

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: September 11th, 2012 Meeting started at 6:40 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 38), teachers Mme Suzanne, Mme Boyd and principal Mr Adams. 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 June 2012 PAC meeting by Gary W. was seconded by Andrea C. Motion passed.

2. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Robert welcomed the large group and the new principal, Mr Adams. He encouraged parents who were new to the school to feel free and ask questions to other parents - on the playground or in the PAC.
- b. Robert told parents what to expect as far as extra-curricular programs at the school for the year, listing West Area 2, run by Les Smith and operated out of Kitsilano, as the main provider of activities. Pamphlets and information come directly from the West Area 2 program but the PAC this year hopes to get this information out as soon as it is provided so that all parents can have access to this information in a timely manner. Some of the programs that are in the works are: lunch programs such as basketball and drama and after school programs such as water polo and choir.
- c. The choir program at Hudson is also run by West Area 2 and is headed up by Robert's wife, Catherine. Robert informed parents that all grades were welcome in the choir, and it has been a successful program, producing a 20 song CD for the centennial last year. (Anyone wishing to purchase a CD, can contact Rob). He mentioned that choir registration forms had been sent home with students in backpacks.

3. Principal's Report - Mr Adams

- a. Hudson's new principal introduced himself as Mr Adams. He said he had felt a super welcome from the staff at Hudson and was daily tending to the basics of starting the school year while busily learning the ropes. This is his third principalship. He comes to us from Brock Elementary and before that he was at Kitchener and MacDonald.
- b. Mr Adams reported that Hudson's population this year was 337 students divided among 15 divisions, 7 French classes and 8 English. He described Hudson as busting at the seams (in his words, "like me in my pants after Christmas"). This is a far cry from where Hudson was 7 years ago, looking at low enrolment and just two years ago, slated to be shut down.

- c. There are 7 new staff members this year: Ms Dixon (grade 5/6 English), Mr Lerch (grade 4/5 English), Ms Johnson and Mr Chong (kindergarten English), Ms Shomura (grade 4/5 French), Ms Conte (grade 2/3 French), Ms Langlois (grade 6 French), Ms Mesa (kindergarten French) and Ms Tso (grade 3 English).
- d. Mr Adams mentioned that the first Hudson Hailer has been sent home (in paper, in backpacks) and he hopes to send an electronic version from the office to parents once/month.
- e. He reported two dates in September: the Terry Fox Run would be September 14th at 1:45pm (intermediate kids would be running at Vanier Park and the primary students would be running on the field) and the first school assembly would be Monday, September 17th at 10:55 am after recess. He welcomed all parents to both events.

4. Playground Donations and Replacement - Robert & Gary

- a. Robert filled in new attendees about Hudson's need to replace playground equipment that would be removed in summer 2013. The wooden monkey bars and swing set on the east side of the school is no longer maintained by the VSB and, for liability reasons, had to be removed according to the VSB. Gary has been working on the arduous process of getting funding and receiving approval by the VSB as there is an incredibly bureaucratic flowchart to navigate. The school applied for a grant from Rotary so Robert wanted to make sure to find out if we did receive it or not. Gary and another parent named Svetlana were planning on taking a proposal to local businesses to see if they could gain funds to help out with the approximate \$24, 000 bill to replace the equipment. Funding and any donations need to go through the PAC in order for government reimbursement - if, in fact, we would be eligible for money after the project was complete. There was question as to whether the Hudson PAC is a recognized charitable donation. The PAC's official existence is governed by the School Act. We are a de facto charity, but not registered in any other way.

5. Secretary Report - Chantal

- a. Chantal introduced the class representative initiative that has been ongoing at Hudson to maintain communication between parents and the school and PAC in a paperless fashion. Each division assigns a parent volunteer to forward emails from the PAC secretaries that outline school activities and important dates. Many class representatives from previous years had offered to volunteer again this year, but Chantal was still missing reps for divisions 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Thank you to Steve W., Danielle D., Andrea C. and Marisa L. who stepped in for 4 out of 5 divisions. Chantal will continue to look for a rep for division 1.

