

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: January 9th, 2012 Meeting started at 6:38 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 19), principal Mrs Browning, teachers Mme Boyd and Mr Muress and HOOSC's Pat M. 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 with last minute amendments from December 2011 PAC meeting by Monica M. was seconded by Gary W. Motion passed.
2. **School Planning Committee - Monica M.**
 - a. Monica M. gave a brief synopsis of what the School Planning Committee is and what it does at Hudson as SPC elections are held each January. The group of one PAC executive member and 2 parents work with the principal to draft a school plan in spring for the upcoming school year. This plan becomes the focus for the teachers, students and administration of the Hudson community during the year. This plan is laid out in specific targets and assessments that is used to keep the plan in sight all year. The plan is linked to the Henry Hudson website.
 - b. As all members of the SPC wish to stand and Victoria S. would also like to be elected, voting will take place at the February PAC meeting when all members will be present (Mitch was absent).
3. **Wealthy School Revolution Fundraiser Update - Monica M.**
 - a. Monica reported that the WSR fundraiser for Hudson had generated just under \$200 up to December 2011. She will continue the campaign to advertise in the hope that more families will order even just some of their groceries through the program, bringing 20% of sales back to the school. Monica educated the members that WSR was planning to sell books, school supplies and was offering a case load sale for some items such as toilet paper. She noted that her push to increase sales at the school would be necessary to alleviate a charge for shipping small orders that WSR would be putting in place soon. She suggested that WSR might be a good way for students to fundraise for specific things such as graduation activities or field trips. She said that if parents were unable to pick up the shelf-stable groceries on the arrival date, Ms. Batstone would be willing to hold the delivery in the office until necessary.

▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Chantal will put this note about groceries held in the office and WSR promotions in weekly reminders to educate families and help promote the fundraiser.

4. **Secretary's Report - Chantal M.**

- a. Chantal reported that all divisions were represented by class representatives once again, despite needing to replace a volunteer who had moved abroad. She also wanted to once again thank the reps for their important role in communication at Hudson.
 - b. She asked parents for a show of hands for interest in having a book fair this year, as Ms. Nikon who usually arranges these is not able to do it due to the teacher's job action. There was a lot of interest for both French and English book sales.
- ▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Chantal will organize a book fair - and see if Ms. Nikon could also handle a book drive before summertime.

5. **Treasurer's Report - Sheila**

- a. Robert requested that it be noted in the minutes that the PAC executive had approved a small increase in hours to Wendy to compensate for administrative duties that were not originally calculated in her proposal due to doubling of days for the Hot Lunch Program.
- b. Sheila reported that the Winter Fair generated \$700 more and the Hot Lunch Program had also made \$3000 more (expecting a total of \$8000 more by the end of this year) than originally budgeted. She hoped to reopen the discussion to allocate this money to purchase a smart board for the school and perhaps even an ipad or two. (ipads are deemed excellently suited to special needs students.) Apple offers ipads for educational purposes at a discounted price of about \$530. Sheila wished to vote on whether Hudson PAC would approve the use of this money for these items. There was a question about whether some of this money would be better off used for new playground equipment. Robert suggested that we hear from Gary, who has some new information about funding from the province.

6. **Playground Equipment Replacement Update - Gary W.**

- a. Gary W. gave an update on the state of funding for school playgrounds as Hudson is looking to replace the wooden playground structure that will be removed next spring. He wanted to give members information about possible income that could help out our playground cost situation. The province has allocated \$8 million for school playground equipment replacement: \$2.2 million has been assigned to schools without playgrounds (September announcement), \$2.4 million has been assigned to schools that already replaced playgrounds (December announcement). That leaves \$3.6 million left for repairs and replacements. The VSB has listed Hudson School as one of 19 schools to be applicable for the last of these funds.

- ▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Browning will give Gary her contact at the VSB so he can look into when this funding may be given to our school.

5. Treasurer's Report (cont'd) – Sheila

- c. With this optimistic news about playground funding, the question about whether it was best to purchase a smart board or ipads was put forth. Mr. Muress, who helps put together the teacher's wish list, stated that the teachers still felt it was a good idea to stick to the acquisition plan for a smart board per year at the school. He maintained that the boards get a lot of use, and we are now with about half of the school's classrooms equipped with smart boards. The motion to allocate \$3000 for a smart board and \$1000 for ipads (perhaps refurbished ones with a warranty) was put forth by Alan, seconded by Chantal and unanimously voted in favour.
 - d. Sheila then brought up Keith the engineer's retirement in March. He has been at Hudson for the last nine years and makes a point of getting to know many of the kids by name. A real fixture at Hudson and liked by many of the students (and staff), the PAC would like to put together a leaving present. Sheila mentioned that one of our members suggested two organic pillows as a gift idea. Sheila asked members at this meeting for gift ideas and someone mentioned perhaps a piece of art work - even a commemorative piece of Hudson art that is available to us, according to Mrs Browning. Sheila invites any parents to come forth with ideas so that we can decide and allocate funds in time for his exact leaving date, which must also be determined.
- ▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs Browning to look into Hudson artwork as a gift for Keith and it's price. Mrs Browning to also find out Keith's last day at Hudson.

7. Principal's Report – Mrs Browning

- a. Mrs. Browning and the teachers were asked by Robert to give suggestions as to how negotiations can be moved along. Mrs. Browning thanked parents and families at Hudson for their interest in the difficult situation, and she passed along her gratitude for the teachers' grace and cooperation on a day to day basis during the job action. She left it open for Mr. Muress to make an update and comment.

