

PAC Meeting
Thursday November 21, 2019
L'Ecole Bilingue Library

Attendance:

Executive (Bryan Dar Santos, Fiona Lo, Enoch Lam, Scott Graham & Jennifer Baker)

Administrators (Natalie Morissette and Cynthia Ramamonjisoa)

PAC members (11)

Non-member guest (1)

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1. Call to order 7:02PM

2. Approve minutes for June AGM

June AGM minutes circulated prior to meeting; motion to approve by Peter, seconded by Anne Dar Santos & passed.

3. Approve minutes for September PAC meeting

September 26, 2019 PAC meeting minutes circulated prior to meeting; motion to approve by Kathryn, seconded by Peter & passed.

4. Principal's Report: Natalie Morissette

• **Monument update:** in process of replacing the recently removed Cecil Rhodes mosaic. Concept is to include students and link curriculum with a history of the area, representing historical events shaping the territory over 150 years to include an emphasis on First Nations; Gerry Whitehead (prominent First Nations artist) has been mentioned.

Deputy Superintendent David Nelson, will look for some funds and potential artists.

Parent Question: are we responsible for funds?

Answer (Natalie): A donation of \$1000 was made to the school for a War Memorial, some spent on poppy seeds but some remains. Other sources of funds being pursued.

Parent Question: Are just first nation's artists being considered?

Answer (Natalie): No, but the school does not currently have any First Nations representation; [ideas for replacement of the mosaic and candidate artist names are welcome from parents – please submit to Natalie.](#)

• **After School programs:**

Issue with students not being picked up on time and program administrators not remaining with students until they are picked up; concern from late parents that there was no way to communicate directly with the program administrators about last minute circumstances; proposed solution will be to set up a contract for programs where they will commit to exchanging contact information with parents prior to programs beginning, and to remain with students until they are handed off to caregivers.

Some concern regarding appropriate content and ages for the programs; some disruption of teachers work after school has been noted recently, as well as some programs not servicing the needs of the attending kids.

Parent comments: Some observations of kids perhaps too young in the chess program being disruptive; programs need to provide contact information to parents and have parent information as well.

• **Bollywood dancing** has been booked for Dec 2-13th, with performances on the 13th.

• **Athletics:**

- Boy's soccer team arranged by Cynthia & Guillaume was very successful, kids were enthusiastic & won the Boy's Championship – an engraved trophy to arrive soon. Plan to continue next year with hopes of a girl's team as well.

- X Country had >100 kids running (in mud!)

- LEB has a co-ed Volleyball team that is wrapping up soon.

5. Vice Principal's Report: Cynthia Ramamonjisoa

• **WITS program underway**; posters in pods, mini-assemblies have been held; good feedback from supervision aids; more information to be distributed to parents via email.

Parent question: Are the Zones of Regulation used in the school linked to WITS?

Answer (Cynthia): They use similar colours but are not directly linked; zones are primarily for in-classroom and are in French, whereas WITS is primarily for recess and is in English.

• **Internet Safety presentations from Safer Schools Together (SST),**

An incident within grade 7 student community occurred online outside school hours prompted a response from the school; presentation was hosted by Dustin of SST with Grade 7 students regarding online safety (including digital footprint, safety online, cyber bullying); more basic session with Grade 5 & 6 students; more information will be distributed to parents by email. Intention is to provide students guidelines for appropriate online behavior, and to warn them of security concerns in a positive way (not inducing fear).

A further presentation will be made for all teachers and staff in January; SST also offers a session for parents should PAC wish to host it. Discussion with PAC exec regarding concerns about potential low turn-out, targeting specifically intermediate kids & parents, relatively high cost (\$600) for a speaker.

Parent comments:

- General interest in Gr 5 parent community regarding when/what/how to get phones for kids.
- Create interest in intermediate grade parents by recruiting teachers to communicate concerns.
- In the past the PAC hosted such online safety speakers every couple of years for kids & parents, alternating with sexual health speakers.
- Possible to request parents to pay a nominal fee for a ticket, or organize free tickets through EventBrite to encourage accountability to show up as well as to assess level of interest and probable attendance.
- Cost is a bit high.
- Information from the school regarding these events (such as this or the sexual health sessions) would be very welcome by parents as it would greatly facilitate communication with their kids. It would be nice to know what is being discussed / presented in a timely way.

Exec comments:

- (Enoch): Possibility of combining with Edith Cavell, as their principal is interested and passed on the information to their PAC.

- (Bryan): Interest is shown by those in attendance; [we will seek further input from the larger community by email regarding their interest in the parent session regarding online safety](#); we will communicate with other schools / PACs to consider sharing with them or opening our presentation to them; earliest timeline would be in the new year.

6. Chair Report: Bryan Dar Santos

- **Reminder of current PAC focus** is an improvement on communications with parents, administrators & teachers. Thanks to exec & committees; Jennifer Baker will fill the role of PAC secretary.

