

Henry Hudson PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Henry Hudson Library

Call to order 6:45 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from previous PAC meeting – approved.
2. PAC Chair Report
 - a. The PAC has begun to use Cisco wholesaler and it is going well and we are saving money.
 - b. The hot lunch program needs more volunteers. We will be reaching out to the parent community via email to request volunteers. It was discussed that the grade 7 students could help with the cooking, requires further discussion with the school.
 - c. For those who bought the photoshoot package earlier this school year, a schedule will be posted on munch a lunch to re-book your shoot.
3. PAC Secretary Report – nothing to report.
4. PAC Treasurer's Report
 - a. We currently have \$55,000.00 in revenue less expenses.
 - b. We are tracking well on budget for this school year.
 - c. We recommend saving \$20,000.00 for next term.
5. Principal's Report – Hard copy to be issued by Principal.
6. Teacher's Report
 - a. The teachers are very excited about the activities happening at the school.
 - b. There has been a recent increase in class field trips.
 - c. The teachers have declined the idea of a school dance.
 - d. The teachers are looking into having the Bard come in to do workshops with the students.
 - e. The teachers are also looking into having workshops with the Arts Umbrella organization.
7. SPC Report
 - a. The school is aiming to use the WITS methodology (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Squawk) for handling conflict resolution and training. This system is also a resource for parents to use at home as well. The Principal will bring the methodology to the teachers for a professional day training session to review the system.
 - b. The PAC would like to see a consistent program for the school made available to the parents (May be WITS or other), as conflict is an area of concern for many parents.
8. DPAC Rep. Report – Update on VSB Budget Process
Please see detailed report at the end of the minutes.
9. Committee Updates

- a. Hot Lunch Committee – discussed in the PAC chair report.
 - b. Spirit Committee
 - i. There will be a pajama day on April 29th.
 - ii. We are looking into potentially combining spirit with special events.
 - c. Safety and Social Responsibility Working Group – discussed in SPC report.
 - d. Technology Committee
 - i. The Byte camp was a great success.
 - ii. Currently waiting for more Epsoms.
 - iii. Would like to see more funding go towards technology.
 - e. Grounds Committee
 - i. The committee has put forward a design for an outdoor classroom. The VSB has rejected the design as they no longer build in wood. The committee is looking at other materials.
 - f. In School Activities Committee
 - i. The PAC is looking into a school wide drumming session.
 - g. Communications Committee – no report
10. Activities/Events for the Third Term
- a. Special Events
 - i. Sports Day - May 19th will be the School Sports Day. The grade 7 students want to be involved in playing the activities so the school will be looking to get volunteers to run the activities from the local high school. There will be no common lunch this year, but Booster Juice has offered to provide smoothies for the kids.
 - ii. Welcome to Kindergarten - There will be a welcome to kindergarten session in the 1st week of June.
 - iii. End of Year Fair - There will be an end of year fun fair on June 17th. This will be a community event with games, a bouncy castle, a dunk tank, and local food trucks (replacing the BBQ).
 - b. Bike to School Week
 - i. The school will ask the VSB for more bike racks as there are only two (one is broken).
 - c. Before and After School Activities - Choir, etc. – no report
 - d. Guest Speakers
 - i. Savannah King, Olympic swimmer for Canada, will be speaking to the school at Kitsilano pool
 - ii. Constable Heather from the VPD came to the school to talk about safety, particularly internet safety. This was very successful and the presentation sparked much discussion in the classrooms.
 - e. Grade 7 Graduation
 - i. There is a budget of \$600.00 for the event. There will be a leaving ceremony and refreshments outside in the last week of school.
 - f. Babysitting – no updates

11. New Business

- a. Proposed Grade 6/7 French Immersion Quebec Exchange 2017
 - i. We will be surveying the 5/6 students next school year to see if there is sufficient interest to proceed. The PAC will provide some funds but the rest of the fundraising will be by the parents.
 - ii. There was some discussion around having some kind of trip for the english stream students as well. More discussion to follow.
- 12. Next Meeting Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 6:00-8:30 in the School Library. Note longer meeting than usual to discuss proposed PAC budget for 2016/2017.
- 13. Adjourn 7:56 pm.

