

Mountain Meadows Elementary - PAC Meeting – November 5, 2015

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

In Attendance: PRESIDENT - Angela Blackall, VICE PRESIDENT - Mark Robins, DPAC - Nerissa Dashtgard and Terai Hicik, SECRETARY - Zoë Furby, Brooke Young, Robin Funk, Claar Prinsen, Brenda Ramsay, Cecilia Juarez, Shannon Oliver, Jen Mackie, Kate McMeiken

Regrets: TREASURER, Heather Robins

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Approval of Agenda: Claar Prinsen and Robin Funk

Approval of Minutes: Brenda Ramsay and Robin Funk

Principal's Report Kate McMeiken:

Enrollment: 206 students total, 207th starting in January 2016
Space at all grades still.

Staffing: Mrs. Bird's last day tomorrow. Her Maternity Leave will be posted and there will be an interview process to find a teacher to replace her.

Mrs. Abdou's temporary contract coming to an end as the teacher who was awarded the permanent contract is returning to teaching after a Maternity Leave at the end of this month. Mrs. Abdou's last teaching day is Thursday, November 19th, and Mrs. Hethey's first teaching day is Monday, November 23rd. Letter sent home to families of div.7 yesterday. Thank you to Mrs. Abdou.

Curriculum

Update: 2nd Inservice session for elementary school teams was this past Tuesday morning. Miss Borthwick, Mrs. Ziraldo and I formed the MME team. There will be future sessions, and we are waiting for confirmation from our school District about the 10 hours of inservice that will be provided to all B.C. teachers to work with the new curriculum. Two full days, four half days? We don't know.

Reporting

Documents: Our reporting templates have been revised, and approved by our Assistant Superintendent, and they will be used for the first time school-wide this reporting period. They will continue to have an anecdotal description of children's social / emotional development and work habits at the top of the report card. The Intellectual Development piece where the learning outcomes of the various curricular areas is reported, will be streamlined and easier for parents and caregivers to decipher. There will continue to be a section that

includes “Ways to Support Learning”. Students in grades 4 and 5 will continue to get letter grades. There will be a feedback form included with the new reporting template when reports are distributed on December 4th.

- Health & Safety: Drills up to date
New name for Code Yellow lockdown ... now Hold and Secure
100% of our Emergency Release Forms in
Emergency Bags are in place
- Email Upgrade: Arghhh!! Still struggling to send bcc emails to groups which is why my weekly communiqué tomorrow will come home in paper form in student planners.
Hope to have this resolved soon.
- School Themes: November – Remembering
December – Giving 12 Days of Giving, Hamper for Adopted Family impacted by recent fire, Comfy Seat Raffle to help those less fortunate
January - Goal Setting
February – Random Acts of Kindness
March – short month ... no theme
April – Environmental Protection / Earth Day
May - Perseverance
June – Generosity from Head to Toe (**Wigs for Kids, June 8**)

Building Resiliency – an Information Night for Parents (Scott Creek Middle School, November 23rd)

Coquitlam Express

Adopt a School: MD Cosmetic & Laser in Port Moody has purchased 5 season tickets for the school to each home game. I will be including in an upcoming communiqué the dates of each of the home games ... will offer the five child tickets to the first family that requests that date. An adult / chaperone ticket will need to be purchased for the accompanying adult, but this will be an excellent venue for a child’s birthday party, a pre-slumber party activity etc. Perhaps wear MME spirit wear? The Express team is visiting us on the 17th ... will read to the primary classes, play floor hockey against the 5s, all 4s will be invited to watch the game.

Field Trips (in school

And off campus): Div.5,6,7 Greater Vancouver Zoo on the 18th
Div.3, 4 High Touch High Tech – What’s the Matter on the 17th

Winter Concerts: Tuesday, December 15th
1:15pm
6:30pm

President Report Angela Blackall:

Munch a Lunch Set up and roll out took up a great deal of time in October. From set up, site functionality, communicating with MAL and working through some glitches, we are now running well with most issues have been solved. Now the fun part is to explore the sites Greater functionality and see how we can use the site for all PAC initiatives: volunteer requests, rsvp's etc. We would like to explore more menu options for future Hot Lunch orders; any suggests can be sent to mmpacparents@gmail.com. If you know of a local business that would like to support our fundraiser while providing a great healthy lunch, let us know.

