

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: April 10th, 2013. Meeting started at 6:36 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 17) and principal Mr Adams. In addition, 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 March 2013 PAC meeting by Jerry H. was seconded by Beth L. Motion passed.

2. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Robert began by talking about the End-of-the-Year Barbecue. Thursday, June 20th was set as the date for this community-building celebration of the school year. Wendy said the arrangements for that date had been set with M&M Meats for the food as usual, but Robert asked what else we can do to bring the community together. As members did not have any ideas, a call out for suggestions and volunteers to organize entertainment and activities for this date is needed. Beth offered the idea to invite the new kindergarten parents who will attend a "Welcome to Kindergarten" at the school in May. It was estimated that about 44 new families may be coming into Hudson next year. It was noted that Wendy would have to work with M&M Meats and the food numbers to consider how many "walk-ups" may present themselves.

3. School Planning Committee - Chantal

- a. Chantal said there is nothing to note from the SPC committee besides that there is a meeting scheduled for April 16th with Mr Adams.

2. Principal's Report - Mr Adams

- a. Mr Adams told the attendees about Hudson's Peer Helper program (for which PAC funded orange safety jackets). He said the counsellor at the school and Mme Boyd were working hard with these older students who were selected on virtue of their enthusiasm to be good buddies to the younger students at their school. They have now been trained on how to solve conflict and they will appear on the playground in teams of three for one lunch and one recess per week, in their bright orange jackets. Robert asked if there was any problem with the Peer Helpers being ostracized by their classmates for stepping into this role and Mr Adams assured that, on the contrary, the Peer Helpers were being looked up to at the school.
- b. Mr Adams reported that Jump Rope for Heart at Hudson had raised about \$1200 this year.

- c. Some upcoming activities: Water Polo, through West Area 2 and a partnership with the Aquatic Centre, will begin this last term, with transportation provided. A babysitting course will be offered at Hudson by the Red Cross on Friday, May the 10th (Pro-D Day). There will be a BC Lions presentation about bullying at an assembly on April 22nd and Monday, May 6th will be Music Monday, where 200 of Hudson's students, the band and choir will participate in a collaborative performance of a Barenaked Ladies Song at the planetarium. Music Monday is something put together by the Canadian Space Centre.
- d. Mr Adams reported that the VSB has presented their budget for the coming year and it will be available online April 16th. He offered a "Reader's Digest" version, saying that there is a shortage of \$8 million. In response to the question, "How will this cut directly affect Hudson?", Mr Adams replied that there will be 8 fewer teaching positions district-wide. Usually this will affect the French Immersion teachers as they are generally younger and come from outside of the district. (Thankfully most of Hudson's F.I. teachers are fairly "senior".) The district is also expecting lower enrolment next year.
- e. Robert asked Mr Adams how to get teachers at Hudson to attend PAC meetings and be more involved in decisions. He asked that Mr Adams tell them they are missed at the meetings and always welcome and to let us know if we can do anything to make them feel more a part of the PAC processes.

3. Accidental Fundraising Committee - Beth

- a. Beth spoke for the fundraising committee reiterating the importance of having a PAC budget set in place for the beginning of the school year. She is hoping to complete a direct appeal by the end of term 1 and then allow parents to have silence on the fundraising line while PAC deals with the spending. Mr Adams was also asked about whether the Epson projectors that PAC funded to the tune of about \$7000 had been ordered. He stated they had been ordered but would take about 4-5 months for delivery. Installation was still to be determined. There was a collective groan of frustration. Beth hopes that next year there will be a more stream-lined, direct message about why PAC is fundraising. She mentioned how the direct appeal for donations was astonishingly successful considering it had never been done before at Hudson.

4. Secretary Report - Chantal

- a. Chantal mentioned she and Andrea L. were hoping to organize a Kidproof course at Hudson, teaching young students how to be "Safe at Home". Dates and details still pending. She mentioned that Bike to School Week is scheduled for the end of May. She is looking for anyone with suggestions

of how to make this interesting, fun and how to motivate the kids to get active. Please see her with any ideas.

