

Minutes of Hudson PAC meeting October 18, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM
2. Minutes from September 13 were adopted (Nicola/Alan).
3. PAC executive dissolved. Required positions include Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. We usually have doubled the roles, with co-chairs, co-treasurers etc. People who have volunteered to stand for executive positions include:
 - chair: Rob F
 - treasurers: Dana T and Evin L
 - secretary: Cheryl D
 - Vice-Chair external: Alan P
 - Vice-chair internal: Nina P
 - Member-at-large for activities: Nicola L

No more volunteers came forward at the meeting, so this slate was elected by acclamation. Note we need a second secretary position!

4. Principal's report (Mr. Cannon):
 - a. FSAs are underway; 35% students were exempted
 - b. Field trip waivers: several providers' waivers need legal review by Vancouver School Board because the providers are trying to make parents sign away rights, while VSB insists that forms provide an awareness of risk instead. Some field trips are on hold because of this.
 - c. VSB election: one trustee will be assigned to our school and we will invite them to visit when we find out who they are.
 - d. Student learning grant of \$12,000 from new provincial government must be used for learning materials for students. Mr Cannon is surveying staff for what they would like to spend it on. Looking at improving technology, reading materials, and resource materials.
 - e. \$7500 from federal government for French Immersion materials and activities may be discontinued in the future.
 - f. There has been some flooding in kindergarten classrooms in the basement – this happens a few times per year because of rain.
 - g. Rainy day space is challenging. Usually the gym is available at recess and lunchtime, and it is offered first for primary grades. We used to be able to use the basement but the entire basement is now daycare and classroom space.
 - h. There have been rats on school grounds, only outside. Pest control and groundspersons people seem to have solved the infestation.
 - i. The wooden structured in playground (seating area and benches around trees) are reaching end of lifespan, and may be an area of prime rat habitat. Mr Cannon is obtaining estimates to remove and replace these structures.
5. No teachers' report.

6. Secretary's report: Cheryl our new secretary has taken a primary role for website, Facebook, and weekly reminders.
7. Treasurer's report: Dana provided an overview of spending to date. We will plan a budget amendment for January to form separate budget item for PAC activities subsidies, which is a new expense this year. Note that qualifying for subsidies is approved by Mr Cannon, not PAC. Also note that hot lunch budget line report is net (income less expenses). Gaming report from last year needs to be done.
8. School Planning Council (SPC): consists of about 4 parents, who will meet with Mr Cannon in December. Any parents are welcome to come to the first meeting.
9. Activities coordinator report (Nicola):
 - a. We just had an orca skeleton displayed in the gym for Ocean Explorers.
 - b. Crossfit started this week and still has space.
 - c. Use HUDSONACTIVITIES@gmail.com for any feedback
 - d. Choir has a record-breaking senior choir of 30 kids. Junior choir also about 30 kids. Senior choir will perform at the Canadian Club on Dec 8, and Dec 13 there will be an evening concert at school for school families.
 - e. There has been good enrollment in all activities so far.
10. Vice chair external report (Alan):
 - a. Alan P our vice-chair external was confirmed as our representative to DPAC and thanks everyone who voted in recent civic election for school board.
 - b. Morgane Oger is the DPAC executive member liaison to our school.
 - c. Several schools have field issues like ours. Bayview has recently been approved for seismic upgrade or rebuilding.
 - d. A Hudson parent has started a petition for a clear process on seismic upgrading. They are putting together contacts for PACs for all H1 (highest risk) schools in BC.
 - e. A PAC seismic advocacy committee is forming: Laura MacDougall is contact person. Alan will put this in reminders. The appointed trustee has met with new Minister of Education. The Minister wondered if we can meet seismic upgrading of all schools in Vancouver by 2025 rather than the current target of 2030; the trustee suggested we could if all done with new builds. Parents keeping constant pressure on provincial government will help ensure this stays a high priority.
 - f. Consider having VSB emergency planner come to a PAC meeting.
 - g. Select standing committee on finance had a survey (now closed) on priorities for the next provincial budget, and received presentations worth reading from PAN and BCCPAC. Alan will put links in the reminders.
 - h. At DPAC, one meeting per month is a workshop. The next one is October 26th, on how school communities can build good relationships with their indigenous families. These are held at VSB offices.
 - i. Alan needs someone to replace him as vice chair external; hoping to find someone this year to gradually take on some of this role.
11. Committee reports:

- a. Hot lunch (Marina B): There is a new process for delivering food to classrooms and it is working well. Grade 6 & 7 students are helping younger classes. New volunteers have come and old ones have returned.
 - b. Spirit (Carly): Spirit wear sales have happened. Not all team shirts were returned last year so some deposits were forfeited, and we can use those funds to replace some shirts.
 - c. Grounds committee (Mr. Cannon): Some grade 6 students disassembled the new picnic table. Mr. Cannon will repair it with the help of those students. Tether ball ropes break easily and the balls are fragile, so Mr Cannon is sourcing higher quality. Another picnic table will be ordered if the current one turns out to be durable enough. A parent recommended we try to get sturdier garbage bins. Three hypodermic needles have been found on school grounds so far this year, but none in the past several weeks.
 - d. Safety and social responsibility group (Rob & Alan): Dog poop signs have been posted. Mr Cannon is still shoveling poop from the field left by bad dog owners.
 - e. Technology committee (John): the direct donation campaign this fall is targeting technology: 13 x \$750 laptops for \$10,000 is the request we are trying to fund. A Thermometer is going up to display fundraising progress. We may in the end decide not to use all the campaign funds for laptops if the school can fund some of them with their grant money. New staff is asking for iPads to be placed permanently in classrooms but this may be bought with school grants.
 - f. Events (Nina): Winter fair coming on Dec 15th. Nina, Stella, Carly, and Marina B are the planning committee. We need volunteers for planning committee and for event itself.
 - i. The winter fair will be similar to in previous years with cake walk, kids' market, raffle. We are calling it "Gingerbread Gala" and this year an external provider (ParT Perfect) is providing games, facepainting, crafts, etc. There will be a \$5 entry fee plus ticket sales (for food, kids' market, etc). Form for pre-orders will go out mid-November. Same-day sales will be available but pre-orders are preferred. We will start collecting donations for raffle and kids' market and book sale in mid-November.
 - ii. Future events: Valentine's Day dance after school in the gym and Summer Fair in June on the 2nd to last Friday of the school year.
12. New business:
- a. Field will be closed tomorrow. Rainy days already discussed under Principal's report, above
 - b. A parent is recommending we start a committee for social responsibility, who would raise money to improve resources re racism, sexual violence. She will present a plan at a future meeting. Another parent noted that BCTF has some materials and priorities that might be helpful.
13. Next meeting on November 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm.
14. Meeting adjourned (Jerry/Lisa)