DPAC representative report to April 20, 2017 Henry Hudson PAC meeting

Alan Patola Moosmann reported:

DPAC held a workshop on the proposed VSB budget for the 2016-2017 school year on April 07; a shortfall on the order of \$24 million dollars from provincial funding is anticipated and a number of cuts seriously affecting students are proposed. (Full budget proposal and process details are viewable at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/>)

Three evenings of public hearings were held (April 12, 13 and 14) at which almost 100 parents and representatives of groups affected by the proposed cuts gave 5 minute presentations to the board. Two Hudson parents, myself and Andrea Coutu, spoke; my talk was based on conversations with Mr. Cannon about the most likely impacts on Hudson should the proposed cuts go through. Most of the presentations can be viewed through the VSB website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/board-committees/minutes> -- click on the links for any of the three "special open board / committee of the whole minutes" for those dates, and then on the link for "meeting agenda" to access the presentations for that meeting. Most presentations decried the potential impact of the cuts and encouraged the trustees to continue to argue the case for an improved funding formula and adequate levels of funding to the provincial government.

The trustees asked staff to review the budget proposal in light of the presentations and prepare a revised budget for final consideration. This final draft was released yesterday and from my reading of the summary was not amended in any substantial way.

One further opportunity for public input takes place, next Monday at Sir Charles Tupper Secondary school. (DPAC is also hosting an event that evening at Tupper, a "Celebration of Public Education" focusing on arts, which will be further diminished in schools with the proposed cuts. Parents and children are invited to present performances. I haven't circulated this generally as I only received the notice yesterday and the timeline is very short!) The trustees will vote on the budget on Thursday April 28; they are in a difficult position with a legal obligation to submit a balanced budget to the province by April 30, and an obligation to represent the best interests of their constituents, all involved in the public school system.

Most school districts across the province are facing budget shortfalls requiring cuts to services, and the Parent Advocacy Network has prepared a questionnaire to political representatives of all provincial parties detailing the underfunding of public education since 2002 and asking for their response. Although the province consistently takes the position that they are spending more on education than ever before, the PAN research shows that if inflation is taken into account, the overall education budget has shrunk by 11% over that period and, in a time of an expanding economy and an overall provincial budget surplus, the proportion of provincial GDP spent on education has declined from 3.8% to 2.7% from 2002 to the present.

The PAN research and questionnaire can be viewed at:

Cover:

http://www.panvancouver.ca/uploads/6/7/1/4/67145647/pan_news_release_april_1_2016.pdf

Questions:

http://www.panvancouver.ca/uploads/6/7/1/4/67145647/pan_questions_on_bc_budget_2016_moe_final.pdf

I'll report further as responses are received and posted by PAN.

PAN is also organizing a campaign encouraging people to wear red on the day that the final vote on the provincial budget takes place in the BC legislature (this date has yet to be announced, but will be in mid to late May). For that vote government members traditionally wear black to celebrate the surplus in the proposed budget; the idea of the campaign is to make a public statement throughout the province that with the current underfunding education remains in the red. For more information on the BC Ed in Red campaign, visit <http://www.panvancouver.ca/news>

Finally, BCCPAC, the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, is having their AGM April 30 and May 01 in Kelowna. There are a long list of resolutions which school PACs are asked to consider and vote on, and DPAC has offered to act as a proxy for any PAC not sending a delegate in person. I'm not recommending we take any action this year because the tight timelines prevent a thorough discussion at the PAC level of all the issues BCCPAC is considering. Interested parents can take a look at what's going on at www.bccpac.bc.ca

I've not been able to take on keeping up with the work of BCCPAC so far this year, having focused on building connections with, and keeping Hudson parents informed about, DPAC itself as well as some of the local advocacy groups working in support of public education. My suggestion for next year's executive is that there is enough to keep track of to keep an advocacy committee of three or four parents busy, and that we consider canvassing Hudson parents to see if anyone is interested in volunteering in this capacity. The committee lead could be the person in the Vice-Chair (external) position, or some other structure may make more sense when we have a sense of how much interest there is.