

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: May 7th, 2013. Meeting started at 6:35 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 18) 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 April 2013 PAC meeting by Jerry H. was seconded by Andrea C. Motion passed.

2. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Robert opened with stating that this meeting was foremost about the playground equipment resolution, discussion surrounding the resolutions and a vote. As it seemed a few more people were trailing in, he began by covering the End-of-Year Barbecue planning. The barbecue has been slated for Thursday, June 20th. Wendy, Sheila and Victoria all stepped up to organize volunteers for the evening. They will need one more person to help organize a group of volunteers. A tentative vote to hire Mitch L.'s band was passed as there had been no new ideas for entertainment or activities, as long as the ticket price for food would not be too high to accommodate the estimated \$600 price for this live music. This year, it was decided to reach out to the new kindergarten families and to our neighbouring Lululemon employees to see if they would like to join us at the barbecue. Wendy and the organizers would attempt to see if this could be arranged by asking these two groups to pre-order food. This way M&M meats would know to bring enough food.
- b. Robert introduced the three proposals for the playground replacement project. He explained that the next step to replace the playground structure was to vote in 1 of 3 proposals that he had put together in the attempt to promote debate and consensus. Simply put, the three proposals can be summarized as follows: replace the equipment NOW, replace the equipment LATER and DO NOT replace the equipment. Rob explained that he would like the meeting to follow a process of groups discussing the proposals and making lists of pros and cons and suggesting amendments to the proposals. All amendments would need to be approved by a vote process before continuing to elect a proposal. Robert divided the meeting into three similar-sized groups and gave each a proposal. He explained that there would be many questions so he assigned himself and Mr Adams, who both hold no vote as Chair and principal (unless there would be a tie and then Rob could vote to break the tie) and Gary, who was chosen as he has been the project manager of the playground replacement since 2010 and is our liaison with the VSB, to answer all questions for the purpose of

analyzing the proposals. Here is a list of the proposals and the pros and cons that were presented at the meeting:

Proposal 1

- Put the following into the Playground fund and execute the replacement process:
 - \$11,600 from fundraising
 - \$14,400 of our general revenue. (This is the expected amount available given current analysis of the budget and revenue. Final value will be available in June.)
 - \$4,000 from GICs. (There is about \$5000 in the GICs right now.)
- *Require \$2,000 repayment to GICs each year for the next 2 years. (We pay back the fund with interest.)
- \$2,500 left in bank account to start next school year. (Based on current estimates of remaining expenses and revenues for this school year.)

Pros:

- Cost would remain the same as estimate. If we wait to replace the equipment, the cost may become higher.
- Put the GICs to good use.
- Raise morale, complete a project, good for students to definitely have a play structure.

Cons:

- Depletes the funds in PAC coffers.
- In case of emergency, the PAC would have no funds.

(Question was asked what emergency would PAC be responsible for? Group couldn't imagine what may be possible. Sheila brought up how, in her memory as PAC treasurer, PAC once purchased text books in September to the tune of about \$1000. Some discussion about how hot lunch and pizza day would quickly raise funds to begin to fill the coffers again, if this need were to arise or if "emergency" occurs.)

- Big concern is perhaps there is something better/more important/more pressing/more beneficial to entire student body to spend this money on.
- Loss of incentive/purpose to gain grants and corporate donations, if playground project complete.

Amendment: GICs will be paid back by January 1st of each year for two years up to at least \$4000, at least \$2000 at a time.

Proposal 2

- Limit use of General Revenue and GICs.
- Boost Playground Fund to about \$26,000 from general revenue.

- Continue ongoing fund raising efforts to raise the \$4,000 balance. (There is an effort with Lululemon, but there is no known or projected dollar figure.)
- Analyze the 2013-2014 budget (should be presented in June this year) to see where other money would come from.
- Present to VSB that we have \$26,000 and see if there is flexibility in their costs.
- Ask for a further deferral of equipment removal until funds are raised.

Pros:

- Holds GIC funds we have.
- Allows more time for fundraising.
- Time to build relationship with corporate possible sponsors (Lululemon?)

Cons:

- Delay before getting equipment.
- Have a hole in the playground - safety risk, unsightly.

