

**(General) PAC meeting**  
**Wednesday May 18th, 2022**

Agenda:

7:00 Welcome & bring to order  
7:05 Snack Shack update  
7:10 PAC Finances & committee updates  
7:25 DPAC choral program  
7:35 Admin update from Jacquie and Lia  
7:45 Admin Q&A  
8:00 Close

PAC exec:

Chair: Tim Vines  
Vice Chair: Lori Metz (not present at meeting)  
Past Chair: Enoch Lam  
Secretary: Jennifer Halyk  
Treasurer: Fiona Lo (not present at meeting)

Speaker: Robert Ford, speaking on the music program, estimated at 7:20pm

Number of participants: 24 at 7:03pm

Tim: call to order 7:03pm, and call for approval of the minutes.

Marnie made a motion to approve the minutes

Second the minutes?

Krista Barclay seconded the minutes

Enoch:

Snack shack, bike to school week.

Couple of updates:

Bike to school week:

May 30th to beginning of June - bike to school week, there is a bikers' breakfast, and a bike (locker?) - Lisa C. usually organizes this but isn't able to do it this year - Enoch is working with M. Remy to do what he can. The Grade 7s will be on their day trips that week, so they can't come. Probably no breakfast this year. Last year we couldn't get bike Valet to come in, so we

got the kids to lock their bikes along the fence. This year - trying to get a bike mechanic in to give a demo of changing a flat tire and/or how to do a small / simple "fix" or very simple "tune up" - the ABCs - air, brake and chain check -

The cost to get someone in is quite high -

Really subdued "bike to school" week / event - or maybe the week after the Grade 7s have done their field trips.

Snack Shack and Frozen Fridays:

-idea was to have snacks available for kids, something affordable, and that kids will like; and maybe raise a bit of funds for programs etc (nothing specific - poss for Sasamat, or Quebec, or Earth Bites - )

-FF: about 125 kids

-snacks: about 45 kids

-food / vsb guidelines - Made Good bars, Go Go Squeeze puree packs, Babybel cheese

-do we want to continue it, how to price it, the popsicles are of course a big hit

-going to test out selling popcorn - movie-style - popcorn sales along with the Snack Shack and FF.

-Heather and Allison have been helping on Fridays - it's chaos

-anyone else want to help out, please contact Enoch!

-2:55 - 3:15pm - Tues / Thurs / Fri

-it's potentially lucrative - we could work on this, work on the costing etc and use it for something specific if we want

Tim:

Positions to fill:

Filling Vice Chair position:

Lori is going to become Chair next year. We need a Vice-Chair. Someone who can step in and make a difference. Please get in touch.

Also - Stacey or Paul - the co-chairs for the QE fundraising committee - are looking for a secretary.

And - treasurer: Fiona's term ends this year, so we need a treasurer for the PAC exec. ASAP.

Lori:

### **Committee Updates:**

Yearbook: arriving next week. Denise C - about two weeks away from arriving. Just under 300 buying the book this year, phenomenal response, and thanks to Jacquie for helping out. Rachel, Christine, Justine? and Meg? - thank you to everyone who helped out.

Lori: going to put out near the office - the table - this week - the stickers???

After school programs - haven't been happening.

**DPAC report:**

Jenn Baker - not much to report. Waiting for the decision on music.

Question in the chat:

Enoch - after school programs was a service - not fundraising. Paid directly to the providers.

**Budget report (Tim reporting as Fiona could not attend):**

See profit and loss report submitted by Treasurer Fiona Lo.

We reduced the amount requested, but raised just over \$18,000.

Got the gaming grant.

Cash for sales - is the snack shack.

Total income close to \$30K.

Haven't spent much at all.

At about \$13K.

Questions?

Has Robert arrived?

Jacquie's admin report:

Also joining us - Lia C., the VP, and Mme Sonia - grade 7 teacher.

Lia C. doing admin report:

-land acknowledgement

-temperature read inside the school: focusing on mental health and resiliency. See slide "where we are..."

-operating under the VSB policy of "trauma informed practise" as a response to the covid pandemic. Covid is something we continue to face daily.

