

APPROVED MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes

Centennial Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

September 22, 2020

Attendance: Tamara, Fenny, Zahra, Anna, Caren, Deb, Hojan, Kelvin, Nicole, Trish, Pat, Monica, Teri, Anthony, Veronica, Ben, Bryan, Nadine, Robbyn, Camila

1. Review and Approval of Agenda:

Tamara (PAC Chair) opened the meeting at 7:04pm which was held virtually via Zoom.

No changes to the agenda were noted.

Approval of the agenda: Nadine moved to accept the agenda and Kelvin seconded the motion. Agenda was accepted.

2. PAC Chair Report – Tamara

Tamara thanked everyone for attending and completed a round table introduction of the PAC administration, the school administration and the guest parents in attendance. Tamara reported there is no new information to share.

3. PAC Treasurer Report - Fenny

A written treasurer's report was not available. Fenny provided a verbal update on the PAC finances indicating there continues to be three bank accounts:

General account has balance of \$363.61

Main account (gaming grant account) has balance of \$3,104.01

Donation account has balance of \$1,431.65

Total assets are currently at \$4,899.27.

The gaming grant application has been submitted. Discussion around reality of whether the amount applied for will be received given Covid-19 and casinos have been closed since March 2020 with a re-opening date being unknown as casino's are in Stage 4 of BC's Covid-19 re-opening. Casinos generate income to the city and province which contributes to the gaming grant funds available. Fenny will advise when the gaming funds are received. Given the next PAC meeting is when the gaming funds are allocated for budget planning, the status of the gaming grant will be required prior to the next meeting. It was acknowledged that a large portion of the gaming grant funds are typically allocated to activities that may not occur this year due to Covid-19.

The notice for parent donations has not yet been uploaded to the School Cash Online system. Follow-up by Centennial Principal (Anthony) will occur to have this added to the system as soon as possible. Tamara indicated it is possible that parent donations could be significantly less this year given Covid-19 and the financial barriers many have endured as a result.

4. DPAC Report – Teri

Teri noted there is nothing new to report. The October DPAC meeting is generally a training meeting for new members. New information is therefore not likely to be received until after then.

Teri reported that the school/district is currently operating two systems – paper and online for access to information. There are still glitches to be worked out. The Grade 9 students need to learn how to use the portal. The technology glitches are district wide. Families experiencing difficulty should contact the school.

Teri advised that the athletic department is still working out what clubs can run virtually. As more information becomes available and resolved it will be sent out to families.

Teri advised that the building construction continues. No date can be given for completion although the hope is within the next year. The site is busy with workers and progress is being made.

5. DAG (Dry after Grad) Report – Kelvin

Kelvin shared information about last year's graduation and the closure of numerous activities due to Covid-19. The pandemic resulted in a "virtual grad" being held. The committee was still able to distribute money towards the graduates. Some funds from the DAG committee were held back as some parents wanted to hold an event for last year's grads early this even if possible. At this time it remains unknown if a formal "after grad" event can be held for last year's graduates or even for this year's graduates. Kelvin would like to relieve the current committee of their duties and create a new committee from Grade 11 and Grade 12 parents this year. He will require a Treasurer and a Secretary for the committee and at this time he remains in the position of Chair.

Kelvin will be sending out more information once more is known about what type of activities can realistically be planned for this year. He expressed gratitude to all of those who came together last year to provide graduation events, albeit in a very different format than traditionally. If there is a possibility this year of having a more traditional event (in-person) consideration should be given to determine if last year's graduates could be included.

Please contact Kelvin if you are interested in joining the DAG committee:

kelvin@imprintpromo.com

6. General Discussion

Guest parent expressed difficulties connecting online through the education portal and use of the My Centennial App. It was acknowledged there are some technical difficulties with the school district which is creating accessibility issues for some parents/families. Centennial administration wanted to ensure that if parents/families are experiencing difficulties access information through the various technology routes to contact the school so the matter can be addressed individually.

7. Old Business

There is no outstanding old business for review or approval at this time.

8. New Business

There is no new business for review or approval at this time.

9. Centennial Principal's Report - Mr. Anthony Ciofitto

Anthony reported it has been a challenging start to the school year given Covid-19. The school could not do any of the in-person welcoming events for the new Grade 9 students that have traditionally been done in the past. In addition, the move from a semester system to a quarter system has been a lot for the administration, staff and students to adjust to. Some students have indicated they enjoy the quarter system more than the semester system as they can focus on two courses at a time (in some cases three courses), while other students find the longer class time per course is challenging. He reported that despite the challenges students and staff are adjusting well.

Students were acknowledged for their commitment to sanitizing their hands and wearing face masks. Although masks are not required in the student's learning group, staff have noticed that many students still wear them in the classroom despite not being a requirement. The primary challenges are in two areas of the school – the hallways and outside. Students often walk into the school next to their friends so they are not always 2 meters apart. As the staff do not know who is in each student's personal "bubble", parents are asked to remind them to keep the required distance when at school. If everyone does their part then risk of transmission can be managed. At this time there are no reported cases of Covid-19 at Centennial. Fraser Health Authority is the governing body that has jurisdiction and will contact the school and do contact tracing and will advise which students or staff need to self-quarantine and/or if an entire learning group/class is required to.

The parent survey regarding a return to school was completed by approximately 90% of the Centennial families. Most students have returned to school. A small percentage have opted not to return. Anthony acknowledged that Covid-19 has been a tough situation for everyone and all family dynamics are unique and family decisions are respected.

At this time there are no extra-circular activities running (other than a few virtual clubs). All field trips are currently suspended/cancelled. The District wants to ensure a safe start to the school year as best as possible. It remains unknown if/when extra-circular activities will resume and/or in what format.

There have been no planning discussions as of yet to address graduation for this year. The focus has been on re-opening safely and adjusting to the new school quarter system. Anthony believes it is not likely a physical graduation event, as traditionally has been held, will go ahead this year. Direction on what activities/what format comes from the Health Authority and the School District. It is recommended to the DAG committee that planning for graduation should focus on more virtual based events.

10. Centennial Vice-Principal's Report - Mr. Ben King / Mr. Bryan Jackson

Ben advised lockers have been given to students in music due to need to store equipment. There are some lockers available on a case by case basis if there are specific student needs. If your student requires a locker please contact the school directly.

Ben discussed the quarter system and the block flip that will occur mid-October. Parents expressed gratitude for the daily reminders for the first week as everyone adjusted to the new schedule. Ben advised more information regarding the block flip will be sent out to families.

Ben advised laptops have been distributed (about 80 so far) to students who were in need of one. There are a limited number available and the administration is hopeful to have all laptops available to be distributed by the end of the week.

Bryan stated that school photos traditionally happen on the first day of school. With Covid-19 restrictions that did not occur. The school is looking at probably mid-October likely during Block 2 so only half of the school would be there at once and then do over two days.

Bryan talked about the stagger school start times, the quarter system and the various challenges with the start to school this year. He remarked that the students have done a fantastic job and have demonstrated a high level of responsibility. He acknowledged that we are a community and are here to take care of one another.

11. PAC future meeting dates – Tamara

Round table discussion and agreement on upcoming PAC meetings for the 2020-2021 school year were finalized:

- November 3, 2020 (budget meeting)
- January 19, 2021
- March 9, 2021
- April 27, 2021
- June 1, 2021

12. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.