year's school plan was approved in spring 2011. The two goals of the school this year are: (1) improve literacy of the students; and (2) improve self-regulation by the students.

The group reported that, at the last off-site teachers' professional day in the 2010/2011 school year, the SPC arranged to give each Hudson teacher and teaching assistant a handwritten card of appreciation containing a \$5 gift card from Starbucks. The teachers and teaching assistants were very touched by this gesture.

7. Members at Large Report

- a. Centennial Committee. Hudson turns 100 this year. The party has been scheduled for June 21, 2012. Rob has created a banner advertising the centennial. The banner will be hung up on the school fence for now, but eventually should be moved to hang on the school building itself.

Alan reported that last year lots of ideas were generated for the centennial celebration, and now it is action time! Alan will be putting out a sign-up sheet for those parents wishing to volunteer their time to help Alan put on the centennial celebration, or simply to volunteer at the event itself. For more information, contact Alan, the parent contact person, or Mme. Boyd, who is the staff contact person.

Based on what we've learned from other schools that celebrated their centennial last year, the celebration will cost approximately \$5,000.

- b. Hot Lunch Program & September 29 Multicultural Pot Luck. Wendy, the new hot lunch coordinator, outlined the expanded (2 days per week) Hudson hot lunch program. Order forms for the hot lunch program for the upcoming term are circulating. All orders need to be in by September 16. Wendy is seeking parent volunteers to help prepare and serve hot lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays, the time commitment would be from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, and on Thursdays, the time commitment would be from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. If parents would agree to help out once a month, or even once per term, we would have enough volunteers. Also, if anyone is willing to sponsor a child for hot lunches for the term, or even just for one or two lunches, please let Wendy know.

Thursday, September 29 is the date of Hudson's annual multicultural pot luck dinner. More information concerning this event will be sent home with the students soon.

- c. Earthquake/Disaster Readiness. Andrea C. reported that over the summer, water and pop-up tents have been placed in the emergency shed. Now that school numbers have been finalized, Andrea C. will be purchasing more supplies soon. Parents discussed the idea of parents providing comfort kits for Hudson students, which kits would be kept in the emergency shed. However, we need to establish whether there would be space in the shed for the comfort kits. Andrea will attempt to establish this fact some time soon.

8. New Business

Robert mentioned the upcoming Hudson Family Photo night, which is scheduled for Friday, September 30 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to combine the Multicultural Pot Luck dinner with the Family Photo event, but we hope this will not deter families from coming out and having their photos taken. There is a \$15 sitting fee for each photo shoot, and all of this money goes to the PAC. The \$15 fee comes with one 8x10 photo from your photo shoot. Thereafter, for an additional cost, families can order prints of the photos they desire.

9. Principal's Report – Mrs. Browning

- a. Mrs. Browning reported that as of June 2011, the school was at maximum capacity in terms of student numbers. Over the summer we lost 17 students from the English program. We now have 292 children and 8 divisions. We need one more teacher for the French program, and this should be sorted out by the end of September.
- b. Mrs. Browning mentioned that the school plan or focus for 2011/2012 is SAIL: Safety Accountability Integrity Learning. This was also the theme of the "Week of Welcome" ("WOW") at the beginning of term. Mrs. Browning showed the group a wonderful photo slide show presentation (created by Mme. Novotny) that showed all the children in the school participating in WOW activities, which included the students being placed into mixed age groups and working together on projects.
- c. Mrs. Browning also mentioned that due to the job action, for the time being there will not be any weekly assemblies in the gym run by the teachers, though Mrs. Browning may on occasion call an assembly at which she will speak.

10. Next Meeting

Next PAC Meeting: Wednesday, October 12th at 6:30 in the library.

Meeting adjourned. (Chantal/Mitch)