

November PAC Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 2023, 6:00pm

Peter Greer Elementary School/École Peter Greer Elementary

In attendance: Taylor Conlin (president), Josh Goode (vice president), Danielle Lamb (treasurer), Stefanie Schumer (secretary), Lori Porata, Caitlin Harper, Justine D'Amico, Jenn Millar

Online: James Minkus (principal), Russ Bischoff (vice-principal), Kellie Ozanne, Sue Manzuik, Erin Talbot, Tyler Bell

1. Land acknowledgement (Danielle)
2. Adoption of agenda – ori Porata motions, Caitlin Harper seconds
3. Motion to adopt minutes from October 10, 2023 – Caitlin motions, Danielle seconds
4. Vacancies for 2023/2024 (Taylor)
 - a. Hot lunch coordinator. – PAC is continuing to look for someone to fill this position. So far, Taylor and few other volunteers have been at the school every Tuesday to make hot lunch happen, and they need some help! A volunteer coordinator would really help to make things run more smoothly.
5. School photos for 2023/24
 - a. We have gone back and forth between Life Touch and Artona over the past 7 years. It would be good to choose one company and stick with them. Whichever company we choose, we need to set a date now so that it isn't so close to the school start.

Life Touch – Life Touch is very expensive and some parents didn't like backgrounds.

Artona - Davidson uses Artona, however Artona can be challenging to deal with and parents have complained that they don't take the time to make sure kids are 'photo-ready' (check hair, clothes, etc.) Apparently Oyama is using a local, private photographer that offers reasonable prices and received rave reviews.
 - b. It sounds like whatever company Grenda and GESS use, they are cheaper. It creates a problem when the high school and middle school are cheaper than PGE.

- c. Yearbooks – Most schools out-source their yearbooks, and they cost \$50-60 per book. We are by far the cheapest. Oyama's is around \$25. They use Image Studios. But our book has double the photos. Taylor will check what Davidson is charging.

6. Fruit and Veggie Program additional funds (Taylor)

If we want to keep the Fruit and Veggie program, PAC will have to cover ½ the cost, which is about \$600/year. The government funded 100% of the program over the past few years, but the agricultural program has lost grant money. Sasha says the quality of the produce is really good, and all the produce is eaten up. James and Russ would really like to keep this program, and there is definitely a need for it at PGE.

Josh went to Save On, and there is \$634.50 (from the past 3 years).

Motion that the PAC supports the Fruit and Veggie program up to 100%, with the intention to review this annually. Danielle moves, Lori seconds.

7. High School Bursaries (Taylor)

PGE has given out 2 \$500 high school bursaries to high school students in past years. Students can apply for these bursaries and scholarships in order to receive them. COBSS is the central repository for bursaries, and does all the allocating. PAC doesn't have to do anything. Last year, PGE didn't have anyone apply for the bursary and COBSS basically had to ask a student to take it. Other schools did receive requests.

We need to let COBSS know by the end of the month what we want to do this year. It was pointed out that we should continue offering it to KSS for 3 more years, until all the FE students have graduated from there (after that, they will be moving to GESS).

Danielle suggested increasing the amount to make it more attractive. Jenn thinks this amount works – it is enough to pay for approx. 2 courses at a post-secondary institution.

Some questions PAC had were:

- Can we somehow get more word out about it?

- Can it be carried over if no one applies for it?

- If no one applies, can we get the money back?

It was decided to keep it going this year and then review next year.

Motion to approve the two \$500 bursaries for this year and that they be given to a French and an English student, if both apply, or to any student who applies if there is not one of each. Stefanie moves, Josh seconds.

8. Principal/Vice-principal reports (James)

- a. New parents have learned the procedure for Kiss n' Go and are following the guidelines. They will send out reminders again as the first snowfall arrives.
- b. Art Card fundraiser orders have been sent in. We don't have final total raised yet.
- c. Thank you to Mr. Bischoff for co-ordinating the Remembrance Day assembly. There was great parent turnout. Thanks to Rose Alexis for the drummers and Okanagan Song. Mme Lehman, Mme Anderson, and Ms. Carr's classes shared poems and songs.
- d. UBCO teacher candidates arriving – Mme Lehman, Tait, Albrecht and Catton will all sponsor a candidate/intern. Also 10 CBC students are at PGE every Friday for Literacy and Numeracy coursework.
- e. Scare away hunger – over 500 items were delivered to the Community Fridge.
- f. All grade 3 students will be participating swimming lessons at the YMCA again this year.

9. Written reports to be shared:

a. COPAC (Caitlin)

Many PACS are having community members attend that have no children at the school. COPAC has asked each PAC to check if everyone attending actually has children in PGE and remove anyone who does not. Our bylaws state that anyone attending must have children at the school.

