

Mundy Road PAC Minutes

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Wednesday January 14, 2015 7:00 pm

Mundy Road Elementary School Library

Present: Nicole Schenato, Ursula Elliott, Wendy Dhillon, Tamara Sherdahl, Suzanne LaFleur, Janice Doige, Christine Friend, Michaela Kelly, Jeannene Crosby, Rob Wright, Ryan Robinson, Gurj Parmar, Huy Nguyen, Sarah MacDonald

Regrets: Marcy Baverstock, Jennifer McKinnon, Teri Towner, Elizabeth Hrynew

7:00

Welcome and Introductions

Accept Agenda: Change - Remove last agenda item - DPAC position not avail

Accept Minutes of November 12, 2014 PAC Meeting.

Motion: Christine Friend 2nd: Nicole Schenato

Accept Minutes of December 10, 2014 PAC Executive Meeting.

Motion: Nicole Schenato 2nd: Christine Friend

Chairperson's Report – Gurj Parmar

Happy New Year. Looking forward to another great year.

Principal's Report – Rob Wright

Thanks to everybody for what happened here in December. It was overwhelming and awesome....Christmas market, Christmas Concert, Pancake breakfast, Pub Night. People gave to the community and to each other. Such a great feeling!

Please check the website. It's getting populated every day with new stuff. "More Sports" are coming to the school (Soccer in Jan). There are parent info sessions and seminars coming up, registration and info for different programs in the district. Kindergarten registration begins Feb 3,4,5. It's all on the website.

The Coquitlam Express was here. They read with the primaries and the grade 5s played floor hockey with them while the grade 4s watched.

The next newsletter coming later in January but stay in touch with the website where the newest information appears. Pro D coming up on Jan 26. Family Day coming up and Student Led Conferences and Pink Shirt Day also coming up.

“More Sports” is a program coming to the school which is a partnership between the City of Coquitlam and School District 43. It’s an after school soccer program. \$35 for 7 sessions. If families need support, the school can help.

Mad Science agreed to change their contract to revise their liability where child pickup is concerned. They will not leave until the last kid in their program is picked up.

FSAs (Foundational Skills Assessments) start next week. Assessment for grade 4s is for reading, writing and math. It does not affect the students’ grades. It’s used for assessing the education system in BC. A letter from the superintendent about it went out to the Grade 4 parents. Parents are welcome to talk to Rob Wright more about it.

We have a new superintendent in SD 43 Patricia Garland. Tom Grant is retiring.

Green waste is being implemented here. School District 43 is going green. Starting in January 2015. Organic waste will be separated into special bins in the classrooms and in the hallway. It’s mandated throughout Metro Vancouver. There will be a transition period for us to figure out the processes. Procedure summary: organic waste is disposed in catcher bins in the classroom. Daily, a designated student transfers waste from the classroom to the hallway bin. Hallway bins will be emptied by the custodian. There will need to be a plan for organic waste in the schoolyard. The kids will pick up on the new processes quickly. More information will be coming out soon.

Mr. Wright and the teachers have been looking at the PAC budget to make sure they use it well. E.g. Cultural Activities has \$2000 in it. We’ve got together as a staff to look at this. We’re considering some interactive arts programs e.g. drumming where the kids get to take part. Also, we’ve had success with the artist-in-residence program where an artist comes in and helps the kids paint something special. The same artist from the past is willing to come and do that again. Also, we’re looking at a performing group to come to the school. These are all under consideration right now as possible ways to allocate that Cultural fund. Presently evaluating the costs of these.

The other line item is the sports one. We’ve had badminton, tennis, hip hop in the past. Evaluating again what we might do this year.

Teachers Wishlist

There are two work orders to have the Smartboards upstairs moved to Wong and Cramer’s classrooms. The one on the Teacher’s wishlist is for Mr. Samson’s class. His room has a smart table which is a different technology, plus it’s on casters. If he got a Smartboard for his room, the Smart Table could then rotate through the different primary classes.

