

EMILY CARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council

Working together, with students and staff, to enhance the school experience for our children

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Attendance

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Katie McConnell | Amy Fabbiano | Gillian Sykes | Christine Coleman |
| Kari McKeen | Desiree Essen | Roy Quiñones | John MacDonald |
| Amarys Joseph | Lydia Hentschel | Amanda Lau | Helene MacDonald |
| Tracy Milton | Asal Nikoopour | Daniel Lau | Yuko Kojiwa |
| Tanja White | Michael Kelly | Principal Susan Nichols | Staff Librarian Lorraine Booth |

1) Principal and Staff Information

Principal Update

Ms. Susan Nichols (Acting Principal) presented a summary of initiatives and events accomplished by the school community in September including the following:

- Hitting the fundraising goal of \$2,000 for the Terry Fox Run; Mr. Todd and Mr. Wong will have their heads shaved in a school assembly as promised
- Achieving over 90% enrolment in the VSB's Online Fee System to pay for field trips and other fees. This makes the volume of money coming through the office easier to track and manage.

Other Notes/Events/Schedules:

- Elevate Ultimate was at Emily Carr the past week working with students on their ultimate skills.
- The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be taking place in the Fall for Grade 4 and Grade 7 students between September 30 and November 7, respectively. Students may opt out of the testing, provided a written notice is submitted to school admin.
- Fire drills for the year are currently being formed, while an earthquake drill is scheduled for October and a lockdown drill is anticipated for the fall. For any emergency where the school is evacuated, the assembly area is at Douglas Park.
- Goal Setting Conferences are scheduled for October 9th and 10th. Classes are dismissed early on those days at 2PM.

Principal Nichol's last day will be Friday, September 27th; Principal Erin Gibbs will begin her role as Principal of Emily Carr on Monday, September 30th.

Ms. Booth; Teacher Librarian Update

Ms. Booth is our school librarian and encourages reading at all grade levels through:

- Goal setting
- Book-based contests throughout the year

Parent volunteers are needed to help re-shelve books in the Learning Commons. If anyone can help out for even an hour at a time on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (during the school day), please contact her Ms. Booth.

EMILY CARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council

Working together, with students and staff, to enhance the school experience for our children

Scholastic Book Fair will return on Oct 8-11th. Scholastic Book Fair. All funds raised go to support the Carr Learning Commons. Each teacher will have a "Wish List" for their classroom, so please consider purchasing a book to be used in your child's class.

2) Minutes of last PAC Meeting from June 11th, 2019 were approved.

3) VSB Food Policy

A VSB Food Policy was recently introduced and sets new standards on what kinds of food can be brought into the school and served to our students. The PAC and the school admin will work together to comply with the new policy on future school events.

3) Upcoming Events

Hot Lunch Program

Principal Nichols noted that while the C'est Mon Cafe website says cash is possible, as the school has just gone cashless she would strongly encourage parents to use the other payment options available. PAC Chair confirmed that the payment system for C'est Mon Cafe is completely separate from the new VSB payment system.

Due to the new VSB food policy, the difficulty in sustaining a completely parent run hot lunch day, the cost of the platform to take food orders and run credit card payments, the PAC has decided there will be no more parent run Sushi Days at this time. Sushi is offered on the menu by C'est Mon Cafe occasionally as part of their meal choices.

C'est Mon Cafe serves hot lunch in 18 VSB schools and have submitted all required documentation in compliance with the new VSB Food Policy.

Welcome Back Social

A discussion was had regarding an Emily Carr tradition. Due to the new VSB Food Policy, there would be a slight change to how this can be set up. Parents suggested that rather than a BBQ/Corn Roast, families can be encouraged to bring their own meals and share with other families should they choose to. Thus the event has been renamed the "Welcome Back Picnic". PAC will provide hot dogs; families may help themselves should they want to. A request to approve funds to purchase hot dogs tabled for the Budget discussion.

Staff Appreciation Dinner (Oct. 9th) – On Wednesday, October 9th (first night of Goal Setting Conferences) PAC organizes a Staff Appreciation Dinner for all Carr Staff. An online form will be shared with families to sign up if they'd like to bring a dish.

