

Mundy Road Elementary School

PAC General Meeting Minutes

March 9th, 2021

Present: Leann Buteau, Larissa Ringham, Serena Boivin, Chris Hilliker, Lily Gu, Samantha Cohene, Shannon McGeehan, Lily Gu, Zainab Khareghani, Sally Wang, Danielle Ciavarro, Phalguni Bhatt, Jenny Gasparini

Meeting called to order: 7:05

Welcome and Introductions

Approve minutes from January 28th 2020: Motion: Samantha Second: Jay

Motion to approve agenda: Motion: Jay Second: Una

Chairperson's report (Larissa and Jon – absent – report via e-mail):

- My apologies for being unable to attend tonight's meeting and thank you again to Larissa for chairing.
- As we all know, it's been a year since Covid hit, our kids came home for Spring Break and stayed there for 6 weeks (and some longer). It's been challenging for everyone, but we're surviving. As a PAC, we were lucky to have had a fair amount of money set aside for this "rainy day" and we have been able to carry on with our support to the kids fairly easily. However, as time has gone on our funds are depleting and I think we've now got to really watch our dollars carefully. Let's hope things will get back to somewhat normal for next year and we can go back to our sure-fire fundraisers, like hot lunches, dances, and movie nights. I have looked into doing cookbooks as we have discussed at the last two meetings, and there are many companies that do them for groups like us, however it all seems more of a "memories" thing and not a fundraiser. The return on them is incredibly low and hardly seems worth the work that would need to go into them.
- Our next meeting will be an Exec meeting only and is specifically to set the budget for next year. We will require a detailed, up-to-date report on our financials for this so we can be realistic in our planning. It's going to be a tough budget to set, as we most likely won't know until the beginning of the school year how "back to normal" we are.
- It's also time to start thinking about succession for next year. If you could let me or Larissa know one way or the other if you're considering running again for exec or not, that would be greatly appreciated. We are only a couple of months away from electing next year's exec so if there are lots of openings to fill, we need to start looking for people now.
- Larissa reminded us that we should start thinking about a new chairperson for succession for the year after next, so that that individual is able to "shadow" the current chairpersons next year.

Principal's Report (Leann):

- Leah Wright (secretary) has moved to a new school which is much more ideal for her. We have a new permanent secretary. Mallory Sanders, she is coming from the board office but does have some school experience as well. We have had three temp secretaries in the last couple weeks. Leann will introduce her in the newsletter this week.

- Wish list purchases are nearly complete. Leann is purchasing a heavy-duty gardener's wagon to aid with outdoor education. She thanks PAC once again for purchasing the items on the wish list. The buckets/drums have also been purchased and have been a big success.
- Leann has received a few concerned parents phoning about "the culture of mask wearing" being promoted in the newsletter. Leann reiterated that children do not have to wear masks if the parents do not want them to. Some of these parents received misinformation about the idea mandatory mask-wearing within the school.
- \$ 100k in grants were received by a school in the Abbotsford School District to build a new playground. Leann is investigating where these grants came from. She has also been looking into different grants that may be available.
- Current PHO orders prevent gatherings of any kinds, including leaving ceremonies, the district is working with Fraser Health to think of some ways to celebrate the grade 5 leaving ceremony (this means the school would be unable to hold an outdoor ceremony like they did last year). Leann reiterated thought that much can change in the next few months, so this may have to be a last-minute decision.

Treasurer's Report (Samantha):

- See current budget report. Total funds are \$20 455.00. Funds are the lowest they have been for a while. Hopefully, we will have enough to cover the expenses coming from the school for the rest of the year.
- Larissa found money from our Fundscrip account that we never cashed out, so we will be receiving \$1800 shortly. The cheque will come directly to the school, addressed to Mundy Road PAC.
- Une asked if we ever received the FlipGive direct deposit. We have not yet received this.

Volunteer Coordinator (Jenny – absent, via email):

- The next staff appreciation day is on Wednesday, March 17th. Division 8 will be bringing in treats.
- Nothing else to report.

DPAC (Shannon/Jenny – absent, via email):

- I attended the DPAC meeting on February 24th.
- Family Smart did a presentation. They offer free peer support for parents and families going through mental health challenges. They also offer monthly workshops on mental health concerns, substance misuse, early childhood development, and other similar topics. Unfortunately, their next workshop is on March 9 (same as our PAC meeting).
- New health and safety protocols have been implemented in SD43 schools.
- DPAC is currently running '21-day Racial Equity Building Challenge' on their Facebook page. Each day they offer examples of things to do and/or read. It is running until March 21st.
- The next DPAC meeting is on April 7th.

