

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: December 6, 2011 6:30 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

In attendance: Parents (approximately 30), Principal Mrs. Browning 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. Motion: A motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2011 PAC meeting was moved by Mitch and seconded by Andrea C. Motion passed.

2. PAC Chair Report – Robert

a. Centennial Status

i. Centennial Banner has been moved up high on the building

b. Centennial Raffle Status.

i. Due to BC Gaming regulations, the raffle cannot be initiated until February 2012.

c. Centennial Quiz. Rob passed out a 10 question, multiple choice quiz which tested the group's knowledge of Henry Hudson historical trivia. Tricky questions, fascinating answers.

3. PAC Secretary Report –Christine

Christine relayed the message that Division 4 (Ms. Jamal) is still in need of a class rep to be the point person in terms of forwarding email messages sent from the PAC to the other parents of children in Division 4. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please let Chantal, Christine, or Ms. Jamal know.

4. Treasurer's Report – Sheila and Andrea

a. Winter Fair. Sheila conveyed gratitude to the many parents and families who helped out with the poinsettia fundraiser and also a huge thank you to everyone who helped out at and otherwise supported the Winter Fair. Again, it was a very fun and financially successful event. \$1730 was raised for the PAC and \$263 was raised for the library. In addition, the Grade 7s who helped out were able to earn \$366 from the bake sale, which amount will be added to their grad fund. All in, \$2360 was raised.

- b. Entertainment Books. \$700 was raised this year. Some discussion ensued about whether this particular fund raiser should be continued this year.
- c. Hot Lunch Program. As usual, this program is going very well. Through Wendy's fabulous work, in one term, the program has already made \$6880, which is two-thirds of what was projected for the entire school year (3 terms). At this rate, we may be able to raise more than \$19,000 for the school year, which would be fantastic. We will need to vote later in this meeting about whether to continue with the hot lunch program that is being run by Wendy.

5. Principal's Report – Mrs. Browning

- a. Mrs. Browning thanked the PAC for paying for the Hip Hop program which ran this fall as well as for the funds that went to Divisions 1 and 2 to pay for their field trip.
- b. Regarding the Winter Fair, Mrs. Browning noted that it was another success, and that the Grade 7 students loved helping out that evening.
- c. The school has been accepted into the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program. A reverse consent form will be going home to parents in early 2012 (i.e. parents only need to send the form to the school if they do not consent to their child participating in the program). Teresa, the school contact for this new program, will be sending out a note through the class rep system.
- d. Report cards will be going home before the end of the term, but due to a recent Labour Relations Board ruling, the report cards will only report on the students' attendance for the term.
- e. With respect to traffic safety, Mrs. Browning noted that there has been a lot of enforcement lately on Cypress and on York in the drop-off and 5 minute stopping zones, and many parents have received parking violation tickets. Mrs. Browning commented that the recent crack-down on violators is in part due to a couple of recent incidents where students were nearly hit by vehicles, and noted that crossing Cypress at York on foot is very dangerous given the lack of visibility and lack of cross-walk. A parent asked whether the school could obtain the help of crossing guards before and after school to assist with this dangerous crossing. Mrs. Browning advised that it is difficult to find certified crossing guards.
 - Action item: find out from the City about how to obtain crossing guards for the school.

- f. With respect to school yard supervision during the job action, Mrs. Browning indicated that the job action does not affect this supervision. The supervisors are Mrs. Browning and the SSA's (not teachers). There are always 6 supervisors out there before school, at recess, at lunch and after school. During lunch, 2 supervisors start out inside with the students eating lunch, and 4 supervisors are outside, then after the students are finished eating all 6 are outside.
- g. With respect to the lunch time procedure, some parents have mentioned that they feel their children are pressured (or feel pressure) to eat their lunches in a hurry and go outside, with the result that many children return home with half-eaten lunches still in their lunch bags, much to the annoyance of the parents. Mrs. Browning explained that there is a staggered lunch time. The intermediate students have lunch break from 12:00-12:45, and the younger students have lunch break from 12:15-1:00. At 12:15, the intermediate students who are still eating are moved into the Grade 6 area of the basement if there is not enough space to accommodate the younger children in the lunch are. On hot lunch days, the Kindies eat in their classrooms (where the teachers volunteer to stay and watch the children during that time) so there is more space in the lunch room on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs. Browning maintains that children are not encouraged to eat quickly or go outside to play before they are finished eating.

