



Hastings Community School Parent Advisory Council – www.hastingspac.ca
Minutes - Meeting 7pm Wednesday October 28th, 2015

Members Present: See sign in sheet

Staff Present: Donna Emeno and Armin Samiei

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of minutes from September 22, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes from the Sept 22nd, 2015.

M/S/C

3. Hastings Administration Report

Donna Emeno – Principal

- Thank you to Diana Bennett and Diana Pollock organizing for a successful Art for the Sky project this Sept.
- Shake out BC – Earthquake evacuation drill Oct.16th.. We have a very detailed plan for earthquake evacuations and the safety committee practiced: Set up stations; training in electrical, gas and water shut downs; search and rescue; and student release. Our alternate site in case of and emergency is Hastings Community centre. We've had two fire drills this fall.
- Nov.25th Code red drill. This is practiced twice a year. A code red is a lock down in the instance of a dangerous intruder within the school. All doors are locked and window coverings are put in place. Students are instructed to quietly crouch and hide in corner of the room away from windows and doors. Teachers do brief and educate the students to assure them this is a drill and how to keep safe in the school.
- Pancake breakfast next Friday, Nov. 6th 7:45 -9:00
- Remembrance Day assembly is Nov. 10th at 11:00 am.
- Annual Christmas dinner is Thursday Dec. 3rd. Invitations are going out next week and are accepted by a lottery draw.
- Thank you to all the out going executive

Armin Samiei- Vice Principal

- No Report

4. President's Report- Janeen Patchell

- School communication. There are a few ways the school communicates to families at home. A couple of years ago the school tried to go paperless and eliminate hardcopy notices home in the backpack. We have recently gone electronic with emails home. You should be receiving emails in the form of: upcoming events, newsletters, and reminders. The emails will go to just one parent. If you are not getting them then check with the other parent listed on your child's emergency release forms. If neither parent is receiving the emails, please contact Maria in the office. The PAC also has parent class reps for every classroom who can also be used to relay communications home. The class rep will send emails on behalf of the school, the PAC and on behalf of other fundraising efforts in the school. Pauline G. is our class rep liaison. Communication is an ongoing work in progress and we are trying to work with the school to reduce electronic glitches. Please spread the word to other parents to check to see if they are getting emails. Maria is trying to work out all the email issues. Different teachers will use blogs or notices home to communicate. There is a PAC calendar on the PAC website. If someone does

not have access to email, the onus is on the family to go to the office for the hardcopy of the newsletter from the office and check with Maria.

- Follow Hastings on Twitter: [hastings_elem](#)
- The Hydro box in the primary playground can be painted and we have talked to Blake Wydeman, a mural artist and former Hastings student to come up with a design and paint the box. Blake recently designed and painted the hording on Hastings at the Hastings Community Gardens site.

Other Business

- Parent Advocacy Network Meeting (PAN): Charlie Kiers. The PAN is a grassroots network with the aim to hopefully have all the PACs in Vancouver join this network to share ideas and problem solving strategies. This is early days for the PAN and they eventually aim to establish a website where all PACs contribute. There is also the DPAC (district pac), but according to the PAN, DPAC is under reorganization. The intention is to still work with the DPAC but they hope to advocate on different levels. Only in PAN is only in Vancouver so far.
- Quebec Dance: Every year we send the grade 7 students to Quebec on a cultural immersion trip. The dance and silent auction is a fundraiser in support of this trip and in particular to fund bursaries so that all the students can go, regardless of economic barriers. There is a great band this year, The Undercovers, and a Silent Auction- the event will be at Astorino's on Nov.28th. The English grade 7 students go on a camp later in the year. Comment on the French Immersion program is a social stratifier in the school in the school and can the PAC address this issue. The PAC is definitely interested in promoting both English and French programs and to have equal representation on the PAC executive. We also prioritise funding both French and English classes equally. Historically the English stream families have not been as active on the PAC or on other fundraising projects. The Quebec Trip is organized and funded by the parents of grade 7 French Immersion students. It is not a PAC fundraiser. The demographics of the area are changing and that is changing the demographic of the English classes, so in future, there may be more interest on the part of the parents of children in the English program to fund a similar trip.
- Combining the French and English streams in school activities is often difficult due to the very strict guidelines as to how much French the student is exposed to over the course of their daily classes. There must be French spoken 100% of the time in the primary grades and 85% for the intermediate grades. Two years ago there was an initiative to take both streams of grade 6 students on a trip, but that effort was kyboshed by the teacher's strike.

Annual General Meeting

Review of the minutes of the 2014 AGM, October 29th, 2014

Motion: to accept the AGM 2014 minutes

M/S/C

Treasurer's Report – Diana Bennett

- Proposed 2015-2016 budget is presented.
- The PAC gets \$20 per student from the BC Gaming grants. Some of what the PAC funds: we recently undertook a new primary playground, we spent \$4000 on classroom supplies for enrolling classroom teachers, we sponsored two evening workshops for parents, school wide grade 3 silk art program, scholarships for ex-Hastings students graduating from Van Tech and Templeton, bus charters for field trips, Lunar New Year activities, school wide grade 4 theatre project, we bought a laptop cart, Science workshops, a popcorn machine spent a total \$12,400 from our main account. Some ways we raised funds have been through family photo portraits, a signing bonus from Mountain West Photography studios and a percentage of all student portrait packages purchased is donated to the PAC by Mountain West, student portraits, a Day at the Races, donations from Quebec Trip fundraiser, Hastings North Community Partners grants, Burger Bevvie Night, plant sale at the Spring Fair and a family bingo night.
- The PAC is a sound financial position. We have \$13,000 at our immediate disposal, which is on the budget to spend this year. We also have \$50,000.00 in a term deposit at Vancity. This is a large contingency fund and we are hoping to use in a seriously impactful way to benefit the school
- We have already spent some money on Art for the Sky, we bought the t-shirts and there were donations and grants to pay for the artist. The PAC funding for this was approved last year. Other funders for this project were the Hastings Community Partners and the Quebec Trip 2015 fundraising excesses.

- Chris Archer (Hastings Teacher), said he would take the project/purchases ideas to staff for feedback and other ideas.
- Request for funding forms will go out to teachers tomorrow. The money to pay for the requests comes out of specific line items (sports, technology, arts etc). There was a suggestion to put more money in the technology account than allocated in the proposed technology line item. The parent was concerned the computer access in his child's classroom is inadequate and would like the PAC to help rectify this. Chris Archer will take it back to the teachers to ask if their access to computers is something the PAC could significantly help with.
- Trees for the Primary Playground. Money was raised to plant some trees (\$50,000 in Vancity), but the vision was never realized because of VSB maintenance budget constraints.

Motion: *to accept the budget for the 2015-2016 as presented by the treasurer.*

M/S/C

The Election of Officers:

4-Members at large (1year term)- Peter Murphy, Ron Wallace, Jaclynn Reyes, Erika Fritz

1 member at large (2 year term)- Maria Hudspith

1 member at large- (2 year – fulfilling year two for former member Kaila Comeau)- Efreim Swartz

DPAC (1 year term)- Charlie Kiers

Treasurer (2 year term)- Jennifer Law

Vice-Chair (1 year- fulfilling the two year term for former vice-chair Kelly Henry)- Marcie Bailey

Chair (2 year)- James Stubbs

School planning council

1 executive and 2 parent reps – Maia Griffiths, Sara Leckie, Maria Hudspith (exec)

Motion: *to elect the officers as stated*

M/S/C

Motion: *To adjourn at 8:38 p.m.*

M/S/C