- b. Chantal reported that the iWalk initiative this year is set for October 8th-12th this year. She said that she has 100 pedometers and some other items that are for the school to use to encourage the students to walk around their neighbourhoods, walk to school and get to know their communities on foot. Usually there is a day planned where students are asked to walk to school and then they receive a juice box or other prize. This year, Chantal suggested that the teachers use the “prizes” in their classroom to do as they wish. Chantal’s hope is that teachers will integrate walking to school or taking a field trip as a class in the neighbourhood to encourage the iWalk initiative. Mme Suzanne thought that the teachers would be happy to have the resources. Chantal would be in charge of hanging posters and getting the message to the teachers.
- c. Lastly, the date for the MultiCultural Potluck needed to be set. It will be the 26th of September on a Wednesday in the gym. Wendy will handle the communication with parents.

6. Hot Lunch Report - Wendy M.

- a. Before getting into the treasurer’s report, Wendy introduced herself as the hot lunch coordinator for Hudson and gave a report on what to expect from the fundraiser. She reported that order forms had been sent home with students and that collection of the forms were on Thursday and Friday, September 13th and 14th, outside the library. Forms are also available and accepted in the school office. After the collection of forms, pizza and hot lunches will begin Tuesday, September 18th.
- b. A pilot program to test out the interest and viability of 3 days of hot lunch has been deferred this term due to the school’s large numbers, space constraints and logistics.
- c. Wendy brought up the need for volunteers to keep hot lunch running. She reiterated that parents need not commit a lot of time. Even one day per month or one day all year would be helpful. She stated that although hot lunch is a service appreciated by many parents, it is also the PAC’s largest fundraiser. The program made about \$18,000 last year.
- d. Wendy asked for all attending to approve an increase in the price of hot lunches due to inflation and increased food costs. Lunches have always sold for \$4/lunch. Starting this year, they would be \$4.50. A motion to approve this increase was unanimously agreed upon by a show of hands.
- e. Wendy also mentioned that donations for the hot lunch program were greatly appreciated and accepted to help those families who could not afford to participate. She told anyone who has difficulty affording hot lunch to see the secretary, principal or their teacher. She answered a question from Christine about food that is leftover if a child is absent due to illness. Wendy said the extra food trickles down to any child that seems to need it or wants it, so it is

not wasted. Extra pizza goes to the daycare for the kindergarten snack. Wendy wanted to make sure to tell parents that although teachers try very hard not to schedule field trips over lunch hour on hot lunch days, sometimes it is unavoidable and parents need to understand that hot lunch cannot be provided in those circumstances. Students will need to pack their own lunch on those days as refunds cannot be given and should be viewed as a donation to the PAC.

- f. Wendy mentioned that if a child has allergies, please contact her at wendy.shoelady@gmail.com so that she can share ingredients with you.

7. Treasurer's Report - Sheila

- a. Sheila stated that the Financial Report would be presented at the October PAC meeting. She figured that we would have a \$5000 carryover from last year, as usual.
- b. Sheila wanted to discuss a new policy for the popcorn machine that was donated to the PAC last year and had helped generate income during events. A new policy would charge \$25 for the rental of the machine for each use outside of the PAC to have a fund to replace the machine at the end of its life or to repair it.
- c. She also hoped to institute a returned cheque policy, keeping the PAC from having to swallow the returned cheque fees of \$7/occurrence. With a little input from attendees, it was agreed that a cash-only policy would be implemented after 2 bounced cheques. This would apply per household. Sheila noted that there would be a note on forms asking parents to have money in their account for two weeks after cheque's date.
- d. One of the parents suggested that the treasurers ask the bank to waive fees for the PAC account since this is a non-profit and especially now that this policy has been instituted.
- e. Sheila and Andrea would like to organize a Winter Fair again this year. This is a fundraiser/community building fair that has happened for two years and is very good fun for the whole family and Hudson community. The date of Friday, December 7th was chosen, with Mr Adams to confirm.
- f. As far as fundraising, Sheila listed some of the school's fundraisers, reiterating that the PAC had hoped to diminish "fundraising fatigue" by eliminating some of the smaller fundraisers. She reported that there was no plan of doing a raffle and Wealthy School Revolution fundraiser was under review. Although there was no intention of doing Entertainment Books in this "groupon world", Mme Boyd said that the books had already arrived in the office, so this would also be reviewed. Sheila said there would be Family Photo night (to be determined), Winter Fair and spring and fall family bingo nights to help fund the playground replacement.