8. Teacher's Report – Mr Muress

- a. First of all, Mr. Muress wanted to thank the PAC for the gymnastics program that has just begun again this year. He reported that the kids were thoroughly enjoying it.
- b. Mr. Muress then addressed the teacher/province negotiations and the job action. He stated that both sides are still negotiating, but there seems to be no movement. Henry Hudson's community is luckily doing well, but the push and pull is still weathering for both teachers and administration. He

distributed a pamphlet that illustrates the key issues held by the BCTF, but mentioned that teachers are having difficulty negotiating with the province's "zero mandate" policy. He feels that teachers and parents at Hudson are still in good communication even though there has been no formal report cards and teachers have not had meetings with administration. He wanted to reiterate that parents should know that they can meet with their child's teacher at any time. He wished to thank parents for their support and asked them to contact their MLA to discuss issues that were important for them. He suggested that parents keep updated on the VSB website where both sides were represented.

- c. One of the parents wondered if there were photos being taken of the students participating in the gymnastics program and other activities around the school. It was brought up that Ms. Batstone keeps photos throughout the year, documenting activities for the year book.
- ▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Chantal will put into the weekly email reminders for any parents with pictures of students around the school to forward them to Ms. Batstone.
- d. Mme Boyd reported that the Carnivale was to be held Wednesday, February 15th this year. The bilingual musicians "Grupo americano" will be performing, activity stations for the students will be set up and crepes will be served by the hot lunch volunteers for students to enjoy. The PAC helps to fund Carnivale and Mme Boyd and teachers organize this fun event.

7. Principal's Report (cont'd) - Mrs Browning

- a. Mrs Browning reported that the BC Fruit & Vegetable Program would be beginning next week. Volunteers were still required to help with preparation and distribution during school hours. Those who can help should contact Teresa K. or Wendy M.
- b. The provincial speech from the throne revealed Mr. George Abbot's plan for education in BC. Ms. Browning feels that this new direction and vision for education is very exciting. She shared photocopies with parents at the meeting, but said the plan for BC's education can be found online at www.bcedplan.ca as well. She mentioned that implementation of the plan has yet to be revealed.
- c. Ms. Browning brought up a piece of news that had been in local newspapers, about a few Vancouver Eastside schools that have been struggling coming up with funds to help kids who don't have. (Henry Hudson PAC has a fund to help kids who are not able to pay to go on field trips, for example, due to family finances. These schools have no such fund and may be hard-pressed to find parents who can contribute to this fund.) The two treasurers and Mrs Browning were wondering if there was some way Hudson community could help and thought it would be a great act if we could do something to have kids at our school put together a fundraiser for kids in their city who need help.

Members supported the proposal for Andrea and Sheila to organize a “February Games Night Fundraiser”, with the student’s help to run it, raising funds for a starter “pay what you can fund” for one of these schools.

9. Choir Update - Robert

- a. Robert reported that he had visited classrooms to offer incentives to intermediate students to join the choir and help make a Centennial CD. He stated that such a CD needed “horsepower” of boys and older kid’s voices. He hoped his Toblerone chocolate incentive would encourage older boys to participate this term.

10. Centennial Committee Update – Alan P.

- a. Alan reported that the Centennial website and Facebook page was receiving a fair bit of attention, with alumni signing up. A date has been set to have a meeting just for Centennial planning - January 23rd at 6pm in the library. As suggested at a meeting with other schools who have held Centennials, we plan to keep our June 21st celebration simple and ask for assistance from alumni by way of a notice on the website for volunteers. The idea for the Centennial celebration is to have a big, Kitsilano block party and barbecue that will be open to the public with music and it will be family-oriented and alcohol-free.
- b. Robert reported that he had been working on our licence for the Centennial raffle for three prizes: 2 cases of assorted BC wine, \$250 Le Petit Spa gift card and a two night stay at Mickey’s B&B in Vancouver. The tickets would sell for \$2 each and 2500 tickets would be printed to generate \$5000 in order to cover the cost of the celebration. As Rob has run our raffles before and had difficulty keeping track of ticket inventory, he is asking for some administrative assistance with ticket inventory. He hopes that parents/families with access to large offices of colleagues may be able to sell many tickets easily. The raffle has not yet begun as the rules stipulate that tickets can only start selling four months before the draw date of June 21st, 2012.
- c. Pat M. mentioned that Molson employees were the founders of the Henry Hudson Out of School Care Program. Perhaps Molson would be a willing corporate donor.

11. Grade 7 Fundraiser - Cathy M.

- a. Cathy came to tell the PAC meeting that the grade 7’s were going to begin a bake sale fundraiser every last Friday of each month at lunchtime to get money together for graduation activities. Their goal is to raise \$1500 for a cruise (and perhaps more to help another less fortunate school’s graduating class, like the “February fundraiser”). She and the grade 7’s are looking for parents to donate baked goods for sale and/or send their children with money to buy baked goods at the sale on the last Friday of the month. If parents can

donate baked items, please bring them to Ms Batstone at the office on Friday morning.

12. Next Meeting

a. Next PAC Meeting to be Thursday, February 9th at 6:30 pm in the library.

13. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Andrea B. was seconded by Donna Lynn at 7:55.
Motion passed.