

Watson Elementary School

PAC Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Location: Watson Elementary Library

In Attendance: Kelsey Ohs (Chair), Alicia Psajd (Treasurer), Stephanie Dillon (Secretary), Kele Nash (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Terry Bateman (Principal), Jackie Berkes (Vice Principal), Justin Nearing, Samantha Atwell, Corri Lott, Jamie Vieira, Randy Epp, Kat Neal, Sarah Featherstone, Katherine Pomroy, Tara Harker, Breanna Crow, Jacquie Middlekeep, Karla Deschines

Call to order at 7:00PM

Introductions of the 2023/2024 PAC Executives and everyone in attendance.

Adoption of last year's minutes. Kelsey motioned to adopt and Alicia seconded.

Adoption of AGM June 20 – motion to adopt Tara. Seconded Sam.

New family tea on September 19 and saw 9 new faces there.

Meet the teacher BBQ. Garrison Save-On donated hotdogs, Envision donated \$100. PAC spent \$750.92. We donated hotdogs and buns to the after school lunch program. The remainder is in the freezer. Maybe use at a later date – Halloween dance? We need more volunteers, better communication with teachers, a more visible donation box. Overall, a success. A lot of families came, but lots to learn from. Idea from Kat- offer an all-beef hotdog option for next time for non-pork eaters.

Playground Update:

This is our third year working on our inclusive playground fundraiser. We want a playground that all Watson students can play at. We added \$1,150 from the BBQ fundraiser. We have a \$50,000 pledge from Rotary Club and a \$10,000 donation from Watson Elementary School.

Kelsey showed the layout visuals of where the addition will go. Kelsey has an upcoming meeting with our consulting group for grant applications. We have a total of \$121,000 currently.

Treasurer's Report:

Alicia Psajd shared that we have 2 different accounts. Our main operating account with a sub playground account and a gaming account. We have 23 divisions this year. Went over our 23/24 budget and operating funds. Teacher's wishlist, field trip cost assistance, PAC supplies, Welcome BBQ, PAC meeting prizes and refreshments, cash float, Christmas hampers, Munch-a-lunch, staff luncheon, year-end admin baskets, staff appreciation. Total current bank balance: \$16,193.58

Gaming account budget – field trip bus transportation, welcome tea, bins & hot lunch labels, Bannock supplies, recorders, dance DJ, Christmas concert décor, BCCPAC membership, garden club, Kinderfair, Grade 5 camp, Grade 5 grad. Total current bank balance: \$9,610.32

We need to try to use up all the gaming funds or we lose it. Alicia got us an extension.

Vote: All accepted the proposed budget.

Kele (Hot Lunch Coordinator). We've already secured the full year of hot lunch and treat days. Prices went up across the board. Today was our first Milk & Fruit/Veg day. We did milk and carrots and were short on both unfortunately. We need trays returned. We were going to order more bins, but at the end of the year we came up with 29. 3 were broken. We were sent 5 complimentary bins leaving us a total of 31, so we have extra.

On Munch there is a differentiation between Hot Lunch and Treat Days. If your child is absent on Hot Lunch Day, you can pick up from your child's classroom between 12:00 and 12:15 or you can donate to the lunch program.

Ms. Berkes would like a list sent to each classroom so that teachers know who is getting lunch. Kele will get that done.

Jamie Vieira – Grade 5 Fundraising – led by Jamie Vieira and Mr. O'Brennan for Grade 5 Camp. Last year fundraising started late. This year we're starting early. Poinsettias this year, smencils multiple times a year, freezies in May, bottle drive idea multiple times throughout the year. Switch phone number to the school number so we can print the labels at the bottle depot. Candy jar guessing, mini concession during parent teacher conferences. Coordinate cupcake sales with Grade 3 Kindness cupcakes because we don't want to overlap. Dance decorations.

Concern over the giant freezies for Kindergarteners and Grade 1's. Maybe try minis or medium size?

Value Village – pays per bag for donations. No one has to purchase anything so it's a nice form of contribution. Used to do this but for Diabetes Canada program. Value Village could be new potential.

Old Business:

Tara Harker stepped down from her Co-Chair position, but still actively involved in PAC.

Gaming Grant – Alicia sent off the application. They had to do an audit and they hadn't released the funds the last couple years. Applied for an extension to use until June instead of December. It's a certain amount per student so it's around \$8,000 a year.

