



Boundary Community School Association (BCSA)

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Minutes of Meeting

October 10, 2017

Attendees

Gillian Paton (Chair)

Claire Ferrier (Vice Chair)

Jacqueline Russell (Treasurer)

Claire Arnold (Member at Large)

Karen Tinto (Member at Large)

Tim Macleod (Principal)

Jeeniece Chand (Vice Principal)

Erin Holtz

Sarah Christian

Maria Steele

Emily Chowne

Samantha Ellis

Angie Howden-Duke

Sacha Joubert

Arezu Moshrefzadeh

Lesley Cairns

Hilary Barisoff

Allison Harris

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

A quorum was declared.

Motion to accept the May 20, 2017 minutes – Gillian Paton

First – Karen Tinto

Second – Erin Holtz

Passed

Motion to approve the Agenda – Gillian Paton

First – Claire Arnold

Second – Lesley Cairns

Passed

Principal's Report (Tim Macleod)

Tim introduced the new Vice Principal Jeeniece Chand, and noted that another staff member, Janet Campbell (LST), was present.

The principal thanked the PAC for a successful ice-cream social, hot lunch (Deb Gill) which is a big fundraiser and a huge amount of work, the PAC Exec who are coming into their third year together; for classroom funds received from PAC, the purchase of a technology cart, all the class reps who have volunteered, and Lucy Allen for putting together the newsletter.

It has been a busy start to the year after the changes to the collective agreement. We have 11 new staff, two new divisions and two new classrooms. We are fortunate not to have lost any rooms like Strong Start, the library, music room, and we still have room to grow, unlike other schools. We are a good size now at around 340 students.

The collective agreement is particularly complicated in North Van and so it is going to take time to iron out the wrinkles. Among the advantages are low class sizes – our largest English class size is 23 students (French immersion has 29). There are smaller classes (increased teacher time per student) but more combined classes, which is great for the learning environment but can be more challenging when it comes to the social aspect for the kids (less children of their gender/age in each group).

Here is a very quick run down of what has happened at the school and ongoing events:

- Jiu-jitsu is on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- FSAs are happening now (in the Fall not February)
- Orange shirt day was a big success and we made the District's Twitter!
- Terry Fox run was held
- Thanksgiving assembly this year was a lunchtime "feast" in the gym which was well received

- Grade 6 outdoor school is at the end of November
- Cross country has started and the first meet is tomorrow
- Basketball has started
- We have had the first ProD day and the next one is in a couple of weeks

Finally, Tim reported on an employee engagement survey that the District had undertaken. Boundary had a high response rate at over 85%, but there are no results as yet, the data still has to come out.

School Plan Update (Jeeniece Chand)

The two main school goals that have been identified are math learning and social responsibility.

Leticia Lipp has been conducting a pilot study on basic facts, to get a base idea of where the students are at in terms of math. This will help the staff figure out where we are and what we need to work on. One of the issues that has come out already is the decoding of word problems. Math journals and word walls might be introduced and you might hear about those. Some teachers attended workshops during the recent ProD day on math assessment in the classroom.

On the social responsibility side, with PAC funds the school has purchased the “Second Step” program for the entire school. This program starts in Kindergarten with puppets and a focus on identifying feelings, self-regulation and empathy, and goes on in higher grades to deal with emotional intelligence, problem-solving strategies, fair play and bullying, all the way up to substance abuse and cyber bullying. It fits in with the core competencies for the curriculum. The program will evolve as children move through the grades.

Chair’s Report (Gillian Paton)

Welcome back everybody! The welcome-back Ice Cream Social was well attended.

Upcoming events:

- Jesse Miller is coming to the school tomorrow for the Grade 4-7s. Then there is a parent talk at 6:30pm. Jesse is a dynamic speaker and it is well worth attending.
- Movie night – Sabrina Ferrari has stepped up to organize this for October 26th. The movie will be “Sing” and there will be sushi and pizza on offer, as well as a bake sale. Look for more details in the newsletter.
- Family Skate will be on Thursday December 14th at Karen Magnussen

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be a Class Rep – we were able to fill all those positions two weeks earlier than last year!

