

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: May 7th, 2012 Meeting started at 6:38 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 11) and principal Mrs Browning. 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 April 2012 PAC meeting by Jerry H. was seconded by Sheila C. Motion passed.

2. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Robert began the meeting by reporting that he feels parents at Henry Hudson are quite lucky in their relationship with staff during this year's job action. Other PACs were reporting cancellation of events and other issues. There have been some cases where PAC handouts, for example, did not make it into student's backpacks. Sheila also brought up how our secretary, Andrea Batstone is phenomenal in helping parents and staff at the school.
- b. Robert reported that although the PAC executive is not attending the AGM for the BCCPAC (due to having centennial foremost on their minds), that a proxy form was being sent in on our behalf.

3. Principal's Report - Mrs Browning

- a. Mrs Browning announced that the May 3rd earthquake drill at the school had gone very well and the students had done great, despite rainy weather. The evacuation was faster than the last time, making the exercise a success. Mrs Browning mentioned that perhaps next year the school could practice a full-release, involving parents and legal guardians, weather permitting.
- b. Mrs. Browning released the tentative schedule for next year, still to be confirmed by the VSB. The official calendar will be revealed on the VSB website.
 - School will begin September 4th.
 - Statutory Holidays are: October 8th, November 12th, December 25th and 26th, January 1st, February 18th, April 1st, March 29th and May 20th.
 - VSB District-wide Pro-D Days will be: September 24th, October 19th, November 30th, January 21st, April 19th and May 10th.

- There will be 5 District Closure days instead of 10 next year and daily school instructional hours will be reduced (although the extra time will be put back into lunch and recess time). Hudson school hours will remain 9am-3pm. Four of these DCD will be to extend Spring Break (which is March 18-22nd). These four DCDs will be on March 25th-28th and then added to Easter Holiday stats, March 29 and April 1st. There will also be a DCD on November 9th to make a four day long weekend for Remembrance Day.
- c. Mrs Browning mentioned that there was a future consultation process for the public held by the VSB about repurposing schools with 100 or fewer students on May 9th at Kitsilano and May 15th at Britannia, both at 6:30pm.
- d. A parent mentioned that Education minister George Abbott had been on the news talking about a new school calendar, deviating from the traditional calendar that Hudson presently follows. Mrs Browning said there are pilot schools in BC that will try out this new schedule next year. In fact, Henry Hudson had been given the option to be a pilot school, but the PAC executive thought it would be too disruptive to our enrolment and families to change our schedule so drastically for a year. Mrs Browning explained that the new schedule was happening in the Eastern U.S. and in L.A. to alleviate the “summer slide” - when students lose much of what they have learned from being out of school for 2 months in the summer. The schedule spreads out the school year and is roughly 3 months of learning followed by 2 weeks off in succession and then August and December completely off as well. For further information about the pilot schools, parents are encouraged to take a look at Kanaka Creek School in Maple Ridge. Donalyn asked how this calendar might affect the summer school and according to Mrs Browning, attendance is reduced due to students retaining more of what they have learned during the school year.

4. Earthquake Supplies & Planning Committee - Andrea C. & Mrs Browning

- a. Mrs Browning reiterated that the District Earthquake Preparedness Drill had gone very well as students had rallied and evacuated quickly. Although there was no news to report besides this, Robert asked if Parvinder the engineer had been paid back for the shelves he had put up in the earthquake locker. Mrs Browning replied that he was unwilling to take money, but there was a consensus that we should pay him back in some form or another from the PAC. It was determined that we should find his preferred method of recognition to be sure he is duly appreciated.

5. Secretary's Report - Chantal M.

- a. Chantal reported that the Scholastic French *Festival du livre* that occurred April 16th-18th had been a success, with net sales of \$3500. (The last French book sale's total sales were about \$2200.) Chantal wanted to thank the volunteers, the staff, Ms Nikon in particular, the administration, the parents and the students for all their support and assistance. She was pleased to report that the commission from the *Festival* was taken in book credit and amounted to over \$1500 worth of French books for the school library.
- b. Andrea C. suggested that next time advertisement that credit cards and interact were available at the book fairs as it may have generated even more sales. Chantal will make note of this for next time.

