

September PAC Meeting – École Peter Greer Elementary Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Meeting called to begin at 6:02pm.

In attendance: Taylor (president), Josh Goode (vice president), Danielle (treasurer), James Minkus (principal), Caitlin Harper, Stephanie Lawton, Laura Murphy, Justine D'Amico, Nicole (?), Craig Catton, Jennifer Millar

Zoom: Stefanie Schumer (secretary), Leanne Macdonald, Penny Liao-Lussier, Roel Melody Gacad

1. Land acknowledgement - Taylor
2. Adoption of Agenda - Stephanie Lawton motions, and Caitlin Harper seconds
3. Motion to adopt minutes from June 13, 2023 - Caitlin motions, Laura seconds
4. Introductions (Taylor): Why are we here? How can we build a stronger PAC?
The biggest challenge is keeping up attendance up to the end of the year.
Some of the barriers to joining PAC that were mentioned were:
 - the meeting time (it may be difficult for people to get here by 6pm on a weekday)
 - that people are not aware that there is a strong need for more membersSome suggestions for building a stronger PAC included:
 - mentioning the need for new members at Harvest Festival
 - having new members 'shadow' more experienced members, as a way of bringing people in
 - making parents more aware of all the things the PAC does (not just fundraising)
5. Vacancies for 2023/2024 (Taylor)
 - a. Hot lunch volunteer coordinator - organizes volunteers each week for set-up and handing out lunches. For now, this is coordinated with signup.com.
6. Principal/Vice-Principal Reports (James)
 - a. Enrollment:
 - Overall, school population is higher than projected. We were projected to be at 370, but we are at 380. We had only 6 new registrations over summer (normally we have 20-30), but also lost 6. School population predictions for Lake Country

are that school populations will continue to plateau.

- French immersion enrolment hasn't grown, unfortunately.
- There are spaces available in both English and French classrooms.
- b. New staff:
Kelsey Chase is teaching grade 3/4. Rebekkah Carr will be teaching primary music (see more below). Nicole Richardson will be an EA at PGE this year.
- c. School fees: last year the school didn't charge school fees thanks to a grant which was given in order to offset the cost of living. While some of that money is left over, it is not known what it is being used for in schools this year, but it will likely not be for school or cultural fees. PAC may need to provide financial support for field studies this year (we used to provide \$20/child). Overall, the number of students with socio-economic difficulty is increasing.
- d. There has been a request for PE equipment to be replaced and also for subsidized Fun Lunches.
- e. Rebekkah Carr, who lives in Lake Country, has been hired as a music specialist in response to a request by the PAC for a music teacher at PGE. This is a 0.4 position, which is enough to offer one block of music per week to all primary classes this year. Rebekkah has bought new resources from *MusicPlay*, and there will be a primary concert on Dec. 20th!!
- f. Class Dojo will remain the primary form of home communication with parents. Also weekly "Week At A Glance" newsletters.
- g. Orange shirt day is Sept. 29 - PGE is looking for any lightly used orange shirts that could be reused by students.

7. Budget (Danielle)

The Operations Account has just over \$5000k. This account can be spent more freely than the Gaming Account, which is funding from ministry (\$20/kid) and comes with some very specific limitations. We'll hopefully find out end of September what we are eligible to get. Funds should arrive around end of October. We still have a bit of a surplus in the Gaming Acct because there were no field trips during covid, but we have gradually been using it up. A more robust budget will be available next week.

8. Written Reports to be shared if applicable:

a. COPAC (Caitlin)

- Kevin Kaardal said there were still 6 schools under alert when the school year started. Operational staff were recognized for getting these schools up and running.
- The capacity of local schools is at 175% right now. The District is working to bring awareness to this issue.
- Zoom licenses for PACs may be expiring, as they are very expensive. Currently, our PAC still offers the option of attending monthly meetings by zoom, but this could change if the license expires.
- COPAC is bringing back Jim Ducan, an ADHD expert, for more local sessions. They also want to bring in Paul Davis to talk about internet safety. No date yet.
- There will also be a 'Treasurer 101' course offered for anyone interested in that position.
- There is concern about some unethical things that have been happening with BCPAC. An amendment to School Board Policy 703 has been proposed, which would *exclude* parents that are also employees (teachers) from being on the board, and more specifically, from being exec members. BCPAC would like feedback from local PAC committee members about what they think of this. The google form can be accessed at the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fm6MqPyOx0uVbgXBFxeLq0KbywAYdPmsNWWIcRjtUNFJUSko0UDdMVkpPU0c5MDRkVUg2UDBXUC4u>

Some of the thoughts expressed about this were that PACs everywhere are struggling with getting enough parent participation, so limiting teacher/parent members might exacerbate this. But also that it might only take 1 or 2 teacher exec members to compromise a PAC exec because they are biased. PAC members are asked to fill in the survey and give feedback as soon as possible.

9. Fundraising (Justine/Taylor)

- a. Mabels Labels - this fundraiser is ongoing, but needs more promotion, especially with incoming kindergarten parents! It was also suggested to promote Mabels Labels in the area of the Lost and Found bin and by adding a flyer to student's home ziploc bags.
- b. Growing smiles - Sells winter plants. This worked well last year.
- c. Arts Cards
- d. Tru Earth
- e. Save-On gift cards - we should really push this one! We could do a thermometer and set a goal, in order to create more awareness of this fundraiser?
- f. Purdy's - this fundraiser is done by a lot of other groups and doesn't bring in a great return
- g. Justine wants to review the fundraisers that have been done in the past to see what works best.

- h. Some other ideas for promoting fundraisers included doing a bulletin board with info, or maybe some promotional videos for these things? (People tend to watch videos more).

10. Events (Laura)

- The three main events are the Harvest Social, the Winter Carnival, and the Spring Festival
- Harvest Social meeting to follow the PAC meeting tonight.
Penny Liao-Lussier is available to pick-up and transport items to the event.

11. Art Cards (Darci) - tabled

12. Fun Lunch (Jane) - tabled

13. Fruit and veggie program (Sasha) - tabled

14. Yearbook (Sue) - tabled

15. Vice-President (Josh) - tabled

16. President (Taylor) - tabled

17. Artist in the Classroom (Danielle) – PGE applied for a grant and got just under \$10 000 to rethink ‘What does it mean to be an eagle?’ and redesign the school mascot in collaboration with indigenous artist, David Wilson! Start date TBD.

18. World Teacher Appreciation Day (Taylor) – Wednesday, Oct 5, 2023. More on this soon.

19. Storytelling Bins – Ms. Martin requested items for provocation boxes for students to tell stories. The LC quilters group has put together some materials for this and it has been given to her.

20. Action items from reports - none

21. Motion to adjourn - Laura motions, Justine seconds

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Upcoming Items:

Planning for Harvest Social. First meeting following this PAC meeting.
World Teacher Appreciation Day – Wednesday, Oct 5, 2023

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10th at 6:00pm