-Jacquie: continuing to be transparent - sharing the daily numbers - and shows that we are still living with covid in the building. For example in the past few weeks, several emails have gone out - and now three staff members have been off work because of covid.

-Lia: the VSB policy - trauma-informed practise in classrooms - self-reg; predictable routines; gratitude; building peer relationships. Trauma-informed practise is "not adding more" or "asking for change" when some are not ready.

- "going slow, to speed up"

-Welcome to K - next week May 26th  
-in person grade 7 grad  
various activities (see slide)

-"Day of Play" - honours students' ability to play - inside within the pods; then in the afternoon, outdoors, participating in games that are traditionally done on sports day. Big thank you to Denise Cousineau - parents needed to help. Stations. Ending the day for the grade 7s with the traditional tug-of-war. Possible extension of the day after 3:00pm - parents welcome to come, attend, and come together to celebrate, and thank everyone.

-in person student led conferences and parent teacher conferences are ongoing

-gymnastics

-lots of field trips happening

-Grade 7s Francophonie week - 5 days of field trips

-Grade 6/7s are organizing "the amazing race" - 50 parent volunteers

-May 31st - Theatre de la 16ieme workshop + Indigenous workshop

-lots happening. Happy to share. It's very exciting.

Looking ahead:

Review of our guiding principles - what is the best interest of the students, can build community, and be student-led.

Events in the next school year:

Welcome Back BBQ - food safe requirements  
Hot lunches - Food Safe requirements and staff feedback

(7:35pm, 33 participants)

Questions?

**Speaker: Robert Ford.**

Former PAC chair for Henry Hudson elementary, was on the PAC for 13 years. Now my 14-year-old is at Kits in French Immersion, and my older child is in "voice performance" at UBC. Re: music in the VSB. Quite upset about the cancellation of music lessons years ago, I was part of the parents' group

John White - VSB music consultant - wrote a document about how to revitalize music. Late 2021 I was brought into the DPAC to help envision the mission statement.

PDF files - mission statement for the revitalization of music program - 'active music making / nurture culture and diversity' - but now have to start phase two, which requires money. I suggested forming a working group to keep the pressure to ....  
2. why don't we try a district-funded choral program.

My wife Catherine - for the last 12 years - has done choral programs for little kids.

Also - children's choir - two age groups.

Choir shut down for two years.

New mission statement resonated with us.

Teen in school with connections, more than we thought possible.

SFU connections.... student at LEB....

We thought - we can't clone Ms. Catherine, but we can have her set a minimum code / minimum product viability - following the VSB rules, and work with parents, and centralize donations and bursaries and funding, ....

DPAC - one of the ones running for trustee this year -

May 26th - DPAC general meeting - Emily with her hat on from SF, because she has a kid at that school - we need as many pacs as we can - a program for district choral music - then my deal with Ms. Catherine - then over the summer figures out how many conductors we need. Whether LEB uses it or not....

The vote is about: would this be beneficial?

I will get paperwork out to the PAC. The PAC co-ordinator would work with the principal, to find a room and a time - and solicit interest - and then determine whether there is interest in a primary / intermediate choir.

Do you have a rep to go to DPAC on May 26th? Yes - Jenn Baker.

Any questions?

Is it after school?

Morning, lunch or after school, depending on what the school determines.

Tim: do we put forward a motion to support the motion ?

Jenn Baker - yes, I put forward the motion to support the choral initiative at the DPAC level.

Jenn (Madeline's mom) -seconded - on chat.

Robert: this is specific to a choral program. Our theory is, if we can do music of any sort, we can communicate that it's important and valuable. John White - burnaby school board - it is about prioritizing and funding.

If we get some music into the kids, then we will be saying yes, music is important.  
Awesome support from many, many PACs.

Erin Barrett - question - could you explain - what do you mean by "band and strings are curricular"?

Robert: It was conducted by a VSB teacher, within school time.  
Whereas this program (that we are proposing) is an "extra curricular" program - to enrich the curriculum - not substitute any classroom time. 2016 - music programs were canceled. It's in the background in the VSB docs.

Tim:

The Vote passed - to support the efforts of the new initiative for a choral music program at the DPAC level.