Rob met with the rep from Sharp regarding the installations for these Smart Board moves and for the requested new one. The school has to use two parties to get them installed and Rob is trying to co-ordinate that with the school district. Despite continued efforts to make this happen it seems to be taking a long time.

Literacy \$2500. The teachers have a specific list which includes the Nelson shared reading series, leveled books and literacy books and resources. Rob has more info if anyone wants.

Document Cameras. PAC first purchased some in the past (3 or 4) but did not purchase enough for everybody. They are used with a Smart Board. You can show kids work, read a story that way etc. Would like to buy another 3 of these.

Mixer for presentations and concerts. We typically rent from Long and McQuade every year.

Not part of the teacher's wishlist but another piece we'd like to talk about and look into is using sound field systems. It's a microphone and speaker tower system used for lots of different things. Mr. Samson uses it in his classroom to amplify his voice. The kids like it. They hear better and are more focused on the teacher. The staff are going to sample it in different classrooms and see if it would be useful. The one Mr. Samson has belongs to the district not the school.

Requests for next year:

Could the Library allocation be raised to \$1000 for next year from \$500?

Could the Classroom Activity boxes be raised to \$100 for next year (from \$50) and be renamed Classroom Materials.

PAC Discussion: Can the rug in Mr. Samsons room be replaced? It is not holding up. They cost \$500 - \$750 each. There is a school district replacement budget which is not very large which typically would pay for that. Does the PAC want to pay for that? Could the binding be repaired at a lower cost? Scholastic also offers individual rugs that teachers can get with their scholastic credits.

Chair suggested it be added on to the Wishlist. We will reduce Literacy by \$500 to accommodate a new rug. For future, we should plan on replacing one rug per year. The Literacy line item is to be funded by the Thrifty's Smile card revenues.

For clarity, the Technology Savings account is to be used for replacement of laptops every 3 years and is not to be used for anything else. The Gaming funds feed the technology account every year so that is not available revenue. The Gaming funds are intended for technology for students.

Rob is ready to order the Wishlist when the PAC approves his request. The timing of this allocation should be looked at for future. For example, in other schools, the Wishlist could come in June and be spent in September (if the money is there). When the school (or the PAC) purchase through the District, we can get a GST rebate.

We can't approve the allocation of the Wishlist at this meeting so it has to be on the agenda for the next meeting that we will be approving the Teachers Wishlist Budget.

In the meantime Rob will solidify the price for the carpet. Also, he asked for clarity on what is the definition of the activity boxes? There is no hard and firm definition but loosely intended to be anything the kids might use on a rainy day...e.g. puzzles, board games, sand table etc.

On behalf of the teachers, Suzanne LaFleur expressed their appreciation that they get input into the Wishlist. They have really appreciated the Smart Boards and the document cameras provided by the PAC in previous years and have all trained to use them. Thanks so much.

ACTION: Sarah to add Agenda item to approve Teacher's Wishlist at the next PAC meeting (February 11, 2015)

Treasurer's Report – Ursula Elliot

Chequing \$23,353.04 (Less: In trust amounts for Library Fund and Grade 5 Grad, available funds are \$19,455.21)

Gaming \$4352.08

Technology Savings \$7246.45

Rainy Day \$4575.23

Budget Definitions.

Niki got some clarity from Teresa Batista on what was intended for each budget line item.

Cultural Events. There are the performances brought into the school.

Discretionary Funds. These are funds given to each teacher based on hours they work for supplies for their classroom such as stickers, books etc. FTEs would include non-enrolling teachers e.g. resource teacher, learning assistance etc.

ACTION: Rob will confirm how many FTEs that would be for this year.

Peer Helpers. Intended to pay for pizza for kids who helped around the school with monitoring etc.

Sports Skills Development. This is to help pay for extra PE Classes such as Tennis or hip hop. Can be used for equipment.

Rainy Day. This used to be a placeholder for the playground funds. Now, it is intended to be saved for emergencies. It was previously voted on to not allow it to go below \$2000.

Field Trips. This is \$100 per class. It can be used for in-school or out of school field trips, at the teachers discretion.

Fee waiver. Was for kids who couldn't afford a field trip.

