

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: October 9, 2012 6:30 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

In attendance: Parents (approximately 25), Principal Adams. Regrets: Ms. 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. Approval of Minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2012 PAC meeting was moved by Alan and seconded by Mitch. Motion passed.

2. PAC Treasurer Report – Sheila

- a. Year End for 2011-2012. The year end financial statement does not contain any surprises. Last year's income and expenses largely followed the budget. Sheila explained that in January 2012 the budget was amended slightly to facilitate the purchase of an additional smartboard and additional iPads for resource teachers.

A motion to accept the 2011-2012 year end financial statement as presented was moved by Andrea C. and seconded by Alan. Motion passed.

- b. Budget for 2012-2013. This year's budget is largely able to fulfill the teachers' wish list, but Sheila noted that since some details are still required with respect to the technology on the wish list (e.g. smartboards, computers), \$10,000 was budgeted for this item but no detail has been given on this budget in terms of what exactly will be purchased with this money. For instance, we understand that computers are needed in order to use smartboards, but it is unclear how many computers are needed by the school in order to be able to make use of the smartboards that are on the wish list. Also, we need to keep in mind the cost of upgrading current technology. As for the Handwriting Without Tears books, \$1200 was budgeted for these books, which will be used by all students from Kindergarten through grade 4.

As for the other projected expenses, two new items were added in this year's budget: expenses for babysitting at PAC meetings, and expenses for school team support for three activities. The school team support monies is to be used over the coming school year to support three extra-curricular school activities that are free

to all students. For instance, some of this money will be used this fall to pay bus rental expenses for the school's cross country team.

Another change this year from last year is the decreased amount listed for the Grad Trip, and the fact that it has been broken into two items – Grad Trip English and Grad Trip French. The amount budgeted for these events has decreased since last year, as this event used to be budgeted for only every second year as the grade 6s and 7s used to go together on a class trip every other year, but going forward they will be budgeted for each year and grade 7 only, 2 separate trips (English & French). Also, since there is for the first time this year a grade 7 French class (albeit with very few students), it made sense to start budgeting for these classes separately.

As for the projected income, the \$18,000 from hot lunch is simply the amount we made last year from the hot lunch days, and the \$1500 listed beside Holiday Fair / Poinsettias was based on last year's numbers, less \$200 to play it safe.

With this school year's budget, the plan is to be able to roll over about \$7500 to the 2013/2014 school year.

One parent asked Principal Adams whether there was a district-wide policy with respect to the purchase of technology in elementary schools. Principal Adams replied that the district pays for the software licenses that are used by the schools, but that each school pays for its own computers, which must be purchased through VSB-approved vendors.

Andrea C. mentioned that Andre S. has offered to attend a PAC meeting and give a presentation to parents about the capabilities of the different technologies used in the school (e.g. what do smartboards do?).

⇒ Action item: arrange technology information session for parents.

Sheila noted that if the Budget is approved at the meeting, the expenses that have been budgeted for are essentially pre-approved, but if there is something else that isn't on the budget which costs \$300 or more, then such an expenditure will have to be approved at a PAC meeting.

A motion to accept the 2012-2013 budget as presented was moved by Jerry and seconded by Mimi. Motion passed.

3. PAC Secretary Report – Chantal

- a. Chantal reported that all divisions were currently covered by class representatives and that 7 of 15 divisions had 100% participation from families. At least three other divisions were only missing about 2-3 email addresses.
- b. Chantal mentioned that iWalk was going on this week, with continued cooperation from the weather outside. Teachers seemed to be making use of promotional items that were offered by iWalk sponsors such as pedometers, sunglasses and stickers.
- c. A book drive is going to be organized by Chantal for the end of October. Collection will be taken under the cover by the gym and the books will be stored in the girl's change room in the gym until Ms. Nikon is able to sort through them to take some for the library and classrooms, leaving a large bundle to be sold to raise funds at the Winter Fair. Ms. Nikon hopes to then have an ongoing book intake during the school year so that families can bring books they wish to donate to the library on a regular basis. Ideally she would like to set up a store run by the students for the sale of any leftover books.

4. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Family Photo Update. Robert reported that the Family Photo Fundraiser Night would be Monday, October 15th. This year the fundraiser is more popular than previous years with 20 families participating. The sign-up was online which made it a simple process for him to organize. A photographer will take posed photos of family groupings, including furry friends at the school during scheduled sitting times of 15 minutes between 5 and 9pm. All families will receive an 8x10 photo with their \$15 sitting fee.
- b. Choir Update. Robert reported on the choir, on behalf of his wife, Catherine, who is the choir director. Registration shows about 50 students for the choir this term, with a strong chamber choir of 15 students (all in grades 3 and up).
- c. Multicultural Potluck. A large crowd turned up to the Multicultural Potluck on September 26th to kick-off the 2012-13 school year. The PAC would like to thank Wendy and her volunteer crew who helped with set-up, clean-up and making sure everything went deliciously. Mr. Adams was also a big help.

- d. Outgoing Executive Members. Another round of appreciation went out to Sheila C. and Andrea M. for their tireless efforts as PAC treasurers for 3 years. During their time on the PAC Executive, they oversaw a large increase in total revenue to the PAC budget and they were the two initiators and still are the main organizers of the Winter Fair at Hudson. With due acknowledgement and adoration, the PAC and community thank you both!
- e. PAC Elections. Robert raced through the PAC elections for PAC Chair and Secretaries as there were no new nominations. The current secretaries, Christine O. and Chantal M. will remain onboard as co-Secretaries and Robert F. will remain as Chair. As the two treasurers were not standing again for their positions, Robert made a call-out for last-minute nominations. There were none. Two parents who had expressed interest were nominated and subsequently voted unanimously in as co-Treasurers: Emily C. and Dana T.