Proposed amendment to this proposal (that was not accepted): Partial replacement - swings first, remainder later. This amendment was not added as Gary said there is too big a fee for contractors to attend to the site for each phase of installation. He thought it would be a waste of money to do the playground in two phases.

Proposal 3

- Do not replace the equipment at all
- Strike a committee to re-landscape and re-design the space with a budget limited to the \$11,600 raised through donations
- Require the work be done in the next school year
- New design must pass a vote at a PAC meeting and meet VSB standards for use of the grounds

Pros:

- Community gardens build community.
- Educational and edible option.
- "Safe pit" left in wake of removal by VSB with no cost to Hudson.
- Natural/"woody" playground structure.

Cons:

- Less structure for kids to play on at Hudson.
- Donations were given on basis that we intended to replace a play structure = angry donors. (Possibly shake confidence for further fundraising efforts.)

Amendment: Hold the project until the full \$30,000 can be raised.

- c. In a question about whether replacing the playground equipment would make it difficult to receive help from corporate donors, Svetlana discussed how we may still be able to tap into corporate donations to reimburse the coffers that we are drawing money from to pay for the playground. She used Lululemon as an example of a corporation who is interested in a long-term partnership about building community and understanding a need (at a school, in our case) before donating money to a cause. The school's playground being replaced would not change the desire to possibly partner with us, from Lululemon's perspective.
- d. Cheryl brought up the point that this money could be used for something that would be more beneficial for the entire school population, kindergarten to grade 7, for something else - especially since this is a lot of money that has taken a lot of effort to fundraise. Sheila wished to point out that the money from "general revenue" had not been raised for the playground, in many cases. In fact, this money was often specifically raised for other items on the PAC budget. One example of this is \$1200 being used from the earthquake preparedness budget, not spent this year.
- e. Another point was brought up by Jerry, who asked what the GICs were to be used for, if not this necessity for a new playground that had not raised enough funds to complete? Robert recognized that the GICs were passed on to the current PAC Executive as a "rainy day/emergency fund" and that these had been traditionally rolled over each year but he could not say for sure what the purpose of these funds had become, especially now that interest rates were so low.
- f. A secret ballot vote, writing 1,2 or 3 on a slip of paper and submitting in a bag was held. The votes were counted by Dreama and the results were: 18 votes for proposal #1, 4 votes for proposal #2 and 1 vote for proposal #3. Gary was authorized to go to the VSB and get the best deal for the PAC's \$30,000, looking into reductions in cost for gathering volunteers to do partial removal, installation, donation of bark mulch, etc. The cheque could be cut as of the passing of the PAC budget at the next PAC meeting on June 11th.

3. Principal's Report - Mr Adams

- a. Mr Adams mentioned that the Vancouver School Board budget had been released and that lay-offs in the district would consequently affect five of Hudson's teachers: Ms Conte, Mme Langlois, Mme Souren, Ms Robinson and Ms Lourdes. There is hope that after jobs are filled in seniority, some of the teachers may end up hired back at Hudson - as was the case with Mme Souren last year.
- b. As the hour was getting late, Mr Adams fired off some important upcoming dates: May 14th and 23rd, the newly-started track and field team would be participating in mini-meets followed by a big district-wide meet on May the

30th; May 17th is Sport's Day (weather permitting) and May 24th would be the welcome to Kindergarten orientation for incoming students.

10. French Immersion Trip – Alan P.

- a. Alan reported that he and Mr Adams had met to complete grant applications for a French Immersion trip next year. This is early as the grants are not due before September. Alan said he has also put out a call to grade 5 and grade 6 French Immersion parents to help organize come September. He has had limited interest from the grade 6 parents but a lot of interest from the grade 5 group. Mr Adams has currently stepped up to take on the lead organizing role for this trip until it is determined who will take over on staff in September (if there is a staff member willing to do so).
- b. Alan mentioned that at the next PAC meeting we will have an update from Hudson's two students participating in a grade 7 exchange this year as they are expecting their Quebecois guests May 24th.

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 pm in the library.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Beth was seconded by Larry at 8:05pm. Motion passed.