

PAC Meeting Minutes - February 22, 2024

1. Welcome Ms. Thompson and Update on how to Stay Connected

2. PAC Meetings Update

The PAC discussed recent activities and challenges, including a successful direct drive fundraiser and changes in school leadership that led to the postponement of the October PAC meeting.

3. PAC Program Update

They also shared updates on various programs, including the hot lunch program on Mondays and Wednesdays, with a new menu provided by C'est Mon Cafe. The fruit and veggies program highlighted the different fruits and vegetables provided to the kids during the year (6 more deliveries left, available at recess and lunch) , and after-school programs for the Spring (soccer, drawing, mobile app creation)

4. Volunteers Needed

The PAC emphasized the need for volunteers for various roles and encouraged parents to join the planning committee and volunteer at the upcoming funfair where a committee is needed to go ahead with the event by March 1st. The PAC also discussed plans for a socially attended event in spring and a parent education session on brain development. Shadowers needed this year for roles upcoming in the fall included co chair, volunteer coordinator and treasurer. Secretary role is being filled interim by Navi Sihota until AGM. She is also in the Volunteer Coordinator role still until replacement can be found.

Friday Night Fun Fair (FNFF) -The PAC discussed their role as Friday night funfair Coordinator over the past years and their plans for this year's event on May 24th from 5-8 pm. They emphasized the importance of a committee to assist with planning and execution of the event. They also explained the nature of the event, which includes a raffle, ticketed activities, and volunteer roles. The PAC highlighted the event's popularity, with approximately 80% of the school attending. They encouraged parents to join the planning committee and to volunteer at the event. Sign-up links and paper sign-ups will be available physically at the meeting and online via sign up genius. The PAC also mentioned the need for a new raffle Coordinator due to the departure of a previous coordinator.

5. Finance budgets

Simon provided an update on the PAC's finances, stating that the main sources of revenue are the hot lunch and pizza lunch programs. He reported that the pizza lunch had exceeded its budget by 50% by the end of January, while the hot lunch was expected to meet its budget. The total revenues were approximately the same as the budget. Simon also outlined the expenses, which included staff appreciation, lunches during Christmas, and staff gifts.

6. Mental Health

Victoria gave an overview of the program she is involved in teaching kids tools on mental well – being. PAC to discuss if to hire for future sessions for students. Victoria then presented her initiative, the Empowerment Workshop, aimed at promoting children's mental health at the primary care level. The workshop, offered to all Vancouver School Board, emphasizes preventative medicine to address mental health concerns and combat negative effects and stressors. The program includes teaching about brain and nervous system science, emotional management tools such as yoga, meditation, and tapping, and positive mindset work. The speaker also emphasized the importance of helping students make informed decisions about their careers, which can impact their mental health. The speaker mentioned that the program had received positive feedback from students and was planning to expand it to more classes. A question was raised about the use of the term "mental health", to which the speaker responded that it might be more effective to focus on specific issues like anxiety rather than using general terms like "mental health".

7. Principal Update : Lindsay Thompson

Workshop, Staffing, Sports, Hip Hop, Performance, Fundraising, Discord
PAC discussed the potential introduction of a new workshop to the school and the feedback they received. They also shared updates on staffing changes, with a grade 7 teacher on leave and the departure of Yukiko to Japan, but the retention of the last SSAs and the addition of a new building engineer, Gilbert. Sports events, after-school programs, and ongoing math clubs were also discussed. A hip hop class, led by a teacher with four years of experience, was mentioned to start on Monday. The meeting also covered the organization of a performance, distribution of report cards, and the school's fundraising efforts. A concern raised by Serena regarding discord was discussed, with a proposal to educate themselves and potentially offer a Safer Schools program to parents and surrounding schools.

School Spot Demand and Tech Use Discussed

The discussion focused on the challenges encountered due to high demand for school spots, with parents manipulating addresses to secure spots outside their catchment area, causing capacity and community cohesion issues. The conversation also emphasized the importance of responsible technology use, particularly social media

platforms like Snapchat. The PAC expressed frustration while acknowledging the need for enforcing rules to ensure fair distribution and community engagement. The challenges of admitting students to upper grades at the beginning of the year, especially kindergarten due to limited class sizes, were also discussed. The PAC clarified their prioritization of siblings in grades 2 and 5, and expressed hope for prospective students despite past challenges.

A highlight of the meeting was the successful direct drive fundraiser, which raised \$21,000 for the students, which was used to partially spend on library tables and chairs.