- b. Chantal spoke on behalf of Christine and herself to mention that they will not be running for PAC co-secretaries next year. They hope that anyone who is interested in taking over will have some time to think about it and feel free to talk to either one of them for more information.

6. Treasurer's Report - Dana

- a. Dana shared some numbers that were still budgeted to be spent before the end of the school year. The earthquake supplies initiative still had \$2000 allotted for adding items to the earthquake shed. Andrea C. and the PAC have been waiting for the school's Safety Committee to take inventory and decide what is needed. According to Mr Adams, although the shed is not perfectly stocked, he feels it is "98% complete" to where we want it. It was suggested that the Safety Committee or a parent volunteer do an assessment in September, when final head counts and expiry dates would be more relevant. There is also \$300 per class for field trips that has not been all used up. Often the teachers like to do field trips in June, though, so perhaps requisitions for these funds are still going to be submitted.
- b. As there is this huge playground replacement project that requires approximately \$30,000 and the PAC has about \$11,500 carry over, the PAC executive and Accidental Fundraising Committee would like to suggest using these funds to complete the playground project. Gary confirmed that it will take 4-6 weeks to order and get delivery of the playground (installation will be determined by the contractors). A final direct appeal for playground donations is in the works with May 1st the deadline. Corporate donations may still come through, but response has been harder to get than anticipated. The contingency of \$11,500 is in addition to a GIC of \$5000. This year, the PAC has also funded a teacher's wish list, including a technology component, of \$10,000. This fund raising is mostly from the Pizza Lunch Day and Hot Lunch one day per week. The proposal to use these funds will be voted on at the next PAC meeting.
- c. Dana brought up the suggestion that the PAC strike the budget for the 2013/2014 school year at the June meeting in order to hit the ground running in September. Consequently, Mr Adams has been asked to put together a wish list from teachers for June.

9. Choir Update - Catherine

- a. Catherine reported that the third term of choir had begun with about 40 students. The chamber choir will begin April 11th. The choir will be featured as the soprano portion while the school band will play the alto part at Music Monday on May 6th. This term the choir plans to do a couple of community performances at the senior's centre and hospital as well as the

end-of-the-year performance. (More performances are yet to be arranged.) Catherine reported that she is doing as much content as she can that the students want to do (suggestions range from Adele to Les Misérables) but not all pieces fit the young students' high voices. Still she is trying to do the songs the kids are excited about.

10. French Immersion Trip – Alan P.

- a. Alan stated that Hudson's two students who went to Quebec with Sir James Douglas School in February will receive their exchange students May 24th so they are preparing for that and getting excited. He mentioned that it is quite important to know the make-up of Hudson's teachers for next year and whether they will support an exchange trip. Mr Adams also reiterated that he does not want expectations to cloud the necessity of having a French Immersion teacher who could support an exchange trip and all it entails, including travelling with the students. He said he and Alan were still filling out the applications for grants "on spec" in hopes that a trip will have staff supporting it. Alan mentioned that next year there would be about 16 students in grade 7 so perhaps they could once again pair up with another school. One way or another, Alan is now calling for help among the grade 6 parents to organize the trip and hit the ground running come September.

11. Grade 7 Graduation - Darren B.

- a. Darren introduced himself as the grade 7 parent representative for graduation planning who will help organize any grade 7 fundraising for a graduation activity and work with teachers to put together a graduation ceremony. He will keep PAC posted.

12. Dance at Hudson - Belle

- a. Belle is a parent at Hudson who has offered to help arrange to have 3 dancers from Douglas College to come into Hudson's classes to teach dance to the students. Mr Adams and Rob will coordinate with her. What a great opportunity!

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30 pm in the library.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Belle was seconded by Victoria S. at 7:55. Motion passed.