



**Hastings Community School Parent Advisory Council – www.hastingspac.ca
Minutes - Meeting 7pm Wednesday April 16, 2014**

Members Present: See sign in sheet

Staff Present: Donna Emeno and Janis Myers

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of minutes from Thursday February 27th, 2014

Motion: *To approve minutes from the February 27th, 2014* **M/S/C**

3. Hastings Administration Report

Donna Emeno – Principal

- Thank you to all volunteers for the new hemisphere climber install, and as well with those who helped out with the Stream of Dreams install. It looks fantastic. Thanks to Jennifer, Sara and Mike for their hard work. Most of the fish are up on the fence but there a few yet to be added.
- Earth Day assembly on Tuesday 22nd am to kick off earth week. Anyone wanting to speak at this assembly should let Donna know. On the environmental note, VSB will now be picking up food scraps. Will be starting Sept. 24th and hopefully will well for our lunch program
- VSB preliminary budget proposals and cut backs. Proposed budget document is available to be viewed, on the VSB website. No teacher layoffs but some will be laid off, but there will be many teachers surplussed across the district.
- Cutbacks in 4 major areas. The educational areas are Continuing Ed will be discontinued, band and strings will be discontinued, liaison workers reduction, area counsellors reduction of 3 positions, educational psychologists reduction of 1 position, speech and language pathologists reduction of 1 position, multicultural liaison workers reduction of 2 positions, library services and supplies a budget reduction, literacy mentor consultant reduction of position, ELL consultants reduction of 1 position, peer to peer mentorship elimination of program, athletic co-ordinator elimination of position, pro-d co-ordinator elimination of position. Adding 3 additional days of non-instructional days to the school calendar.
- VSB DPAC.ca you can find a survey monkey to express concerns about the budget cut backs to the DPAC.
- Budget will come into effect on Sept. 2014, if accepted.
- Everything that is cut affects the students and the school environment.
- **Omar Bhijimi -Project Manager: Hub For Active School Travel – City of Vancouver.** The report is complete and Donna has the final copy if interested in

viewing it. Interesting results from the survey that our families filled out. Recommendations to install crosswalks at Penticton and Franklin along with sidewalk bulges making it easier for parents to park in the London Drugs/community parking lot and walk their children to the school from there. Improved crossing on the Adanac corridor improvements, and traffic calming on Dundas.

- We love have parents and families in the school, but please keep your conversation outside or in the lounge area once school begins.
- Next meeting Donna will talk about request for classroom placements and classroom compositions.
- Crossing guards? We lost our sponsor teacher to illness and the window of opportunity to train with the VPD has passed. We will be eligible for this training again next year.

Janis Myers- Vice principal

- Bell schedule handed out.
- Draft of the school calendar was handed out. The only thing that should change at all, are the goal setting conference dates.
- If the VSB passes the addition of 3 non-instructional days in Nov., it will affect the bell schedule. The revised calendar/bell schedule will be distributed to families at the end of May.
- School fees proposals. What we are look at right now are the supply fees from the district \$25 and the \$10 for the agendas but this year will be \$7 due to receiving a reduced rate from the distributor.
- Two grade 7 fees: Camp \$200 and Quebec Trip \$1000. Band program \$125. Performance fees of \$15 to pay for the performers who come to the school. When the proposals are submitted to the board, they then approve them and are then available to be published.

4. President's Report – Janeen Patchell

- Distributed a petition to the board to save the band and strings program.
- Earth Week- lunchtime activities of skipping ropes, hula-hoops, and sidewalk chalk. We need one or two volunteers/ per day, to help monitor the play equipment. We'd like the playground equipment be out and available to kids on days other than Earth Week.
- Used book sale- Please bring in your used adult and children's books to donate. We haven't worked out a pricing yet, but it will be cheep and all funds raised go to the PAC. Frances R. will be looking over the books first for the library.
- Kids Clothing Sale- Thursday April 24th in the Multi purpose room. We are still working out pricing details.
- Burger and Bevvie night – March 7th and we raised \$1240. Big success and if you have comments or thoughts for next time, please let us know.
- All student bathrooms now have a push button tap on at least one faucet.
- Spring Fair – Diana Pollock: May 9th 2:30- 5:30
 - We received a grant. There will be pony rides, bouncy castles and carnival games, cotton candy, popcorn, food vendor, cake walk.