6. Treasurer's Report - Sheila

- a. Sheila had nothing to report besides the news that Spring Planter orders were down by a third from last year so we may not continue this particular fundraiser next year. There was much discussion about whether this outcome was due to fundraising fatigue or a function of families able to purchase the same product elsewhere for a cheaper price or perhaps this fundraiser does not allow a variety of colour and plants as choice. One way or another, the PAC may want to revisit fundraising ideas next year and decide to focus on those that are most worthwhile for the time spent.

7. ChildRun - Theresa K.

- a. Theresa announced that the ChildRun fundraiser bake sale on May 4th went very well and raised \$611 for childhood cancer research and support. She said Team Hudson's goal was to raise \$1000 before June 1st so that they were eligible for a match from businessman Chip Wilson. She proposed having an ice cream sale at lunch and after school, but did not want it to coincide with the grade 7 fundraiser bake sale. Chantal said she would put her in contact with Cathy M. from the grade 7's so that a date could be figured into the busy May schedule.

8. Hot Lunch Report - Wendy M.

- a. Wendy announced that she is currently putting together a list of volunteers for Sports Day where the PAC provides oranges and hot dogs for all the students. She mentioned that she would send something to Chantal to put in email reminders. She also said that she would be needing a couple more hot lunch volunteers to help serve on Thursdays until the end of the year. Unfortunately, two of her constant volunteers are not able to help anymore due to injury and moving away.

9. Choir Update - Catherine

- a. Catherine reported that the centennial CD recording was scheduled for June 3rd in the morning. Catherine tried hard to schedule it at any other time so that there would not be any conflict with the ChildRun, but as the studio is being offered for free, being fussy about scheduling was not an option. There are about 2 or 3 children who will have to choose which activity to attend. She said the choir has learned about 6 of 10 songs for the recording session and Robert reiterated how focused the kids had been to make such progress.
- b. The paper inserts for the CD are being put together but Catherine and Robert wanted to ensure students' last names did not appear on the insert for privacy reasons. They plan to check with families on a case-by-case basis to see if children's names and last initials would be acceptable.

10. Centennial Committee Update – Alan P.

- a. The next centennial meeting will be Wednesday, May 9th at 8 a.m.
- b. The centennial committee was still looking for volunteers to help put together decade displays for the '80's and '90's into the future, but Donalyn said she would take this on. Alan P. wanted to thank the staff for helping out. In particular, Mr Muress and Ms M's classes will be tackling the memory and timeline book. The grade 7's will be writing an historical fiction letter as a class assignment describing news of the day (local, provincial and national news items), personal moments such as getting to school as well as popular culture of the eras. These assignments are meant to make up the centennial memory books.
- c. Publicity for the centennial is underway now: Elaine and Jo have begun walking around local businesses with posters and raffle tickets. Post-secondary institutions and their respective student associations still need to be advised of the centennial. The paper version of the Hailer was sent out with an appeal for volunteers. Alan and Andrea have made a contact at the Molson brewery, with hopes they may consider posting announcement of our centennial on their huge sign. Anyone willing to help in any capacity, please contact Alan.
- d. Alan reported that during the Sir Franklin centennial, the PNE sign was flashing about their centennial which occurred Friday, April 27th. A volunteer with the VSB, Andrea, attended and brought feedback from the event. She mentioned that the registration was 240 people at an event for age 18+. 140 of those registrations came in the last week, so we are to expect many last-minute registrants. Many of the alumni wanted to tour the whole school.

- e. There was some question about registration and if one could attend the centennial without registering. Robert explained that registration is necessary to attempt to predict numbers of public who may attend and offer them the opportunity to purchase food and merchandise for a better price than if they purchase it at the event. The Hudson community will be able to purchase food and merchandise *a la carte* on a separate registration form coming out at the beginning of June. Of course, Hudson families can extend “Hudson pricing” to friends and family who will be coming to the centennial.

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be Monday, June 4th at 6:30 pm in the library.
12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sheila C. was seconded by Alan P. at 7:55. Motion passed.