Munch-a-lunch (Una):

- We have family photos scheduled for April 10th and 11th – this will go live on MAL on Friday.

- Una has been trying to organize a popcorn day through Kernels with individually packaged popcorn, however it is quite pricey. On Tuesdays, they do have a half-price deal that would make more of a profit. They have choices for caramel or cheese popcorn. The popcorn would be delivered to the school but would need to be distributed by staff. Una will look into this more before we set a date.
- We need someone to do Fruit and Veggie Program next year, Una can no longer do this, but that person needs to have a Food Safe Certificate.

Hot Lunch (Jay):

- Nothing to report at this time. Jay is hoping someone else can take over hot lunch next year.

Merchandising Coordinator (Phalguni)

- Phalguni has done some research into masks for distribution to the students. Phalguni has found masks for \$2.50 however they are not sizeable (from a wholesaler supplier – the Mundy logo could potentially be added for \$1 more). She has also found some very nice quality ones for \$5 per mask by an individual seamstress. She presented some differences between the masks. All masks are three layers. A company she was in contact with also supplies hand sanitizer.
 - Discussion: Previously, we decided that the PAC would supply each student with a mask and/or safety kit and ask for a donation to help offset the cost. In response to an inquiry, Larissa reiterated that our goal is simply to encourage mask wearing, this is not a fundraiser.
 - Larissa wondered if we wanted to proceed with this. By the time we get the masks, we will only have a couple of months left in the school year.
 - A few people suggested that we run this as a fundraiser instead, for the time being, and look at the school-wide distribution for early next year.
 - Lily inquired as to whether parents would be more apt to support a local business for masks, rather than a wholesaler.
 - We will forego the sanitizers for now.
 - ACTION: Run a mask fundraiser before the end of the year. We will go with the masks for \$2.50, without the logo, to expedite the process.

Social Coordinators (Lindsay and Anita - both absent)

- No report.

Emergency Preparedness (Jay):

- Not much action on MAL with the emergency pack donations. We have received a couple more.

Fundraising

- Jay is willing to put together a recipe book fundraiser, this could be a PDF file or e-book. Jay and Phalguni will look into this.
- Larissa asked if we would like to do another restaurant fundraiser night. Jenny said the Me 'n Ed's fundraiser was easy to set up and everything is already in place. Jenny will call them and set up a few dates for the coming months.

- Larissa also mentioned running Fundscrip before the end of the year, however the downfall with this is the need for cash or cheques. There was a suggestion to run this fundraiser on MAL, however MAL has a surcharge (approximately 3.2%) which would eat into our profit from Fundscrip. We will shelve this for now.
- Another suggestion was a meat fundraiser (Neufeld's) – the only issue with this is that the products cannot be stored and need to be distributed at a specific time. Meridian Meats and Raise the Funds were other possibilities. Larissa will look into this.
- There were suggestions for a couple of other fundraisers that might be good possibilities (eco-friendly cleaning products, vegetables, breweries/wineries, etc...).
 - Jay has already spoken to the head of an eco-friendly laundry company and will pass the information on to Larissa.

Communications Coordinator (Jon- absent, via email)

- Let Jon know if there is anything that you would like included in the newsletter.

Safety Coordinator (Janice – absent, via email):

- Janice connected with Janette Guarin at City of Coquitlam regarding the speed reader on Austin Avenue. She says that we can perhaps get the reader in April or May. Usually, the speed reader is on rotating basis at different locations in the community. We can get it for 3 months once every two years. Janice thinks it's best to have the reader during the darker months of the year. Everyone agreed that she should request the reader for the fall.

Parent Education Coordinator (Shannon)

- Lindsay and Shannon have secured “Picky Eating Vancouver” for a workshop for parents. The presenter will talk about how to introduce new foods, nutrition, making meal times enjoyable. This will be \$250.
- Saleema Noon presentation – we need to choose between two different presentations (one pre-recorded and the other live). Leann will discuss this with the teachers to see what they prefer. This needs to be a universal decision for all classes.
- Dr. Juliana Negreiros who is doing the next workshop on May 12th would like to include the RC MacDonald parent community in the workshop. This might bump the number of participants above 100 which would mean we need to upgrade Juliana's zoom account for a cost of \$35 (per school) to accommodate this). Everyone agreed to do this.
- Shannon and Leann will connect about making an informative COVID poster for parents.

New Business

- None

Open Discussion:

- None

Motion to adjourn: all

Time: 8:49

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 pm via ZOOM, EXECUTIVE ONLY

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 pm via ZOOM