COPAC has asked to be allowed to be our proxy for the next BCCPAC meeting in May 2024. In exchange for this they would reimburse our BCCPAC fees. There has been some suspicious activity with BCCPAC and COPAC would like to send a rep to be on their exec to see what's going on. Motion to allow COPAC to be our proxy for the BCCPAC meeting. Taylor moves, Danielle seconds.

b. Treasurer (Danielle) – see attached report

c. Fundraising (Justine/Taylor) –

- i. Socks (Emily - not able to attend) - this fundraiser is currently running. Not sure how it went yet, but the socks did seem expensive and no one has money to spend on socks. We get \$2 per pair that is sold. The website is clunky and very slow. The advertisement said "socks as low as \$8", but none of them actually were. Most were around \$20/pair. It also sort of overlapped with the Growing Smiles fundraiser. We will see how we do with this one and then review if we want to do it again.

ii. Growing Smiles winter plant fundraiser (Taylor) – We were lucky to get an extension on this. In 2022, we made almost \$2800 (\$800 for PGE) So far this year, we are at \$2163. People are purchasing less all around, so overall this is still pretty good. The delivery date is Nov. 24 between 2-6pm. We need some volunteers to receive and hand out on that day.

iii. Winter 50/50 Raffle (Taylor) – Taylor is applying for the gaming license for this tomorrow. It will run Dec. 1-22nd, 2023. This was quite successful last year. We should put the QR code on school concert program. Nudging families on Class Dojo is also really effective, so Taylor will do this several times.

iv. Results from meeting with other PACs - Taylor met with the other PAC presidents today to discuss what other schools are doing. Some suggestions were:

- to have a community dance
- to try to line up fundraiser across multiple schools
- to possibly do a community event (like the Harvest Festival)

d. Events

i. Winter Concert - The Winter Concert will be Dec. 20th at 6pm. It will only include grades K-3. There will be no Craft Night this year. Grade 4 and 5 are not participating. (They may do some classroom activities.) **There was a lot of disappointment expressed about the fact that grade 4 and 5 are not doing anything this year.** In past years, PGE alternated a Christmas Concert one year and Christmas Craft Night the next. Due to covid, there were multiple Craft Nights. **Many parents have expressed that it would be nice to have a Christmas Concert again. Some parents with children now in grade 4 and 5 will never see their children in a Christmas Concert, and feel it is unfortunate that the kids are not getting a chance to experience performing in front of an audience. It is also a good opportunity for the school community to celebrate together.** Many other local elementary schools put on a Christmas concert.

ii. Valentine's Dance with other schools – TBC. There was positive interest in this. It could happen either at Grenda or PGE. We would need to request extra custodian. We will discuss this further next meeting.

iii. Movie night – Jenn would like to volunteering to do this and has helped coordinate movie nights in the past. Davidson recently hosted a movie night, but apparently it was pretty chaotic. We definitely need to insist that parents must stay! People can bring lawn chairs. We can borrow a screen from Dr Knox. Doing this on a Thursday before a Pro-D day would work well. We could also do multiple movie nights - maybe once per month? Entry could be by donation, or \$2 per ticket and then most of the money is raised on concessions.

iv. Break the Rules Day – This was suggested by other PAC presidents and has worked really great at other schools. It needs to be affordable to everyone. “Tickets” could be purchased through Munchalunch, and students can choose from 10 rules that can be broken - ex. wear a hat. Teachers could decide on the ‘rules’. The most successful one is “tape the teacher to the wall” ticket. Students can purchase 12” of black tape which they can use to tape the teacher (or vice-principal!) to the wall. Maybe we could do this in Spring? Mme Catton and the leadership students have done this in the past. Kindergarten did not participate because it’s too much for them. Taylor will message Davidson to see what their rules are and then put this to our PGE staff.

e. Art Cards – tabled

f. Fun Lunch (Jane) – tabled

h. Yearbook (Sue) – has asked teachers to remember to put photos in the folder. There aren’t many there yet.

i. Vice-President (Josh) -tabled

j. President (Taylor) - tabled

k. Santa Bus – Lots of parents are uncomfortable with kids being on a bus with Santa. It was suggested to replace this with a collection of Food Bank donation or community fridge. James mentioned that PGE already works with the food bank to provide up to 15 hampers to local families in need. We need to check with Mme Catton on what she’s doing with the leadership team.

l. Other fundraiser ideas

- Save-On Fundraiser: The sense is that many parents are not aware of this one! We need to raise awareness about it. We get 5% on every gift card purchased for Peter Greer. . It sounds like a great fundraiser, but apparently it can be a bit difficult to actually get Save-On to issue a cheque (someone has to go collect it).
- Given the current climate, it might be interesting to do a fundraiser that offers something more essential, (like a set of winter tires) rather than more frivolous items.
- It would be nice to have students participate in the giving part of Christmas, for example making Christmas cards for the senior's home.

10. Action items from reports.

11. Motion to adjourn – Taylor moves, Stefanie seconds

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Upcoming Items:

Winter 50/50 Raffle – planning for promotion