

# **PAC Meeting Minutes**

## **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Casey Armstrong, Tania Ballantyne, Wally Kanno, Atikur Khan, Ariel Pavic, Maria Pucci, Raff Pucci, Crystal Robertson, Barb Steden, Anne-Marie Uy (Poh)

### **Opening Presentation:**

Aja Geddes, grade 4/5 MAC teacher opened the meeting to highlight some aspects of the new redesigned curriculum and she encouraged all parents to go online and check it out at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>. While the transition has created some stress, she feels that the key features of the curriculum supports her students and she is embracing it by looking for practical applications that crossover between subjects. For example, identifying math patterns in nature and art, in health, planning menus that examine healthy food content and then using math to cost things out, graphing and creating a budget, and finally talking about digestion, which is science. This cross-curricular blend of projects creates excitement and enthusiasm in the classroom as well as providing opportunities for students to think critically. It is based on core competencies such as communication, thinking and personal and social connections. Many points in the new curriculum are not graded but they are helping students to develop important skills that support for future success.

These multidisciplinary projects are more complicated to grade, especially compared to simply marking a test but the ideas that come from the students is inspiring. Aja showed several things that have been created by students in her class. She said she is impressed everyday and reiterated that the teaching is based on learning standards, subject based skills and content which is knowledge. She feels that the new curriculum offers a lot of freedom and students get a more complete education.

Wally added that he likes the big ideas section on the website, especially conceptual understanding and applying the skills to problem solve and real life.

### **Principal's Report**

Wally said that they have been reviewing the school plan that was established in 2015-16, with a goal of focusing on social emotional learning (SEL), global understanding, with key words of self-awareness and self-management. He further explained that people and students are not as regulated as they should be which often leads to encountering difficulties. In the past learning difficulties were blamed when students failed to deal with anger or anxiety, but now we are finding that they can't learn if they don't have management of their feelings. To address this, if students are struggling, they can connect with a support team, we can have class meetings to discuss strategies. He added that the findings from the UBC Climate Study showed that the middle and especially early years of development are instrumental in providing students with opportunities to learn self-management. Wally feels that it is important to build relationships with students so that if they are sent to him in response to a behavioral problem, it can be addressed in an SEL context instead of punishment as a consequence response, which seldom improves the situation.

Wally asked the PAC if we would be interested in having a speaker come in to present more information about SEL to parents at the school? The group said they would be interested. Wally described it as a moving target and as far as the school plan for SEL, it

is still developing as they look at how students apply knowledge, communicate understanding of a topic, and assess if you can listen and hear the ideas of other students. These are the core competencies where students are learning life skills through the new curriculum, the 3<sup>rd</sup> term will be focusing on self-reflecting. He added that they are also looking at the secondary goal of math numeracy.

Now that the district has put an end to the Student Planning Committee (SPC) there has been concerns raised about how we keep parents engaged, Wally said that they will have some meetings in the spring to talk about that and the school goals.

A parent asked how the recent decision of the Ministry of Education to provide new funding will affect our school? Wally said that that the Ministry is adding \$50 million to the BC School budget, Burnaby schools have been allocated \$2 million. Each school had to provide a proposal of how they would spend the funding, Capitol Hill has been approved to have 2 more days of counselling per week, we already have Mr. Jackson 3 days per week, the new counsellor is David Ross for the additional 2 days per week, providing counselling services 5 days per week. In addition, we are getting another English Language/Learning Development staff member for another day per week; we already have 3 staff members in place. Now we are looking at how to divide responsibilities for efficiency and improved access.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tania reported that no new money came in last month, balance is the same as last month. She asked Casey how much funding support the school needed to purchase the sports equipment? Casey says they need rubber balls, soccer balls and basketballs, with soccer balls being the most expensive at \$7 each, the need comes from the normal issues of wear and loss, the school would like a backup supply as supplies get thin especially towards the end of the school year. Casey will take an inventory and report numbers at the next meeting.

**The motion is called** to allocate approximately \$1000 from the gaming grant to purchase sports equipment. Raff seconded. The vote is called and it is unanimous. APPROVED motion passed.

Tania confirmed that there recently was a bake sale but the final numbers have not been deposited yet, they will be reflected in the report at the next meeting.

