

# École Margaret Jenkins School

## Minutes for Parent Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, November 24, 2022 (7pm, Zoom)

Present by Zoom: Heather Macdonald, Sarah Turnbull, Heather Sanche, Joe Day, John Miller, Betty Greer, Maggie Black, Cameron Black, James Hansen, Ashley Frketich, Tariq Amlani, Rachel Hellner, Leia Vik, Jeffrey Duy, Nicole Kapos, Tom Gleeson, Claire Helm, Tonya Winton, Britta Bentz

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of the minutes from the October 20th meeting and agenda additions. APPROVED
3. New PAC Executive members
  - a) Co Treasurer: Cameron Black
  - b) Member at Large/ Event Planning: Leia Vik
  - c) For next year, Liz Woodward and Rosie Burn are interested in Staff appreciation and Passive fundraising, respectively.
  - d) Open positions available for next year: Chair, Social Media, Website Manager, Newsletter/Communications, Secretary/Co-Secretary.
4. PAC Event / Project Updates
  - a) November Hot Lunch – Emterra Recycling services allowed for drastic reduction of garbage and streamlined composting. Feedback was positive. Parent Claire Helm volunteered and interested in taking on hot lunch next year.
  - b) Next Hot lunch is Dec 7th. Ordering for Term 2 will open after the winter break; would like to encourage parents to order all lunches at once to minimize transaction fees.
  - c) Fall Dance report – Leia reported that the dance went well and the organizers were encouraged with high participation. Feedback has been all positive.
  - d) Next event will be the spring fair in early June.
5. Outdoor classroom project:
  - a) Heather Sanche, project lead, met with teachers and facilities. Facilities were supportive of the overall vision and breaking it into stages. Heather presented the Vision board and explained that the first stage will be to focus on the outdoor classroom, currently planned to go in on the north west side of the grass field.
  - b) The planning team will tour other local schools who have done similar projects to get ideas for a 3- 5 year plan. Braefoot and Strawberry Vale have recently completed high end outdoor classrooms.
  - c) Funding: There should be grants available, and will continue to build the project budget and goals based on walk a thon proceeds. Parent Tom Gleeson has offered to help with this project as it is his area of expertise.
6. Grade 5 activities
  - a) Grade 5 students have received their hoodies.
  - b) Lara Buton and Mme. Small are working on a legacy art project. Looking to purchase some woodworking supplies with help from PAC budget.
  - c) Grade 5 family board game night is being planned; March 10, 2023.
  - d) Year end celebration and bottle drive in the spring.
7. Parent education.

- a) SD61 parent education grant for \$250 has been received and will be used towards an anti-racism presentation in the new year.
8. Puzzle exchange.
- a) A parent asked to put on a puzzle exchange which is set to occur on Thursday December 1st at the school. The idea is for students to bring in 3 puzzles and get three tickets which can be used to get 3 new puzzles. Will also collect \$5 donations for the Cridge Centre for the Family.
9. Budget update.
- a) The budget was presented and reviewed. Walk a thon funds were able to increase a few budget items (class allotments, staff appreciation, and playground equipment). Not all allotments have been spent yet. Special events are considered break even so not added as budget items.
10. Teachers' update.
- a) Ashley expressed gratitude for PAC treats for teachers. Art card orders arrived.
11. Administration's update.
- a) Mini-x leadership is being held on Thursdays. Ideas brainstormed about next spirit day, which will be multiple days in order to be inclusive. Another idea is boardgame day. Lunch monitors is going really well.
  - b) Mustard Seed food drive hampers are out ready to collect non-perishables, James will announce in this week's What's up email.
  - c) Winter concert: The winter concert are the primary students and the intermediate concert will be held in the spring. Separating the concerts allows more room more families and as well as more appropriate planning based on age/ skill levels.
  - d) Student and family affordability fund. Victoria School board received \$1 Million to help parents who need help with field trips, hot lunches and grocery cards. Parents who need support are encouraged to contact EMJS principal James Hansen.
12. Q: Why isn't hot lunch every week? A: Hot lunch was reduced to once per month as a result of a Staff and PAC joint decision. Hot lunch is a lot of work for staff and volunteers. In addition, some students weren't able to participate even with PAC support – we want it to be inclusive.
13. New business and open Q & A
- a) Walk a thon planning will be gearing up.
  - b) Winter concert – PAC will have table to collect donations for the Mustard Seed. Volunteers needed to stand at the table to collect donations.
  - c) Grade 5 students are automatically registered for their catchment middle school.
  - d) Question was raised about the level of cleanliness in the bathrooms. Custodial hours have been reduced. The Victoria school board was collecting feedback from PACs about school cleanliness. Suggestion to put up signs in bathrooms to remind students to flush.  
**Follow up with the school board to review budget items and lobby to bring back more custodial hours.**

Meeting adjourned 8:23 pm.

Next PAC General Meeting is January 26th (no meeting in December).