

Centennial PAC Meeting Minutes Monday September 24th, 2012

In attendance: Lorene Chung, Anna DeAngelis, Maria Parrotta (SPC), Tania Carbone, Veronica Gueck, Irma Rossetti, Cathy U, Annette Brandelid, Kathy Rota, Debbie Bruce (Member at large), Mary Robertson (Secretary), Susan Sorensen, Loriene Shantz (Co-treasurer), Sheryl Pasmans (Co-treasurer), Marilyn Wilson, Mitra Salimi, Amy Mah, Tamara Dean, Jacquie Hutchins (Chair), Cinzia DeJesus, Dave Soer (Member at large), Coleen Bohlen (Grad pens), Evelyn Chursinoff, Robin Benning, Deanne Serres, Jason Richardson, Tony Webb, Rob Zambrano (Principal), David Birnie (Vice Principal)

Call to Order at 7pm

Welcome:

- Jacquie welcomed everyone to the new school year and each person introduced themselves

Minutes:

- Dave Soer motioned to accept the minutes dated May 7th, 2012 with the change of wording on page 3, paragraph one to reflect that the portables were coming from Parkland School. Coleen Bohlen 2nd, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Sheryl presented the treasurer's report for the period ending June 30th, 2012. Sheryl explained that there are still some cheques to be deposited, and that the gaming grant has been approved and we should expect it to go through by approximately Sept 30th.
- The budget meeting will at the November meeting and these items should be reflected in the next report.
- Loriene Shantz will present the next report.

DPAC:

- Sheri Ray sent along a message that there was nothing to report. The next DPAC meeting is Oct 24th and she will bring information along to the November meeting.
- There is a DPAC Parent info meeting scheduled for Oct 11th at Centennial on Internet Safety. Rob will get information out to the school community regarding this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

- Rob welcomed all parents and was very happy with the number of parents in attendance.
- Rob introduced the new Vice Principal Mr. David Birnie. David spoke of how impressed he is with the school, he feels there are a lot of good things going on. He found the students to be friendly and outgoing. David will be handling timetabling, EAL, office staff and communication to parents. Rob explained David's background and that he comes with a wealth of experience, everyone welcomed David.
- Rob feels that it has been a good start to the school year, which is welcome after the difficult year for everyone last year. He noted the kids have been focused and attentive. We have 11 new teachers and 6 retirements.
- Rob talked about their hopes for the new school, they are focusing on a philosophical approach, what we want the new school to be – reflective and introspective. They will celebrate what they do well, and make it better, they are looking to implement some new things, they are not sure

what this will look like yet. They have 3 working groups, Rob will steer these and each VP will work with a group of teachers.

- Day to day items, online registration went well, it saves the school a lot of money. The e-release form will only need to be filled out once, they are hopeful that fees will be able to be paid on line next year.
- The 1st assembly was a success with Alvin Law, an inspirational speaker, sharing his story with the students. They would like to bring a speaker in every 1 to 2 ½ months. Grade wide assemblies were held last week and they were grade specific.
- The automated voice system was not working at the beginning of the year that has now been fixed. Rob has asked teachers to communicate any concerns they have about students personally with parents. Letters will also be sent home to parents if there are attendance issues.
- One parent expressed having a problem with the online absence form, Rob will look into this. If your child will be away you can call the office before 9:30 or e-mail centennial@sd43.bc.ca
- Photo retakes are scheduled for October 1st. Photo packages and go cards will be handed out on Wednesday last period.
- They are waiting to meet with the nurse to schedule the Grade 9 immunizations, which will most likely be mid-November.
- There will be an after grad meeting on October 3rd on Wednesday at 7pm. They will be looking at ways to may this 'a drier grad' as there were some alcohol problems this year.
- October 5th is a district holiday
- Term One Report Cards will go out on October 30th, and parent teacher interviews will take place 2 weeks after the reports go out. This is an opportunity for a 1 on 1 10 minute session with your child's teacher. You need to book ahead as this is not a drop in session. Several parents said it is a nice community event, Rob encourages parents to attend.
- They expect to break ground for the new school at the end of March and the build will be 18 – 22 months. The phase of the project which joins the new school to the existing "new" blue gym will take an additional year. They expect that the Grade 10's will graduate from the new school. They are also looking at the board office, whether it will remain in the same location and whether a new building will be built. Rob will pass along information when he knows more.
- 22 clubs are up and running, the website is not completed updated with all of the clubs.
- The Centennial Today (CT) still remains the best way to be kept up to date of the school activities. This is updated and posted daily. The students can access it online, the 2nd period teacher reads the CT and it is also posted outside the office.
- A few parents had questions surrounding Math 9 and Math 10 A&W, Rob explained that the counselors at middle school were to have conversations with the students/parents if they had been recommended to have Math in 1st and 2nd semesters. Most parents commented that this had not happened. Rob explained that Numeracy 9 did not meet the learning outcomes for Math 9, this is why they need to take Math 10 A&W. There was also a lot of confusion surrounding what Math is needed for entrance to University. Centennial website has information on this but it was felt it was difficult to navigate. Rob and David will look at the possibility of putting a chart on the website as this is a complex issue to figure out as the regulations change from year to year. Mr. Williams is an expert in this area and would be a good resource for parents.