5. Principal's Report – Mr. Adams

- a. Upcoming Events. Mr Adams gave a schedule of important dates coming up:
 - i. On October 12th, the school has been invited to the Space Centre (close to the school by Vanier Park) to participate in a Guinness Book of World Records attempt at the largest science lesson ever. The students will meet astronaut Jeremy Hansen and partake in science experiments at the same time as large numbers of other students across Canada. This initiative is put on by the Canadian Space Agency and Natural Resources Canada.
 - ii. October 30th photo retakes will occur at 1pm for those who are unhappy with individual school photos.
 - iii. On October 25th, the District X-Country meet will happen at Trout Lake Park. Henry Hudson has a team this year being looked after by two teachers, Ms. Lee and Ms. Robertson and one parent, Sandy R. Sheila wanted to report that it was a great way to see Hudson's spirit and that the kids seemed to be thoroughly enjoying this extra-curricular activity. Mr. Adams said that traditionally the District Meet was a big deal, despite often being held in poor weather, allowing the kids get truly mucky and have fun in a competitive spirit. All are welcome to come out and cheer on Hudson.

- b. Hot Lunch. Mr. Adams mentioned that it had not yet been decided whether a 3 day hot lunch would be piloted in the next term. Robert said that further analysis was needed to determine if this was something that would be pursued.
- 6. Teachers' Report – teachers not present
- 7. School Planning Committee Report – nothing to report
- 8. Members-at-Large Reports
 - a. Earthquake/Disaster Readiness. Andrea C. was pleased to report that food and water had been supplied by the VSB to Hudson's earthquake shed. Now we are basically set up at least with water, food, some tarps and tents in the case of an earthquake. She wished to thank whomever took care of that! Andrea also mentioned she would be using her son's class (Chong/Johnson's K class) to pilot an initiative for all families to provide a "comfort kit" for the earthquake shed. After figuring out what works best, she will work on collecting these for the entire school.
 - b. Accidental Fundraising Committee. Robert introduced Evin L. who is the spokesperson for a committee helping to manage and brainstorm fundraising ideas for Hudson, including gaining funds from big and local businesses. Other members of the committee are Gary W. (environmental analyst) who began the process with the school board to replace the playground equipment, Svetlana F. (Aboriginal art gallery) who is experienced with presenting and networking with corporate donors and Beth (management consultant) who will be helping with long-term planning. Evin L. will be bringing in experience from her government job, negotiating grants. They hope to examine fundraising at Hudson and make a 5-year plan for meeting needs of PAC/school/teacher requirements unfulfilled by usual government funding.
- 9. New Business
 - a. Grade 7 French Immersion Trip. Alan P. reported that he was beginning to gather information about organizing a field trip for our French Immersion grade 6 (16 students) and 7's (3 students set to graduate this year). He said that these trips were not part of the curriculum but an add-on to enrich the students' experience in French - and often provide a life-long memory. He is currently looking into what sources are available (i.e. grants, funding) and what is the management of tasks by

schools, parents and teachers. He reported that the trip required parents' agreement to the trip and hosting a student in their home, helping to fundraise not just for transportation but also for activities while the exchange students are in Vancouver.

Mr Adams mentioned that this year the plan was for the 3 French Immersion grade 7's to tag along with Trafalgar School's trip.

- b. Gift for Parvinder. Robert mentioned that the PAC would like to thank Parvinder, the out-going engineer, with a gift and card. They asked the members if it would be OK to purchase a gift (for under \$300) from the budget and the members agreed. Jem mentioned we could purchase organic pillows from where she works at 50% off. Parvinder has gone above and beyond in building shelves for the earthquake shed and helping out with small tasks around the school for Centennial last year. The school said goodbye to him in a special assembly and sent him with cards made by each division before his unexpected transfer to Oppenheimer School at the end of September.
- c. Dog Signage in School Field. Chantal M. reported speaking to VSB's head engineer who said that signs about dog regulations were hung on the back of the baseball diamond and fences at Hudson, as required. He said that we would have to speak to the principal to fund better signage and get receptacles for dog waste. Mr. Adams said he would look into the issue and see what he could come up with. One parent said they had seen great signage at Trafalgar School that was much more visible.
- d. Halloween. Sandra R. came to fill in the meeting about Halloween events at Hudson. Each year, there is a haunted house set up in the gym for all the kids to visit on Halloween. This year's theme is "fairy tales gone wrong". The grade 7's (Ms Lee's class) will get dressed up as live characters for the display and volunteers will be needed to help set up on October 30th from 3-9pm. It is preferable if volunteers with a little experience yielding a hammer are available. Sandra and Susan S. will be organizing this haunted house and the pumpkin carving night on Monday, October 29th from 6-8pm. A few volunteers are also required for this to help set up and clean up afterwards. A parent and pumpkin are required to accompany students to the pumpkin carving event. Chantal will make a call out for volunteers, a 6 foot black light, an industrial strobe light and donations of empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls in the weekly reminders.

10. Next Meeting

Next PAC Meeting: Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 6:30 in the library.

11. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Sheila and seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.