Other Committee Reports

School Planning Council – Christine Friend, Ursula Elliot, Elizabeth Hrynew

Nothing to report.

District PAC Rep – Teri Towner

Absent. Teri asked if anyone could attend the DPAC meeting on Jan 28 on Mundy's behalf. Nobody at the meeting volunteered. The absent PAC Executive members were also asked and unfortunately nobody is available.

Communications Co-ordinator – Jennifer McKinnon

Absent. Did not receive a draft letter to distribute regarding a volunteer co-ordinator for the Breakfast program.

Volunteer Co-ordinator – Marcy Baverstock

Absent.

Fundraising – Michaela Kelly

Cheque from Clothing Drive was \$453. Dropped off \$359 to Share for raffle. Pancake breakfast revenue was \$299.28

Gaming report for Nov 2014 was sent December 2014 by Christine Friend.

Parent Donations are currently at \$1400. The PAC discussed the normal process for recording those donations. Both the PAC Treasurer and the Fundraising Co-ordinator typically are included in the accounting process as it is PAC money, while ultimately the District issues the tax receipts. Rob was not aware of this practice and instead followed normal District procedure. We should discuss a change in procedure for next year.

Movie Night being planned for Friday, February 27th. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Movie at 7 pm. Food will be available for purchase before the movie. Movie suggestions include: Big Hero 6, Book of Life, BoxTrolls ...other suggestions welcome.

Spring Dance is being planned. Planning for April but too early to confirm actual date.

Hanging Baskets planned for Spring as well.

Hot Lunch – Nicole Schenato

Pasta in January (Spaghetti and Meatballs). Wraps were before Christmas.

Emergency Preparedness & Safety Co-ord – Wendy Dhillon

Doing inventory next week. Wendy has a list for safety purchases. She will need the budget line item to come up over \$100. She has a list of \$400. She can allocate some of the funds from Emergency prep down to Safety.

Constitution Review – Sarah

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Breakfast Program

While the pilot was successful, well intentioned and did demonstrate need among some students, there is still not a volunteer co-ordinator who can champion the project moving forward. The problem remains that there are students coming to school without enough to eat.

The PAC should focus on the nutrition fund and ensuring the office is stocked with some food when kids come to the office hungry, which happens regularly at recess and lunch. Rob does keep snacks on hand for this. The PAC will continue to support this.

Motion: The breakfast program is not sustainable but the PAC endorses having food at school to help feed hungry kids - Gurj Parmar 2nd: Ryan Robinson.

The PAC discussed the previous action item to return the gift cards provided for the Breakfast program to Breakfast for Learning. Rob Wright will discuss with BFL what our situation is and see if they would be willing to let us use them to stock the office.

ACTION: Rob to discuss what to do with Gift cards with BFL.

Grade 5 Fundraising:

The PAC discussed the outstanding action item on the Grade 5 grad practice of carrying forward \$500 for the next class. While an alternative scenario has not yet been presented, there was opposition expressed to not continuing the practice of \$500 carry forward. The absence of it would mean the next class would have to fundraise for the first 5 months of the year just to pay for their sweatshirts.

Joyce Watts sent word that a number of activities were coming up to raise money for the Grade 5 grad including Sun Hang Do Martial Arts, a bake sale, possibly a Hot Lunch and ice cream sales in the spring. Questions can be directed to Joyce Watts.

Mad Science

Now registering for Jan 30th Secret Agent Lab sessions. Mad Science changed their contracts to ensure they would not leave until their last student is picked up.

New Business

School Safety

ICBC has programs for the classrooms that teachers can go through with the kids. They are offering roadside safety people to come out and offer tip cards and reflectors. They can have temporary speed watch set up on Austin. People who are speeding will get a warning. They also have cell watch people who also issue warnings through the RCMP.

Panorama Heights elementary school has a really cool sign. It's a cutout of a kid in bright orange with a school crossing mark on it. They have 2 of them. It's chained up and they take it down over Christmas and summer. Requested info from the speedreader we had in the fall.

Thanks to Janice Doige for bringing this info forward.

Adjournment 8:56 pm