

École Margaret Jenkins School

Minutes for Parent Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, January 26, 2023 (7pm, Zoom)

Present by Zoom: Heather Macdonald, Sarah Turnbull, Heather Sanche, Lyn Erickson, Betty Greer, Tariq Amlani, Joe Day, James Hansen, Maggie Black, Elizabeth Woodward, Tonya Winton, Carolyn Blum

Welcome and introductions.

Approval of the minutes from the November 24th meeting and agenda additions. Approved

Agenda Approved.

PAC Event / Project Updates

Hot lunch:

1. December hot lunch: went well, Emittera pickup of compost is working well
2. January hot lunch: some kids didn't order but there were extras to give to them. Food allergy classrooms were done first and was done well.
3. Lunch ordering: used to order for the entire year all at once, but can't give refunds, only credits. Changed to order for terms, maybe in future to order for the whole year so no one forgets. Vendors can be told dates for the entire year. Considering for September.
4. Next lunch is Feb 15th.

Outdoor classroom project

1. James and classroom committee have met and are making progress. James is going to take the overall proposal to staff and their input will be solicited and then the team will put together a collaborative plan to propose to facilities and the school district. Considering things like power, taps, lighting, skylights for the outdoor classroom. Three stages are covered classroom naturalized work with seating areas by the rocks and maybe play areas where the little playground is by the annex. Teachers currently thinking would like to have a covered classroom.
2. Outdoor learning space to update and help remediate the field flood ecosystem.
3. Using walk-a-thon to raise money. The team is going to have some marketing material or pamphlets for the students to hand out to help them communicate and describe the project to prospective donors like a form with a QR code that links to an information page.

Parent education

1. [Feb 7 on Zoom](#) with Kerry Cavers who is the founder of Moms Against Racism Canada – “How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child”. Oaklands, Willows, George Jay, and SJD are also invited. Cost of the presentation is covered by the SD61 parent education grant.

West Coast Seeds fundraiser

1. Fundraiser for school garden. Seed packets can be ordered [online](#) and 40% sales to PAC garden programs. Also a project being led by intermediate classes replacing non native plants in the butterfly garden with native species in late February. Maintenance of new plants needs to be considered. Facilities is checking for gas lines and other underground utilities before any work on the garden begins. Ideally select plants will naturalize without irrigation. Planning should consider low maintenance plants.
 - a. Non-native plants (daffodils, crocuses, boxwood) are available to anyone who wants them for their own garden. Please email Amber Holman: aholman@sd61.bc.ca

Staff appreciation luncheon

1. Sign up sheet is [online](#). Betty and Liz Woodward are organizing. Still need more food and draw prize donations. Hot food is provided by EMJS parent Peter de Bruyn and Oak Bay Marina. Sign up genius website is a bit tricky, tips on how to sign up to donate will be emailed to parents.

Walk-a-thon

1. Walk-a-thon will be **Friday Aril 28th** and will run similar to last year. There is a parent DJ who has offered to participate during the walk-a-thon. Last year's poster will be used and updated. Maggie is looking for volunteers to help plan and execute. Goal is to get the poster up mid-March, and send kids home for spring break with handouts and pledge sheets. Ideally money is collected online. Goal will be \$15,000. Prizes will be trucker hat this year (last year was tshirts). Tiered prizes. Anyone who raised \$250 gets all prizes, minimum pledge gets first tier, then more prizes as number goes up.

Grade 5 activities

1. Bottle drive should be after spring break.
2. Jen small and some grade 5 parents are working on the Legacy art project.
3. Second order put in for a few extra grade 5 hoodies.
4. Camp Thunderbird booked for June 20th.

Budget update

1. Spending is on par with budget.
2. Some playground equipment has been purchased; first term of chess lessons paid for.
3. Technology needs to be replaced so PAC is looking for options. There are currently no funds available for tech unless reallocate funds. The school need is \$15,000 for tech replacement. Usually \$5K-\$10K per year is sufficient to maintain but funding cuts have made it difficult to stay current. It's been several years since first investment so approaching time to renew technology. There are tech grants available from Best Buy and staples. MJ needs 5-10K annually to keep technology current. Some school PACs contributed 3k annually. Chrome books are more versatile for schools than iPads.

Open PAC Exec positions for 2023/24

1. AGM is on April 20th or early may, exec positions needed next year- Chair/ Co Chair, website manager.

Administration's update

1. Tonya grateful for lunch monitors. Lunch monitors were given positive feedback.
2. Leadership mini ex – chosen favorite sport day on Feb 2nd. Hoping the field will be open to have fun playing favorite sports.
3. Trying to pick a date for a grade 5 year end ceremony. Thinking 2nd last day of school.
4. If there are any families wanting kids to move to a different middle school, will need to go through as the school transfer process which is Feb 6-10th.
5. James noted that for 2023/24 we have close to 2 full French immersion classes; usually there are 2 full classes and a waitlist. French registration is down across the district. English on track to be same.
6. Crossing guard- city is funding; EAs are acting as crossing guards and this is working very well.
7. Sports – run club grades 3-5, grades 4/5 basketball teams going well. Thankful for teacher support and coaching.
8. Custodial cutbacks, trying to balance with bigger schools and given MJ and extra hour due to size.
9. District budget potential to lose funding for strings but no decision yet and hoping to move elementary strings into prep time. No decision made until budget time.
10. Student and family affordability fund helps families in need.
11. Indigenous support for updated logo will take a while. Need to make sure work is connected with local First Nations. They don't have a ton of elders available so takes time.
12. Families who want to support the family in the fire, contact James to keep it private.

New business and open Q & A

1. Spring Fair will go ahead on Friday June 9th.
2. Emergency supplies will go outside once weather is better.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm
Next meeting: Feb 23, 2023 on Zoom