

December 14, 2023 PAC Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

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

2. Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance: \$19,438.95 in main account, \$568.56 in gaming
- To be deposited (Stripe - holiday gift fundraiser) - \$1,787.78
- Total funds as of today = \$21,795.29**

3. Reading Link Challenge and Battle of the Books - Ms. Pendry (School Librarian)

Reading Link Challenge - This is an event that happens all over the Lower Mainland, usually in conjunction with the VPL but this year they will not be involved. Since she had mentioned this to the students already she is hoping that it can still happen.

What is it? Teams of 6 from Grades 4-5 answer quiz questions about a set of books. Each team has access to a set and hopefully they read them all. We would run an adapted challenge - we can't join the official challenge so we will run a school based challenge only.

Ms Pendry has polled Grade 4 and 5 students and we have enough students to make 6 teams.

Unknown factor - what if there are Grade 3 students interested?

Funding Proposal:

Team Book Sets \$291.60 (6 teams x \$48.60)

Prizes \$83.40 (Certificates and prizes for participants)

Total \$375

Passed with 100% approval.

Battle of the Books

Inspired by CBC Reads, students in Grades 6 and 7 will choose a book to champion from a list of books based on the theme "Home." At the Grand Event, students will present their book in whatever format they wish.

Baseline Event - for Grades 6 and 7 only

Students will be given a list of 30 titles to choose from to champion; there will be an option for students to also choose their own book, if they can relate it back to the theme of "Home."

-to incentivize students to read more than one book on the list, prizes will be incorporated.

-culminates in a final event/celebration which is the "Battle of the Books" in May 2024

-activities that could tie into the event could include making videos, posters, board games, songs, poems, etc.

-panel of guest moderators ask questions about the books - what they loved, learned, etc
(ideas - local owners of book stores, authors, media)

Expanded Event - include Grades 3-5

Students can choose from a list of titles from the library to read on their own

-compete in a reading competition with other divisions to win prizes

-students get to observe the presentations of the championed books at the MTP Reads! event in May 2024

Whole School Event - includes K-2

- possible ideas: run a contest to see whose artwork will end up on the MTP Reads! bookmark
- give each teacher a choice of any book to add to their classroom library - that relates to the theme of home
- have a bin or shelf of featured Diversity book drive books to choose from

Funding Proposal:

Books for Event - \$400 (based on zero discounts or donations)

Printing and Miscellaneous Supplies - \$200 (for printing school can't do)

Prizes - \$400 (assuming donations can't be found)

Judges Panel - \$100 (committee to consider honorarium later)

Total \$1100

Passed with 100% approval

She'd like to do a callout in a future PAC email and then can delegate tasks to parent volunteers.

Ms Pendry will communicate with the main planning committee and then they can liaise with parents at large.

How to make it more accessible for everyone? Maybe look at including easier books and/or audiobooks.

She will come to the next in-person meeting to discuss further.

4. General Updates

Tree Chipping Fundraiser - Sunday, January 7th

Lauren and Kathryn met with BIA and Community Policing

- Arbutus Tree Service will support again with their chipping
- posters will be put up around the school and neighbourhood
- they are looking for volunteers for 2 hour shifts
- this has typically been a fun, well-received fundraiser

Grouse Field Trip

Megan has been in touch with local bus companies and Grouse Mountain.

The price at Grouse is \$25 per student (includes 3 activities - the Eagle show begins mid-June and there was interest in our students attending this) and they comp most of the required adults.

She presented the top two quotes from bus companies

Rent a Bus (coach style buses)- \$950 per bus (+ get and tip), would be 5 buses

Vancouver School Bus Charters - \$920 per bus (+ get and tip), could get away with 4 buses as the smaller children could be seated 3 to a bench

Poll was initiated and 71% of attending parents were in favour of booking Coach style buses - Megan will reach out and secure dates for both the bus and Grouse Mountain. The field trip will potentially take place the week before the last week of school.

5. Enrichment Programs

Discussion of Enrichment Programs for 2024

This will be further discussed at our January PAC meeting.

Safer Schools Together Update

It would be good to have this in January as some students may receive new electronic devices for the holiday season (the first week is not a great option).

6. MTP Merch Refresh

We could hold a logo contest for Intermediate grades only (or even Grade 6/7) - if a child's logo is chosen it will be featured on our new merchandise. Students could submit their designs and then the school and/or parents can vote on the winner. We could even have a professional designer work with the winning design so as to ensure its usability.

This will be revisited in the New Year.

7. Sub-Committee Updates

School Support Subcommittee update from Melisa is as follows:

Over the past couple of months I had a number of conversations with our interim principal Cheryl Matthews, who was incredibly supportive and helpful, and also Janis Myers, who is our school's Director of Instruction. Two things have become clear:

1. The process by which SSAs are distributed to schools seems highly subjective and inequitable - kids at other schools in our neighbourhood (i.e. Nightingale, Charles Dickens) receive support for academics, while kids at our school only warrant SSA support if they also have needs that pose a safety risk.

