

# Pac Meeting February 8, 2024 - Zoom

Attendance: 14

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

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Main Account: \$17,285.16

Gaming Account: \$671.06

Total funds as of today: \$17,956.22

This total includes all money including money we have promised to spend. If we were to do no more fundraisers for the year, after spending our promised money, we would have approximately \$3,000 left.

## 3. Extra-Curricular Activities for 2024

Jonathan talked to teachers and they would like any extra activities to take place in June. The school's Artist in Residence program will take place in April and May. The teachers would like to schedule Parkour for the beginning of June. They would like to do Parkour in the Origins gym or Main Street and have figured out how to get the students there.

A poll was launched and with the four options being HR MacMillan Space Centre portable planetarium, Egg Farmers' Rocks and Rings Curling Introduction, KBAM and Art Starts (see January minutes for more details on each option.)

HR MacMillan Space Centre portable planetarium received 50% of the votes so we will go ahead and look into booking this asap.

### **Special Funding Requests:**

Mr Sidhu has requested \$560 to subsidize a food truck visit with crepes to support the Intermediate students' French classes.

*Bring in a food truck to serve crepes to the Intermediate kids as part of their French curriculum. I have contacted Nathalie Galin of Chou Chou Crepe truck who will serve on site (she is often here on Market Days). We are planning for late Feb and would serve Div 1-6. We are seeking to subsidize the cost of crepes, they are \$10 minus a subsidy of \$4, for a total cost of \$6 to students. Total of 140 students.*

There was a discussion on the validity of serving crepes as a part of French lessons. They are currently learning restaurant-related vocabulary.

### **Poll - passed with 63% yes**

Ms Harper and Ms Mackenzie have requested \$200 for supplies for classroom and STEAM program.

*We are hoping for funding for cardstock paper for our STEAM projects, a bulk pack of erasers for daily student use , as well as a new pencil sharpener for them to use (two have been burn out due to frequent use).*

There was a discussion as to validity of request. Should PAC be paying for this type of stuff that is supplied by the school. We have already paid for these supplies with our \$45 per kid at the beginning of the year.

If we do not approve, the money the school has was already spent by teachers as this funding is given out in May for the following year. The teachers have not approached Jonathan regarding the supplies request.

We can go back to the teachers to ask them to approach Jonathan for the pencil sharpener and paper and to get more details regarding supplies for the STEAM project.

***Poll - denied with 89% no***

#### **4. Announcements**

There will be an extraordinary meeting regarding the congregating of individuals in Dude Chilling/Guelph Park near the purple playground and tennis courts. This will take place on Thursday, Feb 15 at 6pm to come up with options or solutions. We will offer childminding services for the duration of the meeting.

We will host our second Movie Night on Friday, March 8. Lisa has proposed a \$700 budget which passed with 92% approval.

We hope to host a third movie night in late April or early May.

#### **5. Discussion - MTP PAC letter of support regarding staffing levels**

There is a letter circulating that has been supported by unions that work in schools. There are some challenges around reporting as an employee as one is not really supposed to speak out against one's employer. Employees are going through their unions to ask for community support from PACs and individuals and to circulate the letter.

There are several issues that centre around staffing - failure to fill (not filling current vacancies - for example, a teacher calls in sick, no one is able to come in, so position is not filled). The VSB claims that there are 0 instances of failure to fill, but staff have recorded many many absences not being filled or failure to full - over 1000 in the Fall alone. This has an impact on staff and students alike.

See the letter here:

<https://veaes.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/31JAN24-Joint-Press-Final-003.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1goL2p-F4FitHNPN496Nb-GJeDOtRTgceOpjn-pmkTktPSHwLFpmLpS28>

List of people to email here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hU7f5mVYWtmnn4nJ0A-c4NszyjGPfcaN5u2PNf1v2CE>

Ask: Do we as a PAC support this initiative?

The sense is that we as a school are not as badly affected by this as some other schools. So this could be a letter of solidarity and support.

**Poll: 92% in favour of our PAC writing a letter of support**

If you feel comfortable sharing the letter in your networks, please share. You can also write to your trustees, MLA, MP, etc.

## 6. Subcommittee Updates

**Fundraising and Events** - MTP Day will be on Sunday, June 23 and will coincide with the Farmer's Market again this year. They are still looking for volunteer leads, if interested please email the fundraising email - fundraising@mtp-pac.ca

**DPAC Facilities Working Group** are putting together a set of resolutions. They want it recorded that they have the support of the community (parents and caregivers). Their main issues are these five proposed new resolutions. At the end of the month there is a general DPAC meeting where there will be a vote to approve.

