

November 2022 PAC Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order, President's Remarks and Welcome

2. Treasurer's Report

Current balances:

\$7,366.95 in main account

\$11,706.51 in gaming account

To be deposited: \$977.96 from DPAC and \$130 from labels fundraiser

**** labels fundraiser is still open for new orders ****

We have now added Mike to the account and have removed former President, Mandy, and former Treasurer, Carie.

3. Bylaw Change Vote

"The PAC Executive may, from time to time, consent by executive vote to spend up to \$200 on items that are urgent, time sensitive or essential. In the event that the amount is over \$200, the PAC Executive must consult with the PAC members by email survey."

Voted and passed with 100% approval.

4. Movie Night Debrief

From a planning perspective this was fairly simple to plan and execute and was hugely popular.

The total made for the night was \$1224.83.

Debrief:

Popcorn (and smell!) was nice. It was a good idea to make money off the popcorn. Next time we will pre-pop a lot more and still be making it during the event.

Food area (pizza and baked goods sale) was congested and led to a few kids running amok in the school. The Y is unable to let us use their space (as we have in previous years) as they are open until 6pm. We could look at splitting the pizza and bake sale into different areas as well as the potential for using outside space for other events.

The gym was well set up to avoid children climbing on the wall ladders. Next event we will lock the bathroom doors in the gym to prevent any shenanigans.

Could look at splitting into two events - one for primary and one for intermediate.

Try to keep it separated from the Grade 6/7 organized Halloween dance.

We will look into having more of these types of events (low planning needs) going forward. Ideas put forward include short film, dance, bbq, more of a social event.

An idea put forth is to skip MTP Days in favour of this type of event. This will be dependent on the strength of parent volunteers for MTP Days. It does not have to be either/or but we will put out a survey regarding preferred day (weekend vs weekday) for MTP days, as well as to assess volunteer interest. If there is not enough parental volunteer interest to sustain MTP days then we will look at putting on some smaller events instead.

The decision was made to go forward with planning another mini-event for January.

Jonathan wishes to thank all who stayed behind to help clean - it made a big difference in terms of time spent to have such a big team.

5. Ongoing Security Issues

There is an ongoing issue with strangers cutting through the school grounds during school hours and this could pose a security risk. Jonathan will talk to the VSB about getting all gates locked during school hours. (The open gates at the East and North entrances to the gravel field as well as the West entrance on Guelph Street.)

This is related to the issue of off leash dogs using the field - having locked gates could help from an enforcement point of view.

Plan: Liaise with FIDO committee who will be presenting at the next VSB meeting on November 21. The link will be sent to parents so that they may participate.

6. Project Updates

Potential Outdoor Classroom Space (Megan C.)

The bushes have been removed and it has been seeded to grow grass. We will look towards creating an outdoor classroom/unstructured play area. MTP had put in an application with VSB for Covid-era funding to put in an outdoor classroom which went unfulfilled due to supply chain issues. We are now confirmed to be in the cue to get these outdoor classroom boulders. This would not be something PAC would need to fund as it will be funded by the VSB.

Holiday Fundraiser (Kathryn)

Waiting for a landing page and it will be open for business. Included this year is JJ Bean, Truffle Pig, So Luxury, JusTea and Cocktail Box Co. All of these companies are local companies.

Holiday Craft Fair - November 26, 11-3 (Kathryn)

We now have 25 (kids and community) crafters for the fair. We have raised \$1225 in table fees so far. We will sell hot chocolate, coffee and popcorn in addition to a bake sale. There are still a few spots open. There will be a suggested donation entry fee.

**can we send out the info asap (on all platforms - email, social media, flyers calendar) so that parents can plan their work schedules?*

An email will be sent out shortly with all information.

Saleema Noon Teacher Feedback (Mike)

There were six teachers who responded.

Question: The Mount Pleasant Parent Advisory Council SHOULD invite Saleema Noon back to Mount Pleasant in the future.

3 disagreed and 3 were neutral

Comments from the survey:

The content covered was exactly what was already being taught in my classroom. Better to offer the workshop for parents than for students.

