

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: June 11th, 2013. Meeting started at 6:30 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 19), teachers Tso, Munroe, Mezza, Boyd and Nikon 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 May 2013 PAC meeting was passed.

2. PAC Chair Report - Robert

- a. Robert began by talking about the End-of-the-Year Barbecue Thursday, June 20th. About 300 meat orders have been made and walk-ups are also invited. Catherine, the choir director, will be singing with Mitch's band as entertainment. Wendy reported that volunteers have stepped up for the festivities so everything's a go.

3. Choir Report - Catherine

- a. Catherine made a proposal to change next year's choir to two groups, in the pursuit of keeping the older students engaged and helping foster interest in the younger children at the same time. She normally has 50 children enrolled and finds it difficult to help the younger students who are still having trouble reading while stretching the talents of the grade 7's who are able to concentrate on the more difficult skills of singing. She would like to have a junior choir for grades 1 & 2 for 45 minutes on Tuesdays after school and a senior choir for grades 3-7 on Wednesdays after school. Kindergarten students can possibly be part of the junior choir if they are really keen, but this is still being assessed as many kids still don't quite have the attention span for an after-school activity, especially in the first term. There would still be auditions for a chamber choir for students who can harmonize, with practices at lunch hour. The chamber choir will be performing at Van Deusen festival of lights in December this coming year. There was a question about minimum enrolment to keep the choir revenue-positive, as it has always been. Catherine stated that they would have to look at the numbers more carefully in the fall.
- b. Catherine mentioned that there were two more choir performances coming up in June: one at the Point Grey Hospital and one assembly on June 21st at 9:30am with the band.

4. Playground Replacement - Gary

- a. Gary reported that, after much deliberation with the PAC executive, it was determined that a VSB-built swing set and monkey bars from Habitat would be installed (along with border padding and concrete) by the VSB. Removal

and take-down of the last structure would also be done by the VSB. The idea of getting volunteers in August to haul wheelbarrows of concrete from the road, etc. to save a couple thousand dollars did not seem feasible. The cost of the project would be \$30,876.98 minus the PST rebate of \$1,498.88 to bring the cost to \$29, 378.10. We get a 70% refund on the GST portion of the price. Interest for the PST rebate would also be paid by the VSB. The VSB told Mr Adams and Gary they were planning on doing this work over the summer.

- b. There was some question as to where children at the school were allowed to play on the playground. Kindergarten kids are encouraged to play mostly on the west side of the school due to issues of supervision and in the interests of keeping them safe. Robert also mentioned that tax receipts for all playground donations had been distributed finally and that Hudson was the only school (out of twelve others who were having their playground structures removed) to have a plan to replace the vacancy. Andrea C. asked if an orbiter could be added to the playground structure at a later date, if we wanted. Gary said that it could.
- c. Victoria wanted to be sure that Gary received a big thank you for his efforts on the playground project. She said it is one thing to help with fundraising but Gary really stepped up to do the negotiating through his work contacts too.

5. School Planning Committee

- a. Mr Adams reported that the SPC is just waiting to sign off on the final draft of the school plan which will change its focus from literacy to numeracy next year while maintaining a social responsibility goal. Some suggestions to add math drill games to the website (when the new VSB generic websites are launched) produced a list of parent suggestions: Sum Dog, Mathletics, Mathematics, Math Flash and Rocket Math.

6. Principal's Report - Mr Adams

- a. Mr Adams told parents that staffing was just about complete for next year, with Mme Chrystel and Ms Lourdes remaining at Hudson next year. Jane Penkratz from Douglas Elementary would be a new intermediate teacher on the French Immersion side as well. He said he was still interviewing to hire a gym teacher, an intermediate teacher and a share teaching position for Mme Novotny.
- b. Mr Adams reported that the school plan was drafted and would change its focus from literacy to numeracy next year but continue to instil the social responsibility values that Hudson has been focusing on. Numeracy would have educators at the school looking at the best ways to teach and learn math and social responsibility would be looking at the best ways to get along together.

- c. Some upcoming activities: Volunteer Tea on June 19th and the Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony on June 27th from 11-noon.
- d. Robert asked Mr Adams about the 6 Epson projectors the PAC purchased for the school and whether they would be all up and running in the fall. Mr Adams replied that the installation was ongoing. As the school is looking to be wireless in the fall, the projectors will not be wired. Now about 10 or 11 of Hudson's 15 classrooms have projectors. The wireless band width should be big enough for the whole school, but Mme Boyd mentioned that sometimes this can be difficult with many devices (including students with cell phones) texting or using the wireless. This moved into a discussion about educating children about the pitfalls of modern communication, peer pressure and bullying that happens online. The administration has had a police officer come in to talk to the kids about this but perhaps it is also important to educate parents. Rob said he is willing to speak frankly with parents about this topic in September.
- e. Robert also asked Mr Adams if the school website could be updated to help with school communications. Mr Adams said that the VSB is hoping to have standardized websites for all schools updated and ready to go for the school year's start, with an updated PAC website linked to the Henry Hudson site.