Tim: Q&A

Paul Lepage - make some comments on behalf of QE exchange, sushi lunch and fundraising in general, including spellathon. Fundraising philosophy - I am wondering at this point if we have the time to properly address it now, or perhaps at another time.

Tim: I suggest we extend this meeting to 8:20pm.

Paul: distraught to find out sushi lunch had been canceled...possible options to compensate for losing spellathon and sushi lunch... opportunities in Quebec...language...

Jacque: addressed sushi lunch; responded with information she presented earlier in the meeting; we are ready to move forward in September. Of course we absolutely want to work with the students.

Sonia: the two main questions, if I can clarify; Paul can you clarify your questions...

Jacque: in spring when Gr 6s were going to take over sushi lunch. Admin and teachers asked for a pause until September. Spellathon - went 2-3 years without.

Paul: proposing a discussion with QE Fundraising committee, PAC, and perhaps teachers.

Jacque: happy to do so.

Sonia: to clarify - the voting process - how the decision is made. An issue gets put forward, we take into consideration many factors (code of conduct, environmental factors, organizational aspects), and then we vote.

Jacque: this year we had covid on top of it.

Sonia: yes, the fourth issue would be food safety and general safety.

Tim:

Jacque: sushi lunch - we have an interim decision for now - we can table this and discuss with the relevant parties -

Jenn: re: sushi lunch - our two major fundraisers were the sushi lunch and the spellathon - on top of legacy fund - \$20K - so my question is - if we kept the same format and idea - like a dance-a-thon, something more inclusive, and kept format the same, could we move forward with something like that, without the focus being on spelling.

Krista: what were the barriers on the teachers side - for parents who want to step in and help - and try to step in and help.

Rachel Butler - agreed (on chat)

Jacque: still feeling the effects of the pandemic. We can take what we did learn and share with the organizing committee.

Tim: reading a question sent to the PAC via email - re: guidelines about approved fundraisers that are PAC-supported and parent-supported.

Jacque: again, because it is impacting everyone, if it doesn't align with all of the priorities and things that are important inside of our school, then we need to abide by that.

Lia C: we work with the teachers; a principle of education - as a community we all need to be in agreement about what happens inside the school.

Sonia: field trips are a form of fundraising - any of those, many hoops to jump through for many activities and things going on, for various reasons. For example - the amazing race - it is taking all of my capacity - and I cannot deal with much more. Many teachers are just maxed out - and are simply not able to do any more than necessary.

Jacque: lots of factors - educationally sound, safety, etc etc.,

Denise C: to Sonia - thank you for all that you're doing - we know you are working hard. There are a lot of parents who want to help. There was a lot of hearsay about what was happening. We worked hard to meet all the requirements that were in place. Then we lost sushi; then losing

the spellathon was a pretty huge blow. We are doing a lot of smaller fundraisers, which wasn't desirable. So there was a communication breakdown and parents were worried.

Lia C: teachers have asked for a necessary pause.

Tim: the way that it was communicated, and from admin to the PAC, was [not ideal].

Jacque: ok, fair.

Tim: we wanted to problem-solve and discuss. Felt that staff just "nixed" it; sent a chill. ...

Jacque: we said, again, it's not over - it's just a pause. We are ready to have those conversations for these programs for next year.

Sonia: maybe I can offer a suggestion - if fundraising is going to be proposed, there can be some teachers, or a teachers' committee, to be in on the conversation, which might help.

(on the zoom chat: several parents saying 'great idea Sonia')

Tim: there is a QE Fundraising committee - yes if we can talk to the teachers about what would work best, that would be great.

Jacque: yes - we need to have those conversations with the teachers.

Enoch: there is a BC Govt food guideline thing being proposed - not sure if it will be relevant / affect what we do in terms of food, moving forward.

Jenn: they are just suggestions - not mandates.

Denise C: re: sports day - if anyone else wants to help - please contact me directly. Afternoon of Friday June 10th. Also - lunch or food for the parents (?). Small fundraiser, about building community.

Marnie: this is the first "schism" that I have ever felt between the teachers and parents. I've been so grateful. Teachers, you have been a lifeline. That's an important piece too. Let's see if we can get the love flowing again.

Jacque: I'm grateful to Denise for taking initiative to help organize the "play day"

Tim - motion to close: 8:27pm