- **Hosted pop-up PAC meetings** before and after school; please advise if this appeals to you but you couldn't make it before.

- **PAC structure reminder**, where subcommittees have designated leads that are essentially autonomous, making decisions within some guidelines and reporting activities to PAC; PAC exec will only be involved if situations require it; all related queries to PAC will be passed to relevant committee leads.

Parent comment: problematic if leads make significant changes that they may not anticipate having large responses; role of PAC exec is to provide guidance to leads, as they have perspective / longer history with the school and PAC operations. Responsibility to PAC exec needs to be clear to leads.

Bryan response: PAC exec goal is to have leads operate within general guidelines that are provided to them; exec will get involved if anything escalates; expectation is that leads will review significant decisions with PAC first; an effort is being made for leads to document roles and historical problems such that new leads have a resource.

7. Treasurer Report: Fiona Lo

- **Financial report** (for PAC operations only, does not include Quebec Exchange) presented including Profits and Loss (PNL) tabulated for the current session, incl estimates; PIN money all distributed and spent (\$100 per teacher); field trip requests coming in (\$200 per division).

Parent question & answer (Fiona):

- *Yearbook \$ is spent?* Yes, contract signed for this quote; cost recovery only, no profit.

8. Past Chair Report: Scott Graham

- **Direct Donation drive:** PAC solicits operating costs directly from parents, avoiding numerous small-yield fundraising initiatives; funds can be submitted through the online cash system, or with cheques. Note that cheques were not possible last year but they ARE accepted this year

and will be handled by Fiona. VSB will issue tax receipts (for donations >\$25) directly to parents.

Parent comments: the timing of the drive seems unfortunately close to Christmas, would be better earlier in the school year; good to remind parents that \$ contributions are helpful option for parents who are unable to volunteer time at the school but who wish to contribute.

Answer (Scott): copying timing of last year, though that was possibly later than usual due to the new online system.

Bryan question: Would parents be interested in any commercial fundraising for the convenience of ordering objects through the school, for example Purdy's?

General consensus: No enthusiasm.

- **Website** is ready: www.lebpac.ca; hosting information, importable gmail calendar of school events, contact details for PAC exec and committee leads, direct donation information, past meeting minutes.
- **Email list** is shifting from Yahoo to Mail Chimp. No action required, email list will copy over, though some duplications may occur for a short period.

9. Vice Chair Report: Enoch Lam

- **Speakers:** *screen time* is done, some information sought for dissemination & will be distributed soon; a speaker regarding Risky Play in kids has been arranged for the end of the year; 3rd speaker spot anticipated for ~February; had considered a speaker regarding building resiliency but will perhaps have the SST speaker regarding online safety instead.

- **Music:** [seeking a volunteer lead to investigate the potential for a music program](#) at the school to be operated outside of instructional time; instruments are available (owned by district), including a mix of guitars and strings and drums; music room is available; what is required is setting up a program with a teacher, etc...

- **Committee reports:**

- **Choir** holiday concert will be Thurs Dec 19th at 7pm, all are welcome. A stage will be borrowed from the VSB for the occasion.

- **Ski club** possibly not yet full, will be re-posted if so.

- **After school programs** will be similar next term to this one; some concerns regarding poor attendance from girls and limited age groups in the computer courses, interest in pursuing greater diversity – parent suggestion to consider discussing options like gender matching that is done by UBC's Gearing Up programs.

- **Emergency preparedness** going through supplies and coming up with a wish list.

- **Yearbook** would like to see more photos submitted.

- **Diversity, Garden, Sustainability, Bike Week** committees had nothing significant to report.

- **Hallowe'en Haunt** (Peter): Event was well-attended this year; there were enough leads in the end so it all came together; the date worked out though it was quite close to Hallowe'en due to the election & a ProD happening on the Friday before Hallowe'en; next year Tim will be taking over as lead; a vice-lead for the Haunt is being sought; a person with First Aid on site should be considered; some adults with no relationship to school requested to check out the haunted house, offering to purchase tickets.

Group discussion including Admin & PAC exec & PAC members: consensus is that the event should be restricted to the LEB community; this can include alumni, family of school members but would exclude wider community for reasons of safety and limiting attendance numbers.

Admin comment (Natalie): the teaching staff liked the Haunt happening so close to Hallowe'en, and found this to be less disruptive than having it farther apart; it was also appreciated how the set-up crew went to great lengths to not be disruptive to the teaching day.

10. Comment from Alumni

• Alumni Parent (Kathleen) reported a concern: chaperones attending Quebec exchange are currently paid \$50/day per diem rate, other schools pay up to \$70/day.

Group discussion: general agreement in favour of increasing the per diem rate.

Exec (Fiona): the PAC exec will pass that suggestion along to the Quebec Exchange Executive.

11. Meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Kathryn, seconded by Tim & passed.