2. It seems that GENERALLY advocating for more SSAs for our school is unlikely to be effective. A more effective approach may be to offer support to individual families to help them advocate for the academic support their kids need.

I will be preparing a leaflet to be sent out to MTP families with guidance on what steps to take and also encouraging them to contact me via the School Support email if they would appreciate support in this process.

DPAC update from Ariella is as follows:

Vancouver DPAC is supported in its advocacy work by Working Groups. These groups are made up of Vancouver parents and caregivers that are motivated to advocate for improvements and education on particular issues. They meet as needed, have a Slack (if needed), are provided with a Google group email address, and are able to use our social media to reach out to the community. Our Working Groups become experts on their topic, and are able to advise the executive to guide and work together to advocate for improved public education. We will hear from four of our working groups at this meeting:

- *Health & Safety Working Group* healthandsafety@vancouverdpac.org
- *Inclusive Education Working:* inclusiveeducationwg@vancouverdpac.org
- *Food Framework Working Group* foodframework@vancouverdpac.org
- *Facilities Working Group* facilitieswg@vancouverdpac.org

Events and Fundraising Subcommittee:

Craft Fair: Profit - \$2400

- This was once again a well-received and well-attended fun fundraiser leading us into the holiday season.
- Cobbs on Main donated the buns for the chilli and hotdogs - any time we need anything he is more than happy to donate
- Vancouver Soup Company sold us chilli at cost - (he wanted to donate, but is still struggling to recover from the hit small businesses took during Covid)

Gift fundraiser - Profit - \$480

Last year more items were available for sale and they decided this year to concentrate on the most popular items. The catalogue and community involvement will be revisited for next year's fundraiser.

Pancake Breakfast will be 7:30 to 9:00 am on the last day of school in the gym. They will serve pancakes, hot chocolate, berries, whipped cream, syrup and coffee. They will need volunteers and will send out a call via a general email to parents.

8. Ask the Principal Questions and Principal's Report

Can we consider having school events like the holiday concert at a time of day that's easier for parents? Maybe first thing in the morning when we're already at the school. 1:00-2:00 is hard for many people's work schedules. Even 2:00-3:00 would be a little more manageable.

Jonathan will take this into consideration. The concert that they just had was at capacity so it is not an issue affecting all but it is good to know this timing doesn't work for everybody.

There were recently a number of racist incidences in my child's class where the "N" word and "monkey" was used to refer to Black students. How are these incidences handled? Is there a restorative justice approach? It also appears that there is no process for circling back with the other students to discuss what happened, get their thoughts and close the loop on it.

My children have been very affected by recent events at the school, both the intruder and a number of violent outbursts by a student that resulted in their classroom needing to be cleared. I feel like there needs to be a process where the students have an opportunity to discuss and decompress after these incidences; I feel there is no mechanism or process for the affected students to share their feelings on these incidences and no acknowledgment of the effect these events have had on them. Students need to know there is support available to them if they need it.

When a racist incident occurs there is a very strict plan of action that happens throughout VSB. The first thing is that if witnessed by an adult (does not always happen) the adult must stop

and interrupt it. They then name the discriminatory act (not the person) as in, the comment was racist, vs you are racist.. They are then to go and to support the impacted individual. They want to minimize the hurt to the person who received the comment. After the victim is taken care of, they look at the offender, remove them, contact their parent or guardian. Jonathan then contacts the School Board (they get involved in all racist incidents and support the school). Depending on the severity of the offence and the ages involved and mental ability an action plan is made. (Older students are held to higher accountability.)

Is there a closing of the loop with the kids who witnessed the racist incident? This particular incident was never re-addressed with the class.

They do not bring the whole class together to discuss in order to protect the victim and offender. It is felt that it is most important that the child who was the victim knows it was dealt with.

Education should happen beforehand- should JEDI look at bringing in speakers so that this can be pre-empted? The students do have lessons where they talk about racism. Jonathan will put out a reminder to teachers that these incidents seem to be increasing, and to be vigilant.

The teachers have training on anti-racism every year.

Is there anything concrete that we as a PAC can do to support the staff?

The PAC could support by bringing in an approved speaker/support person. The school board has just retained an anti-racism consultant. Jonathan will ask if she can come in - if no, he'll ask who she recommends as a resource to bring into the school.

It would be possible to have two assemblies - one for Intermediates and one for Primaries.

There was a request that teachers let kids know that support is available and where to find it. For example after the Code Red and this racist incident, it would be good to remind students of the school counsellor.

Could it be beneficial to have a debrief after something like the Code Red?

There was a suggestion to have Lisa Pacheco, the school counsellor, visit the classrooms to introduce herself.

The way to access her is through the teachers. Kids are sent to her based on teacher recommendations.