6. School Planning Committee ("SPC") Report

Nothing to report at this time.

7. Members at Large Report

- a. Centennial Committee. Mrs. Browning and Mme. Boyd went to a meeting for schools hosting centennial events this year and came back with lots of ideas and sample checklists on how to run a successful event. One piece of advice was to keep the celebration simple. They were also advised that starting to plan the event in January will provide plenty of time.

The centennial website is up and running and is looking good (www.hudsoncentennial.com). Many thanks to Tommaso for developing it. Alan and Chantal spent a lot of time going through the school's archival materials in the office. One project that will be going on in the next while: display cases will be set up to show various decades of the school's history.

- b. Hudson Choir. The choir will be performing at the December 13 school Christmas concerts. In 2012, the choir will be doing recruiting for more voices, particularly

from the older grades (4-7). The plan is to produce a CD featuring 100 years of music to tie in with the centennial celebrations.

- c. Hot Lunch Program & September 29 Multicultural Pot Luck. We now need to vote on whether to continue the program that Wendy started in September through June 2012. Wendy does not anticipate needing to come back for further approvals unless an extra day of hot lunch is to be added each week. Shall we continue the hot lunch program as is until the end of the school year?

Motion: A motion to continue the hot lunch program until the end of June 2012 was moved by Robert and seconded by Mitch. Motion passed.

Wendy advised that the forms for term 2 will be going home soon. There will be no hot lunch during the first week of school after the Christmas break. Wendy also noted that she has had the help of sufficient volunteers to date, but will happily accept extra helping hands for terms 2 and 3.

- Action item: compose and deploy a survey regarding the hot lunch program by the middle of term 2. Questions to ask would include: request feedback from students regarding menu, etc.; whether to move to 3 days of hot lunch; solicit other comments from parents.

- d. Earthquake/Disaster Readiness. Andrea reported that she has now recruited another parent to assist her, and that she will be able to devote more time and energy to this project in the coming months.

8. New Business

- a. Sheila mentioned that while the Hip Hop performance was enjoyable and very successful, there was a huge parent turn-out (way more than anticipated), and there was trouble regarding the seating arrangements and the ability of parents to actually see the performances. She wonders whether some kind of solution can be found to this problem of parents "fighting" for seats. She mentioned that some schools hold lotteries for the first 3 rows of seats. Also, she wondered whether it would be worth looking into the possibility of hiring a videographer to video record concerts and performances and then offer them for sale to parents, though mentioned there may be privacy concerns with doing so. Mrs. Browning mentioned that concerts and such are considered public events, so if parents do not want their children to be videotaped, they would have to keep their children out of the concert.

- Action item: consider solutions to seating and viewing troubles at future school concerts and performances.
- b. Given the financial success of the Winter Fair and Hot Lunch Program, Sheila mentioned that perhaps certain things that were taken out of the budget earlier this year could be put back into the budget. For example, perhaps the PAC can reconsider purchasing an additional Smart Board for the school. Also, Ms. Nikon (due to the job action) was unable to raise money through book fairs as she usually does. Some money was raised at the Winter Fair, but not enough to enable her to buy many books for the library. Perhaps the PAC can consider supplementing the library purchasing fund this year.
- Action item: carry forward to January PAC meeting the decision regarding purchasing a Smart Board and giving money to the library.
- c. December 16 is the last day of school this term. January 3, 2012 will be the first day back after the break.

9. Next Meeting

Next PAC Meeting: Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 in the library.

10. Motion: A motion to adjourn the meeting (7:53 pm) was moved by Robert and seconded by Sheila. Motion passed.