



Hastings Community School Parent Advisory Council – www.hastingspac.ca
Minutes - Meeting 7pm Tuesday May 5th, 2014

Members Present: See sign in sheet

Staff Present: Donna Emeno and Janis Myers

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of minutes from April 8th, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes from April 8th, 2015.

M/S/C

3. Hastings Administration Report

Donna Emeno – Principal

- School organization. The school has received their staffing allotment. Donna is working on a tentative plan for next year and will be in the newsletter at the end of May. Parent requests for classroom placement should be received in writing by June 12th. We have been allocated 13 divisions in French Immersion and 13 in English. Staffing is about the same as last year. We are losing of our inner city staff, which is a project teacher and will be replaced by a literacy teacher. This means the projects will still happen, but will be much more literacy based. This staffing reallocation is part of the inner city designation, which has been removed from Hastings.
- Band will now only be for grades 6 & 7. Grade 5 band will no longer be offered district wide. Our band teacher will lose 2 blocks.
- Student release component during the 'Big One at Two' emergency evacuation drill, will be tried out this coming Thursday. Classroom stations and student release stations are organized and a map of all the stations went home on Monday. Only parents, guardians, or emergency designate can pick up at 2:15 or the child can wait until 3 pm for regular dismissal
- The school will be totally green by September 2015, new food scraps bins will be in every classroom and staffroom. The bins get picked up every day and will be dumped in a dumpster outside. The program has been piloted in several schools and now is going district wide.
- School planning council met last Thursday. They reviewed the data in all core subject areas as well as social responsibility, behaviour and office referrals. Good progress has been made in the core subject areas, with increased percentages of students meeting and exceeding expectations. We are happy with our progress of English language learners in reading and writing. There is still room for improvement, particularly with the number of office referrals. The council for the upcoming school year made great contributions to furthering the school goals. Three school goals: Social responsibilities, aboriginal education (specifically improving attendance).
- Great meeting with the Tillicum annex PAC and Hastings' PAC
- Thank you to Janeen and the PAC executive for their hard work over the year.
- May 22nd is the volunteer tea in the library at 1:30 to 3.
- Donna is away for the next week and Janis will be holding down the fort!

Janis Myers- Vice Principal

- No report

4. President's Report- Janeen Patchell

- **Burger and Bevvie night recap-** Successful event and we made \$1700. The interest in the event has been building every year and it has run more smoothly from year to year.
- **Earth Week events recap –** Book sale went well with lots of donations and is still trickling on in the school foyer. The multicultural breakfast went well and was well attended. The clothing drive: we collected 165 bags which amounted to \$412. There was a bit of a hiccup when the charity that we originally partnered with would not accept fewer than 400 bags, so we went with Big Brothers and they were paying more per bag! Big Brothers will pick up as few as 20 bags and we will use them again next year for Earth Week.

- **Guest Speakers recap** - Jessie Wollon and Clayton Boehler – the talks were attended by low numbers but this did not affect the quality of the workshops. The PAC would like to host more parent education nights and are looking for suggestions as to topics parents would be interested in. The workshop suggestions should have an adult focus about raising kids.
- **Treats in the Classroom** – PAC would like to work with the staff to come up with a school healthy eating plan. We would like to formulate a policy on how much and when, treats are given out in the classroom. Sara Leckie is going to draft a survey to send out to parents to assess the level of concern about this issue. We are hoping to have some sort of policy in place by September.
- **Communication between school and families** – Due to a glitch with the synervoice system, it took a long time to get information out to families during an important incident at the school. There was a code yellow at the school on the 13th of April, and a message did eventually go out, but it went to the Hastings parent who is not normally contacted with school communications. This problem with synervoice originates with the school board office, but we are wondering if there could be a hardcopy notice to be sent home to check the website regularly when the school is experiencing technical difficulties. Such a notice could have been sent home when the technical issues started and it would have been easier to communicate the information around the code yellow. Donna responded to this by saying that synervoice was never intended for emergency situations as it could take up to 24 hours to get the emails out. It is meant for newsletters only. It is a program that the high schools use, and because we are such a large elementary school we were set up to use it as well for mass communications. Now that the VSB is moving into MyEd.bc, which uses the first name on the child's registration, it is that parent who will be the default contact, not necessarily the parent who has been, up to this point, the contact for school communications. Synervoice system is old and we will have to reassess and look for a communication system to replace it. The school board's preference would be that all the schools used twitter to tweet reminders to check the school's website.
- **Spring Fair** – Friday afternoon May 8th 2:30 to 5:30. There will be face painters, a Henna artist, balloon twisters, pony rides, cotton candy, carnival games, perennial plant sale and a cakewalk. We will use a punch card system again this year. It is an afterschool event and children who are in afterschool care, will go with their caregivers.

5. Treasurer's Report – Diana Bennett

- Gaming account \$22,000.00, General Acct. \$15,800.00
- Two requests for funding: Chartering a bus for a field trip for 3 classes (Berger, Corrie and Nadeau), to go Burnaby Village Museum for \$325.00 and a laptop cart \$3359.99.

Motion: To approve the requests for funding of the charter of a school bus to Burnaby Village Museum and for the Laptop computer cart. ***M/S/C***

6. Other Business

- **Art for the Sky** – September 23, 24 and 25th. An interactive art, educational and musical event that involves the whole school. This year the art rendering will be a wolf to reflect the new school mascot. We have a grant of \$1500, some PAC money and donation from last year's grade 7 Quebec trip fundraising surplus. We are looking at sourcing other funding opportunities.
- **Bike to school week May 25th to 29th**. There will be a table set up at the Spring Fair with more information about where the hubs will be located. They are trying to bike at least 2-3 days that week. Information will be sent home from the school in coming weeks.
- **Staff appreciation breakfast.** – Thursday June 18th. We are asking parents to donate some baking, fruit and veggies to help us show our appreciation to the staff at the school.
- **No PAC meeting June.** – Tuesday June 16th we will have more of social meeting with a potluck. Time and place TBD
- **Sports Day** – June 19th
- **Grade 7 Graduation** – June 23th (Ceremony, lunch and dance)

Reminder of the next meeting September 22, 2015.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

M/S/C