As a PAC we have the option of offering CC payment only for MAL orders. We have chosen to offer of order now and pay later for those folks who like to pay by cheque or for those families that do not have a computer to order and therefore pay. Order forms will be available by request and we will place printed menus in the office for the next set of orders. We ran into a few issues with Paypal, cheques lost and or misplaced as well as some parents missing the deadline; for these families we were able to trick the system to order for the families.

Heather has done a great job reducing our outstanding balances, creating a plan for the cheques received; our A/R report will be easier managed as going forward as most of the technical issues are removed.

Our next Hot Lunches will be rolled out before the end of November. Hot lunches will be rolled out in 3's. See dates in the next newsletter.

We ran our COBS fundraiser; 32 boxes were ordered; PAC earned \$160.00. We can use this fundraiser option with more than just cinnamon buns; we will look at seasonal offerings closer to the holidays and potentially roll out another fundraiser. Heather Robins is our COBS coordinator.

Zumba Fundraiser: Zoe has taken the lead on this Fundraiser; to date 18 tickets sold via MAL. \$10.00 via MAL and \$12.00 cash at the door.

With approval from Kate: we would like to kick off a Poinsettia fundraiser which will be driven by Jamie McMurray. We will use MAL in the coming days to promote but would like to follow up with paper notice in planners. Poinsettia delivery will be December 10; we are encouraging families to offer the fundraiser option to work, neighbours, and family for maximum sales. Great Quality and great colour choices.

Holiday Market collections are underway: donations to the PAC kitchen will be accepted until December 4th, look to Rebecca Paterson and Heather Robins for More details and to MAL for Volunteer opportunities and donations (possibly).

Our October Newsletter was a hit. We heard great feedback from parents. Thank you to Brooke for putting it all together. Our next Newsletter will roll out in the next two weeks summarizing November and looking forward to December events.

Movie Night needs volunteers for a few key roles, Terai Hicik will be asking for help this evening for key roles during the event. The movie admission is free, pizza and snacks will be offered; no outside food allowed and parents must accompany their children to the movie and throughout the night.

Thrifty Foods Smile Cards – Cecilia Juarez has been successful with Smile Card Fundraiser; we would like families to use their current cards and roll out new cards to the Kindies and replacement cards by request; waiting for approval from Kate. This is a great program that will support more Library initiatives.

We approved the BUDGET for the 2015/2016 school year. Because of this commitment we are looking to hold off on all requests for money that concern funds for the second half of the year. In our January meeting, we will review our Holiday fundraising dollars and expenses and look at accepting requests for more funds.

Scholastic Book Fair:

- Update on Scholastic Book Fair from Claar Prinsen
- Raised \$2800 in books for the library and teachers
- Thank you to the volunteers and the support

Holiday Market:

- Rebecca Patterson and Heather Robins – organizers
- There will be a ‘volunteer’ button on Munch a Lunch site for parents/caregivers who can volunteer at the gift/wrapping tables
- Donations of new items to be delivered to the PAC kitchen by December 4th
- Discussion about cost of items – most items will be priced between \$1-\$5. There was some concern at the suggestion of some larger items being priced at \$10. This will be taken into consideration when pricing items.
- Request from Holiday Market Committee to have a budget of \$500 to buy items and wrapping supplies.

‘MOTION to set aside a \$500 budget for gifts/supplies for the holiday market.’

