

Hudson PAC Meeting Notes

January 16, 2025

Fundraising update

We have undertaken a big fundraising push since September. We held several events in the fall, including the Winter Fair and online auction.

Not including November and December direct donations, we've raised a total of about **\$192,000** so far. A big chunk of that came from an anonymous donor.

We will be launching our corporate donation program this month.

ACTION ITEM: If anyone in the school community is aware of businesses in the area that could be interested in pitching in for the new school, contact the PAC email, or let Katelyn know.

We are also starting our grant writing initiative. We compiled a list of all the grants we might qualify for (thank you Jess!). The majority of them opened for us to apply for in January, so the window to apply has started and the grant writing team is working on that.

Construction and grounds update

Principal Sonja discussed the progress of the construction project (which is on track), and shared an initial proposed design for the playground area. Dave from Habitat Systems is working on updated proposals to be shared with students, parents and staff. These plans will include ideas on how to incorporate the playground pieces that we were able to salvage from the old playground. Questions were asked about slides and swings.

The plan is to build the playground in an extensible way, such that we leverage the funds already raised (and funds covered by VSB) for an initial build, which can be extended with additional structures later on as the PAC continues to fundraise for them. The desire is to try and have separate, more spread out play areas, potentially including natural play elements on the southwest corner of the property..

The VSB is going to cover the cost of the 8 garden boxes. Regarding the playground, it will cover the cost of surfacing as well as half the cost of installation. They also cover maintenance costs. If the PAC raises funds for a second structure in the other half of the courtyard by end of August, VSB will cover costs for surfacing and installation there as well. If the PAC raises more than \$200,000 toward the second phase of the playground, VSB will ask the PAC to pay for some of the surfacing costs.

Other Topics

A concern was raised over student safety on the narrow sidewalk on Maple Street (the drop-off area). Vehicles may encroach on the sidewalk when pulling in or out of the curb. Sonja will raise this with the City.

Many of the balls available for student use in the yard have gone missing. **ACTION ITEM:** If any of these were taken home by students, parents should bring them back to the school.

Advocacy for priority in on-site childcare for Hudson families: we will need to go through the Kits Neighbourhood House, which runs the daycare. They seem to have some priority for Tennyson families, so there is a precedent.

PAC communications: our Secretary will prepare a PAC newsletter at a more regular cadence, after every PAC meeting. We should expect the next one by Monday.

Gym storage room improvements and shelving: the storage area is in dire need of shelving. The district will not cover costs, as they were not in the original budget. We could potentially include this in the wish list for next year's fundraising.

DPAC: Somy attended the last DPAC meeting, and has volunteered to serve as our DPAC representative. We voted and confirmed her role in the executive.
