

April PAC meeting

April 13, 2023

1. President's Remarks, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome.

2. Treasurer's Report

Regular account balance - \$11,670.56

Gaming account balance - \$3,303.56

Last year's gaming grant was not approved and we did not receive the extra \$5200 that we had hoped for. The good news is that we can still afford everything we've planned for this year.

Why was it not approved?

Our application was late.

Is there a process to appeal it?

No.

Lisa will follow up with the DPAC treasurer in case there is an appeal we may have overlooked. We did miss the deadline though, so it seems like we were legitimately denied. She is in the process of filling out the application for this year's grant and we will meet the deadline.

3. Fido Update - Kirk

At the last meeting he said he would look into the speed bumps in back alley. He spoke to someone after having called 311 and they did an assessment of the alley (on the North side of the school) speed bumps. The city has 2 speed bump heights and the ones in the back alley are the highest at 102 mm, for slowing cars to speeds of up to 20 km/h (the lower 80 mm bumps are for speeds up to 30 km/h).

He visited Dickens to see the speed bumps there. They are a bit lower than our speed bumps (anecdotally).

He will happily follow up if there are more issues.

Dogs continue to be an issue on the school grounds. According to Jonathan, there is an intent to put up more signs about dogs. Anecdotally, the poop calls to parents to bring fresh clothes have now been reduced due to the gates being closed. This has stayed consistent although it is still an ongoing issue.

A suggestion was made to let the YMCA staff know that they too can report via 311.

An idea to lobby for a part of Dude Chilling to be allocated as a dog park was brought up. He will look into this and report back.

4. MTP Day - Sunday, June 4

We will have a fire truck from 10-12. The Farmer's Market is interested in working with us on a mega community event. The committee is finalizing the details on a sponsorship donation that will cover most of our costs.

The current focus is on volunteer procurement. We struggle every year to get enough volunteers. This is our number one priority. If you haven't signed up to volunteer, please do so asap. We must secure volunteers by our internal deadline of May 4th in order to commit to what we've planned. We need approximately 60 volunteers in total.

Can everyone commit to talking to 5 parents to try to get them to volunteer? If anyone has neighbours or friends who would like to volunteer, we will take them too as long as they are somehow connected to the school. A "where did you hear about us" section will be added to the volunteer sign-up page so that we can accept connected non-parent/caregiver volunteers.

There was a discussion surrounding games and consolation prizes. It seems that people would like consolation prizes. The games could also be made easier than last year as some were very hard. We may not need to worry about consolation prizes if the games are achievable.

We are looking for help with silent auction and/or raffle baskets - if you have any contacts or would like to help, please let Megan L. know!

There will be no bouncy castle as per a VSB directive to not include inflatables on school properties.

Equity - Monique will be given extra tickets to give to families who may not be able to afford attending the event otherwise.

5. Vote for advance funds of \$2000 for possible MTP day expenditures.

This would encompass games, prizes, tickets, silent auction virtual program if needed.
Motioned: Miranda, Seconded - Ariella

Are you in favour of allocating up to \$2000 for upfront costs associated with MTP day?
Passed with 100%

6. MTP Jedi Update - Ariella

The last drop in session was mildly attended by 3 people making it not a raging success. Advertising was a little late. Ariella is feeling a little on her own with this. If anyone would like to join her, please do so! They will try for outdoor afternoon meet ups as the weather gets better and will look at updating their advertising strategy, perhaps via flyers that can be sent home.

She has not heard anything about the buddy bench so has no updates about it.

7. Walking School Bus - Alysha

PAC sent out a survey to see if this was of interest and approximately 40 parents said yes. She has now filled out the application and is unsure as to if the application has been submitted by Jonathan.

Question - How is the route decided and will this be available to the kids who live out of catchment?

There will be specific points (as yet undetermined) where parents would have to wait with their kids until pick up or drop off.

8. No principal's report as Jonathan is away.

9. General Questions

Can the petition regarding the re-opening of the East gate, be discussed?

The parents who are working on this initiative are referring to it as letters of support, not a petition.

Loree and Melissa have put together a letter to the VSB with the same information that they presented at the last PAC meeting regarding safety concerns with the closures of both the East and South gates. They understand that it was felt that they shouldn't move forward with this at the March PAC meeting. They have decided to move forward anyway as they feel that a lot of parents are also concerned about the permanent closures.

They would like to ask the school board to replace the permanent fence with a hinged gate that could be closed during school hours and opened before and after school to stop kids from walking through the alley and climbing fences. There are between 30 - 40 parents who have expressed concern as well.

As per the December minutes, the parents present at that PAC meeting voted to request that the East gate be hinged. The letter written to the school board asked for a closed gate which did not specify if it were to be hinged or not.

They have concerns about the consistency of what was voted on vs what was communicated to the school board as well as a lack of consultation with the wider parent community when not everyone is willing or able to attend pac meetings. She wishes there had been a survey or engagement with the broader community.

The PAC Executive was acting on behalf of the parents who attended the December meeting and voted when the letter was written.

They are asking for the gate to be open during all non-school hours and to only be closed while school is in session and to allow community members to more easily access the school grounds.

Is there an opportunity now to go ahead and survey all parents to see what the majority wants? 40 parents saying they don't like the closures is not representative of the entire school community. Surveys can be written objectively - Kirk volunteered to aid in writing a survey if we decide to go down this path.

A hinged gate could provide flexibility as it could end up being permanently closed if that were decided.

The Janitorial Engineer is supposed to do a walk around of the entire grounds every morning and already opens and closes the staff parking lot - could they also be tasked with opening and closing the East gate?

These ideas can all be discussed further at a future PAC meeting.