Motioned by Robin Funk

Seconded by Brenda Ramsay

Motion Passed

PAC Newsletter:

- Communications Officer – Brooke Young
- Will be preparing monthly newsletter to be sent electronically

Thrifty Smile Cards:

- Organizer is Cecilia Juarez
- Thrifty Smile Card Program is still in effect this year
- If people load their Thrifty Smile Cards – (gift cards) 5% of the card goes to the PAC

Poinsettia Fundraiser:

- This is being organized by Jamie McMurray – Shannon Oliver spoke at the meeting on Jamie's behalf
- There will be poinsettias' available to order via Munch a Lunch – Pink, White, Red and Holiday Planters

Movie Night:

- Terai Hicic Organizer
- Friday November 13th movie – Inside Out
- Discussion of the poster and what to include
- Pizza, popcorn and drinks available
- Concession Volunteer – Robin Funk
- Lighting Volunteer – Jen Mackie
- Terai expressed a need to have a bathroom monitor for these events to ensure people watching the movie are not disturbed
- Doors open at 6 pm – movie at 6:30
- There will be an intermission
- Volunteers to help clean up are needed
- Discussion about future movie nights having a 'VIP Section' available by draw for people who RSVP via Munch a Lunch

Treasurer Report:

- Delivered by Vice President Mark Robins
- Budget was approved for 2015/2016 School Year
- Essentially, we have a healthy bank balance but also have outstanding invoices to be paid.
- We are in 'fundraising mode' rather than 'spending mode'
- Some changes to BMO services – we now have a deposit only client card and online banking so Heather Robins can view account activity regularly instead of waiting for a monthly statement. She can also make deposits via ATM to add convenience. The bank account remains two to sign.

- For the Environmental Playground we are waiting for invoices so we can pay – we have been waiting a long time for this and it is important because Angela Blackall would like to apply for additional grants and can't apply until we can prove that we spent the grant money we already received. Angela will contact SD43 to try and get an invoice.

Munch a Lunch:

- Munch a Lunch has been up and running for over a month now
- There have been some bumps along the way but we are working through them
- Discussion about the participation level in Hot Lunch etc. compared to before when we had paper forms – agreed that it has been somewhat less than before but that eventually the parent community will get used to the new system.
- There are also some challenges with reconciling different fundraisers as we receive money via Paypal in a lump sum as opposed to for each fundraiser so we can't immediately reconcile. Heather Robins is working on this.

Grad Fund:

- Discussion about \$500 PAC contribution to Grade 5 Grads as this was done in 2015.
- Agreed to discuss this in March 2016 as we are not in a position to commit these funds at this time but may well be closer to the end of the school year.

Liaison Emails:

- Zoë Furby raised the question about whether the teachers get the liaison emails. It appears they do not. It was suggested that if an email is being sent via liaison and you feel the teacher should get it to specifically ask this of Claar.
- Robin Funk raised her concern about the number of emails that are being sent to the parent community. Discussion ensued. During this time of change from paper to electronic there has been an increase in emails. Robin suggested that all emails be sent out once a week. It was stated that sometimes this is difficult to coordinate and that some emails for fundraisers are time-sensitive.

Zumba Fundraiser:

- Zumba Fundraiser to be held Friday November 6th
- Zoë Furby – Organizer

Spirit Wear and Grad Hoodies:

- Spirit Wear and Grad Hoodie orders coming out in November
- Organizer for Spirit Wear is Zoë Furby – Organizers for Grad Hoodies are Jen Mackie and Ellie Campbell

Track Jerseys and Scrimmage Vests:

- Zoë Furby was able to have one very large track jersey altered so that it will fit an intermediate child. The response to the alteration was positive so it was suggested that we alter as many as possible for free (Zoë's mother Betty Lye will do this for us). If when we finish this process we still need more jerseys, Jamie McMurray is looking into this for us.
- Scrimmage Vests are to be sourced by Linda Ziraldo and paid for by the PAC with proceeds from 2015 Just Dance – this money has already been voted on. Linda estimates the cost to be \$300 then we would have about \$700 left over for jerseys if needed.