Last year we started a Safe Routes to School committee but unfortunately it fizzled out due to lack of parental support. As before, we have had issues at the beginning of this term, in particular at the four-way stop at William and 29th. Gillian has written letters to the District, the School District, and has created an online petition – sign it! Unfortunately, there has not been a great response from anybody to those letters. If anyone is motivated to stand with Gillian in trying to make the roads around the school safer for our children then get in touch, as she would welcome any and all support.

The PAC Exec and the teachers are interested in doing a food drive around the Nov/Dec period. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Gillian.

Gillian is looking to share the job of Fruit and Veggie Co-ordinator for this year and have someone take over the role for next year. The commitment is not great – you would sign up to the program online in May, September can be busier with making class lists and noting allergies (maybe 3-4 hours), then on an on-going basis it is only an hour or so every couple of weeks to distribute the food. It is delivered on a Wednesday morning and distributed Thursday morning.

New Members of the Executive

Prior to the AGM, we were unable to find anyone to fill the role of Secretary for the PAC. Erin Holtz has stepped up and volunteered and needs to be approved by the members.

Gillian Paton proposed a motion to appoint Erin Holtz as Secretary of the PAC.

First: Claire Ferrier

Seconded: Sam Ellis

The vote was unanimous on a show of hands.

Also Tina Pscheidl-Szylowski has offered to be communications director, and Gillian Paton put forward a motion to that effect.

First: Claire Arnold

Seconded: Lesley Cairns

The vote was unanimous on a show of hands.

Hot Lunch Update (Jacqueline Russell on behalf of Deb Gill)

As you will all know, we have a new system for signing up to hot lunch. It was a little slow initially for some when they were registering, but hopefully these problems have been fixed and it was just a volume issue. The site offers much more on the back end for administrators. In terms of orders, we are on track compared to previous years, with \$4,750 in orders this session with over \$1,200 coming in by way of donations. Parents are able to make a donation to the school at the time they make a lunch order.

Emily Chowne requested that the class reports are somehow re-formatted because the new ones are very hard to read when giving food out (especially in light of the fact that Grade 7s are generally doing this job).

Treasurer Report (Jacqueline Russell)

Jacqueline Russell presented the updated financials as at the PAC's financial year-end of July 31, 2017. The meeting reviewed and discussed the financials.

Motion to approve the 2017-18 Financial Statements – Jacqueline Russell

First – Sam Ellis

Second – Claire Arnold

Passed

Jacqueline Russell presented the Budget for 2017-18. There was some discussion of the Budget. Gillian Paton pointed out a new line item, being the Argyle fund: there may be a new school in the future but there is no money, and Argyle has no active PAC, to fund items for inside the building.

Motion to approve the 2017-18 Budget – Jacqueline Russell

First – Emily Chowne

Second – Maria Steele

Passed

Other Business

Maria Steele introduced herself as the Brown Bag Lunch co-ordinator. The Brown Bag Lunch is a program which has been running for thirty years, and Maria has been the co-ordinator for eight years. As her son is now in Grade 6, this year Angie Howden-Duke is going to help out with a view to taking on the role.

Gillian Paton also noted that Angie Howden-Duke had taken over the role of Emergency Preparedness Co-ordinator for this year.

Claire Arnold has been the CPF rep for the last two years, but she no longer has a child doing French at the school. If we don't have a rep then we risk not getting any funding as no-one will apply for the grants that could be available. Claire Arnold will email the French classes reps to see if anyone is interested. The core commitment is only a couple of hours a month, and you do not have to speak any French!

Emily Chowne asked whether future movie nights could be held the night before a ProD day? Gillian Paton noted it was not just parents and volunteers involved but also administration, and it is a big ask to give up a Friday night (for some parents as well!) It was noted that this movie night will be earlier (6:30pm) to accommodate the younger ones.

Sam Ellis noted that as class rep she doesn't have very many green forms returned. We would put a reminder in the newsletter but there is only so much we can do. Jacqueline Russell mentioned that perhaps next year we could include the consent form as simply a button to click on the hot lunch sign up.

Sacha Joubert asked the principal whether there would be a Christmas concert this year? There will not be a big evening event this year – there will be a sing along in the gym during the day as in past years – and the school is planning a bigger event in the Spring (April).

Emily Chowne reported on the Card Project – this will be held in the spring rather than the fall term. It will be timed to coincide with Mothers' Day. Also new for this year, you will be able to use any piece of art made by a child (or even a sibling) and have this turned into a card. More details will follow at the time.

There was no further business and the Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.