- g. Sheila brought up the Teacher's Wish List, asking the teachers present to decide what teachers wanted to ask for from PAC for the year. The PAC has been working on getting a smart board for every classroom, but unsure if this is still a worthwhile goal. Mme Suzanne offered to prioritize the teachers' desires and put together a wish list in the next two weeks for the PAC.
- h. Sheila explained that each year the PAC donates money to each class for field trips. So that the parents know which field trips are paid for by the PAC, there will now be an application for field trips, done by the teachers.
- i. Evin L. asked if Henry Hudson PAC taps into grants offered to schools. Robert replied that, yes, we apply and receive the gaming grant each year. Last year, that was an allotment of \$20/pupil (based on previous year's enrolment) that must be used for specific activities such as gymnastics, hip hop and performances. Evin mentioned that she is versed in grant applications and offered to help bring funds to the school. She and Gary will swap contacts so that perhaps she can help with producing funding for the playground replacement.
- j. Sheila reported that Hip Hop and Gymnastics were booked for this year already (activities sponsored by the PAC).
- k. Finally, Sheila stated that she and Andrea would not be returning as treasurers and that elections for their positions would be held next month at the October meeting. Anyone interested in filling their shoes should speak to them or Robert.

8. BC Fruit & Vegetable Program - Theresa K.

- a. Theresa quickly introduced the BC Fruit and Vegetable Program to new families attending the PAC meeting as an initiative to encourage children to eat healthy fruits and vegetables with their peers in the classroom. She wished to advise that the reverse consent form for the program had been sent home in backpacks this week. This consent form is for parents of children with specific fruit and vegetable allergies and those who wish their children to opt out of participation in the program. She noted that the program was starting tomorrow with local blueberries being offered.

9. Centennial Committee Update – Alan P.

- a. Centennial celebrations were held last year on June 21st at 3:30-8pm at Hudson, with great success. Alan reported that there were approximately 300-400 people onsite, allowing alumni to meet and the Hudson community get in touch with the school's roots. The Centennial event raised \$3642 for the playground fund and when the Centennial Committee made a call out to parent volunteers, the Hudson community stepped up big time - THANK YOU to all!

- b. Alan mentioned he would be archiving some displays and he would like to receive any photos or memories from the event so that they could be remembered. Please email him at alanpatolamoosman@ to send him any photos. There was mention that Ms Browning's husband, Glen, took photos that should be sent to Alan for this purpose. Alan hopes that the success of the Centennial would carry through this year as well!

10.11 New Business

- a. Sheila suggested that the PAC take a look at hiring a videographer to record school performances such as hip hop, winter concerts, etc. Due to our large school population, the gym is often full and it is difficult for parents to see their children or many parents are unable to attend. It would be a good idea to price out these services and see what options exist.
- b. Sheila also brought up that the PAC gives \$500 per year for a graduation ceremony and \$500 every second year for a grade 6/7 camping or other trip. It is yet to be decided how this is going to play out now that there are two graduating classes - one French and one English. (This year there are only 3 grade 7 students in French set to graduate.)
- c. Sheila mentioned that there had been an incidence of a child being bitten by a dog on the playground during school hours. She reiterated that dogs are not allowed off-leash, on the playground during school hours. She said the phone number to call if a dog is spotted off-leash on Hudson grounds during school time is 3-1-1. Gem also noted that signage, doggie bags and doggie waste disposal were lacking around the field. It is necessary to call the City of Vancouver to see if this situation can be improved.

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be Tuesday, October 9th.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jerry H. was seconded by Sheila at 7:48pm.
Motion passed.