- Looking for someone to take on the perennial plant sale, as Jane cannot do it. It involves setting up on the day, categorizing plants, getting donations of perennials from the neighbourhood.
- Cakes for cake walk. Looking to get some cakes donated from bakeries?
- Set up starts about 1 pm if you can help out.

5. Treasurer's Report – Diana Bennett

- We are in a good financial place. Last meeting we approved the teachers' request and just a couple have been spent so far.
- SoD was covered by grants and parents donations and we have not needed to donate from the PAC. Any fundraising that comes in now will be money in the bank, however we still need finish paying the VSB for the playground.
- Michael Thompson just was able to find a TV for Frances at the library at a good price \$600~ and we will have to buy an apple TV for \$100. He is also going to personally donate 2 projectors.

6. DPAC Report- Sheelagh Davis

- She attended the pre-budget meeting at the board.
- One thing is hitting her about the budget coming out is that the state of funding to public education. They presented a fantastic power point about the state of funding public education. There was a lot frustration on the part of board. This is not just a moment to hammer the VSB. They do need to be asked hard questions. She is not seeing anything coming from DPAC to go after the government about the state of funding. The funding is the worst it's ever been and it's going to get far worse.
- It's been 12 years of inadequate funding. The year the budget short fall is \$12.4 million; next year they are projecting a shortfall of \$23 million.
- Sheelagh has asked for the VSB PowerPoint to be sent to her.

7. Committee Reports

Stream of Dreams (SoD) – Sara Leckie

- Kids who missed it that week will have an opportunity to make it up and do a portion of the educational proponent. The date is uncertain. We will get a SoD facilitator to come for that.
- The fish were all installed by parents (~30) and varnished by 10 parents.
- Pacific Salmon Foundation, Vancity grant came in at the last moment, Hastings Racecourse and the parents made up the last monies.
- Final reports to funders are just being drawn up now.

8. Other Fundraising Opportunities

- Meaningful Movies Hosted by Hastings North Community Assc and Hastings PAC receives revenue from the concession. April 17th. "Martin Luther King in Palestine". Sheelagh and Sara will do the concession and bring some baking. Next one is May 15th, and the last one is June 19th.
- Day At the Races – Sunday June 8th. Still organizing details about the time etc. The tickets will be for sale at a good price. Typically it is 1 – 4 and there is a raffle - Come for a light lunch, raffle etc. Garibaldi is hoping to turn it into more

of a bigger fundraiser, in which case Jennifer Law may need more help organizing and on the day.

9. Other Business

- **Bike to School Week** – Sheelagh Davis (w/Seth Oldham): Our Community Bike Club, is going well. Bike to school week is coming up last week in May. Looking to hear from parents who are already in a culture of biking and perhaps get a mass bike ride together. Thinking of designating 3 meeting spots to connect with other parents and kids to bike to school in a safe group during BTSW. Maybe a fun greeting when they get to school to raise the profile of the week. Is there a potential leadership role of older students involved with Our Community Bike Club? Earth week assembly and Spring Fair might be opportunity to promote the BTSW with kids and parents. We could incorporate information from Omar's report and give it some profile.
- **Any ideas to promote BTSW?** We can set up a table at the spring fair and pinpoint 3 meeting spots and get the students involved with generating interest.
- "Hub" will often do come and a bike tune up session at the school if poorly working bikes is a barrier for anyone
- New bike racks are available, but we have to pay to install them and figure out where they go.
- Seth is looking at getting some prizes from some bike stores that he has some connections with.
- Bike decorating idea at the Spring Fair? Tune up guy at the Spring Fair? Spin art bike on a stationary bike at the SF?
- Blurb in the newsletter about Travis and Our Community Bike Club (also part of Hub) to connect with him in the broader school community.
- **School Photos**- Janeen has heard from a parent a few times pushing to find a new school photographer. We need to research a new photo company and it needs to be done soon as the contract gets signed in June for the following year. Bestway is in arrears for 6 years in composite photos and has not delivered on books of student photos for the administration. Bestway gives us about \$800 of their proceeds that we get in June; as do most other photo companies. Some complaints about Bestway have been about backgrounds, settings for group shots, and giving the kids a "once over" before the photo is taken etc.
- Marc "Bennett" has volunteered to research a new photography company. Mountain West is a big one and there are 3 or 4 others to look into.
- **Synervoic**e emails are not working great. People are finding that no link to the newsletter is a barrier to reading it.
- The crash of the VSB site just after spring break was an unusual perfect storm of unfortunate events.

Reminder of next PAC meeting Monday May 12, 2014

Thanks.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:39 pm

M/S/C