See full letter here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SHYjSmR9Rj8TDNuUs\\_TyAc-e9N-XPsnO/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SHYjSmR9Rj8TDNuUs_TyAc-e9N-XPsnO/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs)

Ariella gave a brief summary of the points:

1 - Enrolment projection and open data - the VSB has been using an algorithm that is not universally agreed upon to predict enrolment (this is how they decide things like opening or closing schools). This Beringer Model has not been working so far. They are asking for transparency around how these projections are created and the data sources.

2 - Capital planning - has to do with projections around number of students who currently and will in the future reside in catchment areas. They find capitol planning has not been accurate. They are looking for more long term planning and transparency.

3 - Seismic - have not been updating long range facilities plan since 2021, no capital projects have been approved since 2017. There is a lack of transparency in the District seismic upgrade plan. They would like a realistic timeline.

4 - Space utilization - how space is utilized for children

5 - Space for children - specifically looking at childcare spaces

Is this something we as a PAC would like to support when this goes to a vote at next meeting?

Question for Ariella - as DPAC Rep, do you feel one way or another?

Her sense is that people in the facilities working group are amazing and have planning backgrounds. They have a lot of experience and knowledge and are trying to bring to this working group to bring about positive change. Yes she supports it.

Seismic upgrading - has MTP had this and if not is it to come?

Jonathan - No we are not currently in need of seismic upgrading. We seem to fulfill all requirements of a safe school.

The above issues do impact us as we are an overflow school. We have a lot of kids at our school who are actually in the catchment of another school.

Is our space adequate now? Right now we have 13 Divisions plus Strong Start - we are using all our spaces currently, except for Ms Fantini's old music room.

What percentage of our student population is overflow? He does have the numbers in front of him but half of our K's come from outside of our catchment area.

***Poll - Should PAC vote yes in support of the Facilities Working Group's proposal to adopt these resolutions? Yes - 100%***

Please feel free to circulate document.

## **7. Questions for the Principal and Principal's Report**

*Hi! I would like to get an update on the school's plans for gym and music with Ms. Fantini leaving the school and Ms. Liz joining the school. Is Ms. Liz now the designated gym teacher? If so, will the kids still get music instruction? If so, from whom?*

The job has been posted. We have hired a music teacher but the way contracts work is that teachers do not move schools unless at a natural break. She will be starting in September. In the meantime we have Miss Liz, who does Gym prep. Now the teachers are responsible for teaching music. (Many teachers are happy about having a PE specialist right now.)

*I noticed that I, as mom, am always called first about my child despite indicating on all my paperwork that dad should be first contact and also speaking to the office about this several times before. I was informed that the administrative system automatically selects mom as the primary contact. Is this something that we might be able to change? It represents deep-seated misogyny and devalues both the role of dads within the family structure and moms who work outside the home. I know we all want to raise these kids in a world where both genders are equal!*

There is no reason why this is being done. They have the list parents/caregivers provided, and go through the contacts in order. The question asker has been misinformed. If you would like one person to be called first, see Sydney in the office and she will fix it for you.

Question for gender selection on student records for non-binary children - the VSB does not yet have a non-binary selection and have said they are currently working on it. Currently parents/caregivers are forced to select from Male or Female for their children when filling out student records - it cannot be left blank. Jonathan will relay this message (that we would like to see a Non-Binary option) on to VSB to try to make it more urgent. PAC can write a community letter of support to VSB.

- The School Board got together with members of the three host nations and came up with an agreement as to what our land acknowledgement should be. This will now be standardized among all VSB meetings.

- Thank you for the Safer Schools Together presentation to the students. The teachers all gave positive feedback. The presenter was very good at differentiating levels of appropriateness for the different grade levels.

-February is a busy month for the school - they've had two assemblies where they've highlighted Black History Month. They will now move on to Pink Shirt Day and anti-bullying. In addition classes are doing projects on Lunar New Year. They are learning about Year of the Dragon. They did try to get a lion dance at the school and we need to book earlier next year.

Miss Liz - our new gym teacher - is getting great feedback all around.

Parent conferences are coming up next week along with early dismissal.

Kathy mentioned that there is a parent package from Safer Schools Together that every parent in the school can have access to. Jonathan has received the email and he will send it out to all parents. Feedback that the zoom link email for the parents' presentation went to some people's spam. All in all, there was very positive parent feedback. Can we look at bringing them in every year to keep our kids safe?

Follow up from Genny on sending information on drills to families. Jonathan had a meeting with the Health and Safety team and they now have dates for all drills. He will send these out to parents. There needs to be 10 drills per year. (fire, lockdown, earthquake so there are seven more to come - they tend to do them in the Spring as it is nicer outside)

It would also be nice to get an email to inform the school community about who has been hired to replace Ms Fantini so that we can welcome her.

**Meeting Adjourned.**