### **President's Report**

Ariel stated that she and Calvin had been working to update the constitution/bylaws which will be voted on at the next meeting. Calvin was in touch with DPAC to ask their advice on how to best move ahead. The DPAC Executive were strong on their position that PACs should include language in their constitutions to give a greater role to parent involvement in school plans and advised that we should not strip SPC terminology or parent involvement, parental involvement at the school is beneficial to all parties. Calvin provided the following note:

*Having this formalized in the constitution would be very helpful and does not mean that a future council could not adjust any roles that we work out this evening. In other words if a future principal comes in, the PAC constitution can be adjusted without much effort. I would recommend formalizing involvement in the constitution rather than leaving it out. This requires cooperation between the PAC and the Principal and there is nothing in SD41 to prohibit any type of wording. It also does not require approval of the Ministry of Education either. More details about this will be posted on the PAC website.*

It was also confirmed that the DPAC rep is a part of the PAC executive team. We will vote on these amendments at the next meeting

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Fundraising**

Anne-Marie said that she had been working with Kaori and that they are planning to do a fundraising initiative selling Smencils (coloured pencils that smell) which is planned for some time in March. One bucket has a variety of 50 pencils for \$60 including shipping and taxes. We are considering selling each pencil for between to \$2-2.50 each, we are planning to order 4 buckets which would be 200 pencils.

**The motion is called** to allocate \$240 from the general account to purchase 4 buckets of Smencils (\$60/bucket). Barb seconded. The vote is called and it is unanimous.

APPROVED motion passed.

### **School Garden**

Casey said Mrs. Cox and Ms. Aurora have agreed to help with garden project but are asking specifically what is required of them. She further added that a parent at Forest Grove Elementary was running a successful school garden project there but it was a passion project for her and that the success could be attributed to it being a business model where she uses some of the items grown.

Atikh said that his employer, BC Ferries, is willing to provide some financial support to the project but the "plan" needs to be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>. He said he needs to sit down with the interested parties, Principal, teachers, parents and plan from there. Barb said that she had put a lot of effort towards this project in the past, but felt it was too restrictive to move ahead and be successful. Permission and participation is required from the school district, the bulk of it from teachers, they want to know how this is the supporting the school, if you are growing vegetables that will be consumed, you need a safety plan, they want to know how it supports the curriculum, the sustainability plan as to what happens in a year. Barb added that one aspect that supports the project is that we have access to a kitchen. She explained that most companies want a plan as what is being proposed is an infrastructure development project at the school, and while the project may move ahead, what happens is that the parent who spearheads it, inevitably leaves the school, and they want to know that their investment will carry on.

Casey said that she would support the project and said that we could expand it to include things to attract birds, a bug hotel and to create an outdoor classroom. Wally said he would approach the district to find out what other schools have done to expand on the outdoor classroom, we can model what other schools are successfully doing. He will report back at the next meeting.

Ariel added that the money for planting trees (\$540) around the new playground has already been set aside, and stated that we may not put in trees, again this needs district approval, but we are allocating it to something outdoorish, depending on what happens with this project, we could contribute these funds in support of the garden/outdoor classroom project.

### **LICE**

Barb confirmed that the second school lice screening will be on April 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> 2017. Barb will organize the volunteers, and further reported that the education night had a

decent turnout with approximately 10 people in attendance, the facilitator showed detailed videos which were well received. Wally said only 9 students tested positive for lice. Barb said the notifications were handled with discretion and the infected students were not identified in the classroom, but parents were contacted privately. Ariel reported that someone said that the lady performing the screenings did not wear latex gloves.

### **DPAC**

Ariel said that since Calvin will be leaving the school at the end this school year as his son will be graduating from grade 7, we will be searching for a new DPAC rep as Calvin will be forced to step down. Having Calvin on board has been fantastic as he has been a great PAC support being our rep for several years. We hope to elect a new rep in May. Tania added that DPAC is very interesting and that she has attended several of the meetings, noting that the topics discussed are at times, eye opening but relevant and that the position does not require a lot of work, just the ability to attend the meetings and relay the information to the PAC. Ariel said that they would post the job description on the PAC website so that anyone interested could see what was required.

Meeting adjourned.