Old Business:

- The climate of the school is good, the teachers are very happy, there is a good vibe. The Administration and the teachers maintained a good relationship through last year's job action.
- The teachers attended the Meet the Teacher night this year, but the parent attendance was not good. One parent mentioned that there were a lot of activities on that same night which may have caused a lot of parents to miss the evening.

New Business**After Grad:**

- Coleen Bohlen spoke about the After Grad event, it was a great event, but not as dry as it should be. The AG committee will be looking at ways to rectify this for next year. There were 238 students + guests in attendance. There were a lot of fun activities, lots of food, door prizes and a grab bag for everyone that did not win a door prize. There will be an AG meeting on October 3rd at 7pm and all parents of all grades are invited to attend.
- There are two ongoing fundraisers, Thrifty's Smile Card and SPC (student price cards). There are currently volunteers needed to sell SPC cards during the week from 11-12:30 at the school, if you are able to volunteer please contact Coleen Bohlen. There will also be Fright Night passes for sale and the Ford Drive One event will take place in March. As Fright Night cannot be advertised in electronic form Coleen will look at ways to get the info out to kids, perhaps with the report cards. There will also be plants and pots for sale, Coleen will get more information on this and get it out to parents.
- There is a BCAA contest where kids can make a video for dry grad and submit, this would be a good fit for kids who are in Audio Visual. You can get more information at BCAA.

Cap and Gown:

- Jacquie reported on the cap and gown process, this past year we used a new company and the process was much simpler for both the school and the families. Jacquie received a lot of comments from parents on how much they liked the new cap and gowns.

Grad Pens & Door Prizes

- The budget for the grad pens and door prizes will be decided at the November PAC meeting during the budgeting process.
- Coleen explained that each grad receives a Grad pen as a gift from the PAC.

Dates for future meetings: The following dates have been scheduled for this year's PAC meetings:

- Monday November 5th at 7pm (budget meeting)
- December PAC social – date to be determined
- January 21st at 7pm
- March 4th at 7pm
- May 13th at 7pm (AGM)
- June PAC social – date to be determined

Additional comments from the floor:

- A parent brought up the article that ran in the Vancouver Sun regarding Ecstasy use, Rob mentioned that he was aware of this and is hoping to bring in a speaker on this subject. There is

a video link on YouTube and a parent asked if it could be put on to the website. Rob will look into this possibility.

- Another parent brought up marijuana use in teens and her concern for her children and other children.
- Some parents are concerned that marijuana is becoming 'acceptable' in today's society. Rob explained that drug use is brought up in Planning 10 and also covered in Science class. It is a very complex issue and each family needs to deal with it in the manner that works for their family. It was agreed that early intervention is the key.

Door Prizes:

- Robin Benning won Lemonade and a bag of cookies
- Tony Webb won a candle set
- Jacquie Hutchins won Strawberry Lemonade and a bag of cookies
- Deanne Serres won a butterfly candle set

Next meeting is Monday November 5th at 7pm and will be the budget meeting.

Adjourn: Lorene Chung made a motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:40