DPAC Report:

- Overview of recent DPAC Meeting by Nerissa Dashtgard
- The meeting focused on the new curriculum
- She said that there is an opportunity for us to have a DPAC liaison come to MME and talk about the new curriculum
- She also said that for fundraising, it will soon be mandated that all ordering will have to be done online
- A hot topic at the DPAC meeting was BC's new curriculum and they are encouraging DPAC reps to help disseminate information to PAC and parents and also act as a vehicle to get concerns and questions back to DPAC. Yikes?! Two guest speakers tonight, Patricia Gartland and Paul McNaughton, gave a brief superintendent overview of the curriculum. They are very excited and are encouraging people to get on line and explore the curriculum.

Some schools are already implementing aspects of the curriculum, but implementation is set for September 2015 for K-9 students. In the following three years they want all of BC's schools to have implemented it. 2000 teachers in the next year will attend training, where in they will become teacher leaders and take on the role to help train remaining teachers across BC. In 2015 teachers will have 10hrs of training on the curriculum and in the two consecutive years have 5 hours respectively. It was reiterated that it is not a complete overhaul but an enhancement of certain areas. Giving students more ownership on what they want to

learn, providing real life situation where cutting edge skills can be gained. Moving from a content based program to a competency based one.

- Three core competencies were identified in provincial consultation:
 - 1) Thinking - critical and creative
 - 2) Communication - oral, written and digital
 - 3) Personal and Social Competency - positive awareness, and cultural identity; personal awareness and responsibility; and social responsibility.
- These core competencies are weaved and really embedded in the 3D process driven curriculum model (what the children know, understand and are able to do) and curriculum competencies. Again it was encouraged for parents to check out the website and explore it. Reality is it seems that parents will want to be familiar with the system to fully understand how their children are progressing as grades will no longer be given.

One Application mentioned that will be encouraged to be used was Fresh Grade where parents may be sent sometimes daily updates, messages, pictures, videos of their child or when their child wants to submit or add something to their e-portfolio. It was unclear whether applications such as this one would be mandatory.

- Concerns mentioned by DPAC representatives in the meeting included getting information on the new curriculum out to parents, training teachers, and access and ability to assess ones child when computers are not easily accessible and English is the second language.
- A second speaker at the meeting was Jodie Wickens. She did an informative presentation on Autism in the Classroom. Her take home messages included:
 - 1) not all disabilities are visible
 - 2) it is our responsibility to teach children supportive ways to deal with "problem behaviour" through the language we use and actions we take
 - 3) include parents of children with extra needs into the school community (parents often feel isolated and their children vulnerable)

After School Program:

- New coordinator has been found – Victoria Lee
- Brooke Young offered to run an after school program about film making
- Registration will be via Munch a Lunch if it is a PAC run program and via the City of Port Moody if it is a city run program.
- Discussion about other possible programs including the success of the wrestling program run by Mrs. Abdou.

New Business:

- Robin Funk made a suggestion about a possible new program for the school – Norman Foot has worked with the choir and writes music with the kids. It was agreed that this is something that will be considered in the future when we are looking to book programs.

Grade 5 Grad Committee:

- On November 18th at 7 pm there will be a Grade 5 Grad Committee meeting

Discussion on PAC Constitution and Bylaws led by Mark Robins:

- At the last meeting, notice to vote on suggested changes to our PAC Bylaws and Constitution were presented and the suggested changes were then posted for over one month.

Section XI

2. Any elected member of the PAC may serve for as many years as he or she is elected, but may not hold any one position for more than two consecutive years

Proposed: All elected members of the PAC must resign at the end of the school year. He or she may stand for re-election for the upcoming school year.

Section XII

1. Three parent representatives, who are not employees of any school district,...

Proposed: to Strike this section as the School Planning Committee has been eliminated

'MOTION to approve the proposed changes to the Mountain Meadows Elementary PAC Constitution and Bylaws as posted'

**Motioned by Robin Funk
Seconded by Brenda Ramsay**

Motion Passed

Closing Remarks:

- The following meeting will be Friday December 11th after Hot Lunch 12:15 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 pm