

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: October 4th, 2011 Meeting started at 6:35 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 25), principal Mrs. Browning, HOOSC Coordinator Pat M. and teachers Mr. Muress and 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 September 2011 Pac meeting (which will be available as soon as possible on the website) by Chantal M. was seconded by Sheila C. Motion passed.

2. Teacher's Report – Mr. Muress

- a. Mr. Muress was present to update parents on the teacher's contract negotiations ongoing with the provincial government. Mr. Muress introduced himself, explaining he has been a teacher with the VSB for 22 years and has spent 8 of those years at Hudson. He is acting as the teacher's liaison with BCTF at Hudson.
- b. The teacher's 5 year contract ended in June 2011. Negotiations for a new contract started in spring 2011. Teachers voted to implement "Phase I" as "job action" if negotiations had not been progressing. Phase I is not the same as previous "work-to-rule" so there has been a lot of confusion for teachers as well as parents. Phase I is simply a strategy to put pressure on administration (and thus the provincial government) to encourage bargaining and negotiations to proceed in good faith by both parties.
- c. Mr. Muress explained that these are some of the teachers' priorities/improvements to be included in a new contract:
 - i. Class size/Composition language in the contract
Before 2001, class size and composition was considered a "working condition" for teachers laid out in their contract. The Ministry of Education currently regulates this and many teachers feel this is a failure of the education system. Teachers would like to see this return in the contract as a stable condition of their work environment.
 - ii. Insufficient time given for classroom preparation
Especially for teachers with ministry designate students in their class, there is not enough time to prepare for classroom teaching.
 - iii. Teachers need better benefits, especially health benefits.

On the other hand, the provincial government seeks a contract with the following criteria:

- i. A contract that will cost "\$0".

- ii. Class size and composition to be determined by the Ministry of Education.
 - iii. Administrators to determine teachers' professional development choices.
 - iv. Hiring/Laying off to be determined differently than by seniority.
- d. Currently, negotiations are at a standstill, therefore teachers have implemented Phase I. What does this mean?
- i. At Hudson, there is a weekly teacher's meeting to discuss and solve problems. Teachers are not having formal meetings with administrators nor the principal. However, teachers are open to any parent meetings to give feedback on students' learning and progress.
 - ii. Teachers are not fundraising. Grade 7 Grad fundraising is not happening. PAC funds will be used to pay for activities normally paid for by BINGO nights and other fundraising efforts.
 - iii. Teachers are not doing supervision. However, as always, teachers are on the look-out for safety issues.
- e. Questions from Parents:
- 1) What about goal-setting conferences scheduled for the 12th and 13th of October?
 - These will not be happening as scheduled by administration. Evaluation, assessment and progress of students are nonetheless occurring. Teachers invite parents to make an appointment to come and talk to them about their concerns or their child's learning. The teachers continue to maintain their focus on student learning.
 - 2) What about report cards?
 - If Phase I continues, report cards will not be distributed. Student evaluation and assessment is ongoing in class on a daily basis. Parents should feel free to ask teachers about their child's progress.
 - 3) What about Grade 7 articulation/application for special high school programs?
 - This will be ongoing as usual. Students will simply put together their applications with last report cards that were issued.
 - 4) How is this helping negotiations?
 - Phase I is putting pressure on administration and their support staff. Administrators will, in turn, be less able to carry the load and ask the Ministry to get on with negotiations.
 - 5) What can parents do to support teachers and the principal?
 - Feel free to communicate with your child's teacher.
 - Support new teachers.
 - Visit www.vsb.bc.ca for updates.

- Feel free to voice opinions about issues that you feel are important to the principal, the VSB and MLA's. (For example, at Hudson, we have had issues with teacher to ministry designate student ratios in some classes.)
- Support our school secretary, Ms. Batstone.
- Feel free to address Mr. Muress with any questions. This can be done through the PAC, if need be.

3. PAC Executive Elections

- a. Robert reported that there were no new nominations for PAC Executive positions and no executives who were stepping down. By acclamation, 2011/12 PAC executive positions remain the same as last year:
 - PAC Chair: Robert F.
 - PAC Co-Treasurers: Sheila C. & Andrea M.
 - PAC Co-Secretaries: Christine O. & Chantal M.