Gaming grants – we get from BC Gaming. We can use it for "fun" money. Not curriculum based. There's a lot of restrictions to use of this money.

New Business:

Orange Shirt Day is coming this Friday. We went with Cree-a-tive and sold 43 pieces of apparel at cost. Hailey Cook, our Indigenous Educational Assistant will have activities for the students and we're making Bannock all day for the student body and admin.

Fundraisers:

Coupon book orders due this Friday. \$15 per book. PAC earns \$7.50 per booklet. Books will be handed out early next week. We have the books already.

Next up is Hofstede's Apples. Okanagan apples \$16 for 10lb bag and we get \$2 per bag.

Then is Global Coffee. Students and staff can suggest names for the coffee. \$15 for just under 1lb.

November and December will be Purdy's and Neufeld's.

Ms. Vaillancourt needs a volunteer to put books away for an hour in the morning one day a week.

Suggestion of more culturally diverse fundraisers because they don't appeal to a diverse crowd currently. Example samosa sales.

We cycle through fundraisers every couple weeks. Suggestion to have Grade 5's do the Global Coffee fundraiser in the Spring, since the PAC is doing it this Fall.

Suggestion made about a fundraiser with alcohol. The optics came off wrong because this is an Elementary school. Mr. Bateman will check into that a bit more. Kat will look into that too. Pub night with booze raffle suggestion. Idea of basket themes and raffles. Thought of non-food fundraising options. Everyone research and bring forth ideas at next meeting.

Halloween at school this year. We used to do Orange & Black day. We plan on doing costumes for the second time this year. The students have to be able to fully function in the classroom and go to the washroom without assistance. No inappropriate costumes. Must be family friendly and more information will be forthcoming from Mr. Bateman on this.

Halloween Dance this year – family friendly. NOT a drop-off; parents must stay. Family friendly costumes. MINT Entertainment is our DJ again. Entrance by donation. Concession with hotdogs, pizza, drinks. Suggestion – chairs set up in hallway. Friday, October 27th 5:00-7:00PM.

Last year we delegated 50% to PAC Operating Funds and 50% TO THE Playground Fundraiser. This year we are aiming to put it all towards the operating funds first, until its met and then to the playground.

Need volunteers for:

Photocopying – September 27, October 3, October 17

Teacher's Appreciation Day – October 5th

Hot Lunch – October 13

Milk & Fruit/Veg - October 24

Halloween Dance - October 27

School Grounds after Halloween clean-up – November 1st in the morning. Making sure everything is safe for the students.

Volunteers must have their Criminal Record Checks done. Valid for 4 years. Connect with us and let us know if you can help out. Suggestion to post volunteer positions needed for the month on the Facebook page with the monthly calendar.

Principal's Report: Mr. Bateman shared that we have 455 students in 23 divisions. We're using most every classroom. Mr. Kishore is our new custodian. Mrs. Neufeld is our new EA. We have been allotted 2 new EA's this year.

Sports teams have started. Grade 5 soccer. Grade 3-5 cross country. Suggestion to put forth a list of sports for parents so that they're in-the-know. Curling is new this year for Grade 5.

Terry Fox Run this year is postponed from September to April 12, 2024. April 12 is the day Terry Fox started his run.

First Wildcat Wednesday is October 18th. After that, they'll be the first Wednesday of every month.

Student photo day: Tuesday, October 24. Retakes November 14.

Strong Start is open at Watson 12:00-2:00 Monday to Friday.

Book Fair in November and we will need volunteers.

Students need to go home at the end of the school day because there is no school supervision.

Menstrual products will be free in the washrooms.

No planners because the warehouse that had them burned down.

Early dismissal October 19. We're actually doing parent teacher conferences Wednesday October 18th from 3:30-5:30.

DPAC Report: No DPAC Representative this year so no information shared.

Open Discussion: Munch-a-lunch – we can accept cash, and put it as a credit on your account so that people who don't have credit, will have a credit on their account.

Next PAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00PM in the Watson Elementary Library. The November PAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00PM in the Watson Elementary Library.

Defer to next meeting: new fans in classrooms due to the heat in the Fall and Spring.

Stephanie did the door prize of a \$5 Starbucks gift card and the winner was: Justin Nearing

Meeting adjourned at 8:49PM.