Students' classroom teachers can easily teach the content since this is part of the curriculum. I don't think the talk was useful for all students and was surprised at the lack of visuals to support neurodiverse students and English language learners. While I don't think we need Saleema in the classroom, I highly encourage the PAC to continue supporting workshops like this for families.

The session was helpful but most of the things covered are already taught within the year. Also, I thought that some of the material discussed was not quite age appropriate.

If there could be more than one session, where they build on information being learned then it would be valuable. However, just one session does not seem worth it to me.

Students seemed to remember all from her last visit. I feel as a teacher I cover the concepts she did and go into more depth.

7. December Plans

Lauren and Matthew will be our point-people for the Tree-Chipping Event at Kingsgate this year.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Gifts

Ideas such as charcuterie boxes, coffee bicycle cart, Paper Crane gift cards/pre-paid tabs, donuts, pastries and a poll to teachers and staff were suggested. Also suggested was to provide a sum of money to the staff Holiday Party which will take place at Sprezzatura.

Megan C motioned to donate \$500 to the Holiday Party. This was seconded by Lisa. The motion passed with 100%.

8. Buddy Bench - Variety Grant - Ariella

Ariella presented her plans for applying for the Variety Grant for a Buddy Bench. The cost including installation will be \$2,272 - the PAC would be responsible for 50% or \$1,136.

The bench needs to be installed on concrete and be wheelchair accessible.

The vote was successful (1 no vote) to go ahead with the grant application.

9. Principal's Report and Questions for the Principal

Everyone should be proud of how all students behaved at the Remembrance Day Assembly.

The Province of BC has given 60 million dollars to the Student and Family Affordability Fund. MTP will receive \$25,000. The money cannot be spent on school items and must go towards things like food security and paying for items that parents would otherwise pay for (for ex. field trips or school supplies). This is a one time fund and will not happen again. The VSB was given 4.7 million in total and the money must be fully spent by June 30, 2023.

The money will be spent in two areas - targeted (for specific students/families) and universal (to benefit all students).

The Staff's Finance Committee has talked about allocating - \$7000 towards the universal component - \$2500 (\$10/per child) would be used at each teacher's discretion.

\$4500 - for something big that 2 or 3 classes could apply for together

Targeted - grocery cart program exists already and we just have \$900 left and are almost out of money - we spend about \$1000 per month. \$50,000 was donated a few years ago to food security and we are now almost out. (They will take \$10,000 for this initiative)

\$1000 to be used by resource teachers - for children with special needs whose parents need items at home to work with their children if there is an issue with affordability.

\$7000 for the youth and family worker to go towards hampers. We have about 50 families who need some help. This includes money for coats, jackets, boots, etc.

Questions:

1. Prior to Covid our school used to participate in the Science World super science club program. It went online and I believe this school year they were re-starting it in person. Can we reach out to Science World and try to rejoin for next school year? I'm guessing that this school year, MTP isn't participating because we haven't heard anything about it. Let's try to get this program back please, it sounds really good and it comes with a free 1-year family membership, which is amazing.

The last time we got info was last mid-November so Jonathan thinks it will come out again at same time this year. Hopefully this year it will be in person. It requires a staff member to be on site. He will see if anyone would like to volunteer.

2. Hi Jonathan, I sent you an email in October about the really fine dust that is between the large playground and the school. When it's dry the dust gets kicked up very easily and breathed in by children and adults. Are there any options for putting something else down there? ex. grass, an extension of the playground material, something else? The fine dust area just keeps getting bigger and bigger in the years we've been at the school.

Jonathan has no answer to this immediately but he will look into it and get back to us.

3.Hi Jonathan, I work at BCCDC and in a recent email there was some info about the little-known link between radon and lung cancer.

There is info on radon testing at schools, especially important for classrooms on the ground level. I'm just wondering if at the VSB level there is any info on whether schools across the district have been tested? If our schools (and VSB schools in general) have not been tested, I'm interested in trying to bring this forward to VSB. Is there a contact person there you can suggest or I can also try going through DPAC.

Jonathan has asked the District. Health and Safety will check with maintenance and he will get back to us with their answer.

**Arianna has information regarding a potential for free workshops for students on climate change. She has provided Jonathan with information which he will pass on to teachers.*

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec 8 on Zoom.