4. PAC Secretary Report – Christine & Chantal

- a. Vision Statement
Christine asked a parent to motion to approve a vision statement for a parental code of conduct at Hudson. Mitch L. motioned it to be approved and Jerry seconded the motion. The vision statement will be made available online for the Hudson community.
- b. Class Representative Update
Chantal reported that 11 of 13 divisions have class representatives for email communications. She asked any parents who are not receiving class emails who wish to be on the list to contact her at minten@novuscom.net.
- c. Book Sale Update
Chantal and Ms. Nikon had wished to hold a book sale this fall, using material gathered in a book drive held last year. Ms. Nikon has been too busy to go through the books to select worthwhile titles for the Hudson library yet, but she hopes to take care of this before December (when the "leftover" books can then be used for a sale at the Winter Fair to raise money for the school library).
- d. D.E.A.R. & National School Library Day
November 24th is N.S.L. Day and an initiative for all students and staff to encourage literacy by "dropping everything and reading" for 20 minutes. (By the way, Hudson students practice this initiative daily!) Ms. Nikon would like to involve parents in this initiative. More to come in the Hudson weekly reminders.

5. Treasurer Report - Sheila

- a. Winter Fair

There will be a Winter Fair again this year! It will be Friday, December 2nd at 5:30-8pm.

b. PAC Budget for 2011/2012

The PAC treasurers presented their proposal of income and expenses for 2011/12. They feel confident to bring in approximately what was brought in last year but acknowledge that things may change.

Please see attached budget for details. Here are some items to note:

- Wealthy School Revolution was added for \$800 income. This is a conservative estimate based on WSR Company's estimate of \$2000.
- Centennial Celebration is expected to pay for itself; therefore it is not included in the budget.
- Activities for Grade 7 Graduation have been allotted \$500 this year. This is to make up for fundraising that normally happens in the classes with teachers. Due to Phase I of teacher job action, this fundraising is not currently taking place.
- Gifts and Misc. will include a retirement gift for Keith, our beloved engineer who will be leaving in March 2012.
- Gaming account money is separately accounted for because money from the gaming grant must be used for specific purposes (i.e. performances).
- The PAC would love to fulfill teachers' wish lists every year. One of these goals is to put a smart board per year in classrooms – one year to the English track classes, the next to the French track classes. This year the treasurers are unsure to meet this goal, so they are proposing to reassess the purchase of a smart board in January. In the meantime, they propose to grant \$300/class for field trips and disposables (art supplies that often come out of teacher's own pocket books).

QUESTION FROM PARENT RE: SMART BOARDS:

Is it possible to get a smart board by donation?

All smart boards are bought and provided by the VSB as the board will only service and maintain their own equipment.

- Kindie nap mats are also on the teacher's wish list even though parents have supplied a place for current kindies to lie down and nap. This item is on the list so that mats can be standard and easily wiped down for hygienic reasons. Parent Jem mentioned it would be advisable to have mats made of healthy materials. She also may be able to get a better price for the mats.
- c. Chantal M. motioned to approve the 2011/12 budget and Monica M. seconded the approval. 2011/12 budget passed.

- d. Sheila reported we have a current GIC at BMO of approximately \$5000+change at an interest rate of ?? After some discussion, there was a consensus that interest rates were not significantly higher at other institutions to warrant changing the current GIC.
- e. Andrea C. motioned to approve rollover of the current BMO GIC of just over \$5000. Gary W. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Principal's Report – Mrs. Browning

- a. Mrs. Browning reported that she has been working on filling permanent teaching positions for divisions 3 and 5, both currently with TOC's heading up the classes. TOC Mr. Fonseca in division 3 will be replaced by a new teacher, Ms. Stella Lee, who will take over in January. Division 5 is still looking for a teacher to fill in until June of this year.

7. Centennial Committee Update – Alan

- a. The Centennial Committee will soon be meeting to budget, prioritize tasks and put volunteers to work on celebrations and projects.

8. Earthquake Supplies – Andrea C.

- a. Andrea C. reported that Parvinder has been building shelves in the storage locker and, once completed, she will get in to see what the space looks like and determine how many supplies will fit and how best to store supplies securely.

9. Family Photo Update – Robert

- a. Robert reported that 18 families and their pets attended and were photographed at this year's family photo night. Robert secured a date for next year:

Family Photo Night 2012 Wednesday, October 3 rd

10. New Business

- a. As time was running out, it was decided to save any new business for the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting will be Wednesday, November 2nd.

- 12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Christine O. was seconded by Gary W. at 7:55pm. Motion passed.