7. Teacher's Report - Mme Suzanne

- a. Ms Munroe spoke on behalf of the teachers to thank all of the involved parents for their time and hard work. She and the other teachers brought chocolates as gifts to show appreciation from all of the staff. The parents were very grateful to be recognized by a staff that has been incredibly supportive, and the chocolates were all gone by the end of the meeting.
- b. Robert asked if it would be a good idea to meet with the teachers about the field trip funding in the fall to make sure all teachers know what is available. The teachers thought it would be useful. The teachers also brought up how successful the PAC-funded "Handwriting without Tears" books had been at Hudson this year. They were hoping the PAC would be able to fund these books for about \$1800 again next year.

8. Secretary Report - Chantal

- a. Chantal wished to thank all of the staff and students at Hudson for embracing Bike to School Week this year. With help from the HUB and Haste volunteers as well as a parent volunteer, Don Brooks from More Bikes, this turned out to be Hudson's best year ever. Of course the number of participants looked so good because every single teacher turned in participation forms and kept track of participation numbers each day of the week. There was also obviously a fair bit of encouragement happening in the classroom as so many kids came to school actively too. Dana

mentioned that this was perhaps a sign of the times as the Point-Grey-Cornwall Corridor Project seemed to be heading in the direction of York Street (running next to the school) becoming the community bike route. She reminded parents to make their opinions known on the online bike path survey by June 15th. Chantal said that More Bikes was willing to come into some classrooms to teach bicycle safety and maintenance to our students. The bike store also offers lifetime maintenance on bicycles bought in house and trade-ins are available for children's bikes. Some teachers seemed interested in partnering up with More Bikes, perhaps even beginning a program of older students teaching younger students how to maintain their bikes.

9. Treasurer's Report - Dana

- a. Dana estimated lunch fundraising for next year and figured that funds for supplies, field trips, performances, hip hop, etc. will still be covered due to this and gaming grant revenue. The draft budget for 2013/2014 will have no funds for anything other than the usual (therefore no funds for technology). GIC's will be re-funded to \$2000, as per the playground agreement.
- b. There was much discussion about what to do for fundraising next year and one proposal is to have a hiatus from all PAC fundraising. Another proposal is to have one PAC fundraiser per term (besides hot lunch and pizza day). It is difficult to know what to do after such a big fundraising year for the playground.
- c. A parent asked about money coming from HOOSC daycare to help pay for the play structure replacement as this is shared property. Since the daycare had to install a commercial dishwasher to the price of \$10,000 and our fruit and vegetable program as well as some of the fundraiser hot lunch days use this dishwasher, it was agreed that the PAC doesn't need to contribute to the dishwasher if the daycare doesn't need to contribute to the playground.

10. Fundraising for Next Year

- a. Robert proposed that a fundraising committee be put together to assess and execute PAC fundraisers. Sheila made a counter-proposal for no fundraising from the PAC. There was also some discussion about a direct appeal or suggested donation from families in September. Parents at the meeting felt it would be worthwhile to explain how a donation affects each individual child at Hudson (\$/child goes to X). Also to show that 29% of families contributed to the playground fund. Then a link to a government website allowing those who do not wish to subsidize public education somewhere to go to voice their opinion. It was also brought up that PAC needs to educate the parents about fundraisers that are school or class or club-driven, as opposed to PAC-driven. A list of these fundraisers are linked to the PAC website for referral. Finally, when a call out for volunteers

to form a fundraising committee was opened at the meeting, there was no one who would commit.

11. French Immersion Trip – Alan P.

- a. Alan reported that he and Mr Adams were finishing up grant applications for a French Immersion grade 7 trip this month. Alan is currently working on putting together a “working group” of interested parents who are willing to participate in the organization and execution of what is necessary to work with staff and administration to get Hudson’s students to Quebec.

12. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be determined in the beginning of September.

13. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jerry was seconded by Mitch at 7:58. Motion passed.

Addendum -- List of Known Fundraisers

PAC - (These are the only ones we have control over)

Strictly Fundraisers

- Hot Lunch (will continue next year) - \$35 000
- Family Photos (scheduled for the Fall)
- Entertainment Books (cancelled)
- Spring Plants (cancelled)
- Wealthy School Revolution (cancelled - generated \$220)
- Raffles (not done since Centennial year 2012 or before)

Dual-Purpose Community Events / Fundraisers

- Winter Fair (status pending)
- Family Games Night (status pending) - raised \$300 for another school in spring 2012

Community Events only (no expectation of funds raised)

- Multi Cultural Pot Luck
- Halloween Haunted House and Pumpkin-Carving Night (status pending)
- End-of-Year BBQ

School or Class Sponsored

- ChildRun (usually 2 bake/ice cream sales and all fundraising - \$3000-4000 in 2012)
- Jump Rope for Heart - \$1000
- Terry Fox Run

- Festival du Livre - \$3500 sold (\$1500 worth of French books for library)

- Scholastic Book Fair - \$4600 sold (\$1200 worth of funds to the school library)
- Usborne Book Fair (@ Winter Fair) - \$400
- Used Book drive/sale - \$100
- Drama Club (Purdy's chocolate)
- Grade 7 Grad (cookie dough/pizza/bake sales - \$2150 in June 2012)
- Grade 7 Quebec Trip (new in 2013/14 - method TBA)
- Assorted class projects (coin collection, SPCA - \$130, Junior Achievement, others)

Hudson Out of School Care (not part of Hudson, per se but a component of the community nonetheless)

- Cookies
- Pizza
- Craft Sale
- Raffle(s)