Scholastic Book Fair (Oct. 8th – 10th) – As mentioned by Ms.Booth

Family Movie Night (Oct. 18th) – PAC will be showing **Toy Story 4!** Doors open at 530PM and show time starts at 6PM. More info will be sent through our weekly email.

Art Card Fundraiser – While not a PAC organized Fundraiser, this is a fundraiser arranged by a Carr parent together with some Carr staff to raise money for their class. Families will have an opportunity to capture their children's art creations through various mementos, including fridge magnets, mugs, etc. 10 divisions will participate this year.

Grade 7 Graduation Events – The school admin and Gr.7 teachers have organized a meeting with Gr.7 parents on Tuesday, October 1st. They will discuss secondary school options, various events for the Grade 7 class, including Activities, Camp and Fundraisers. This year we have a Gr.7 Parent Liaison who will help to liaise between the Gr.7 parents, school admin and the PAC. Thank you to Tanja White and all her fellow Gr.7 parents who have taken on the task of fundraising for Gr.7 activities.

EMILY CARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council

Working together, with students and staff, to enhance the school experience for our children

4) Budget Review and Capital Projects

Draft Budget

The Draft Budget was reviewed and will be finalized at the next PAC meeting in October. In the meantime, a few motions to this year's budget were put forward:

- Motion to spend up to \$300 on the Welcome Back Picnic (C.Coleman motioned, R.Quiñones 2nd, approved)
- Motion to spend up to \$500 on a bus to transport students to the Emily Carr Cross Country Team to the Trout Lake Divisional Meet; amount to be confirmed by school admin (T.White motioned, C.Coleman 2nd, approved)
- Motion to spend up to \$80 on t-shirts to identify parent volunteers on the Yearbook Committee as "Yearbook Photographers" (C.Coleman motioned, L.Hentschel 2nd, approved)

Booster Seats

The school currently keeps a collection of booster seats that are used on field trips where parent volunteers are asked to drive students who require booster seats. Currently there are about 7 usable booster seats available to use, however a few may be near expiry. Another 10 booster seats would be needed. Further discussion to be moved to the next PAC meeting while options are explored.

Bike Racks

Emily Carr received a quote from the VSB to move the current bike racks to a covered, more visible area would cost \$700. The discussion has been moved to the next PAC meeting while funding and siting options are explored with VSB grounds staff.

Approved PAC Sponsored Programs from June 11, 2019 PAC Meeting

Updates on the following PAC sponsored programs, as approved at the June 2019 PAC meeting are below:

- Project Chef \$1500– Emily Carr was unable to secure this program this year, which teaches children the benefits of healthy eating and cooking. We hope to fund this program next school year. . The PAC notes its gratitude to Mr English for his effort in bidding, and hopefully we'll have better luck next year!
- Saleema Noon – This program will take place in December with a goal of educating children of all ages on body science. A presentation to parents will be available the evening of Monday, December 9th prior to presentations to the school on Tuesday, December 10th.
- Cheque for the contribution of \$15/student per division (310 students as at September 22nd, 2019), \$100 to each of Resource, Music, Student Support Workers (5 SSWs) and the Office for supplies and other items that will benefit student learning has been issued to the school for \$5550; and \$670 towards Mystery Science license used by classrooms
- PAC continues to fund the recycling services from Pacific Mobile Depot each month
- Our current movie license with ACF will expire at the end of October, PAC will renew the license (\$375) so that we can continue to run Family Movie Nights.

New Projects

PAC will continue review any new programs/items Carr Families and Staff suggest to PAC for sponsoring. Parents are welcome to join our PAC meetings at any time, and ideas can be sent to us at emilycarrpac@gmail.com.

Fire Truck Replacement Project

One of our long term capital projects at this time is to find a replacement to fit on the site of where the firetruck used to be. PAC is looking at similar playground equipment suitable for the younger students of our school community. Any parents who are keen to get involved with getting this project off the ground are encouraged to contact emilycarrpac@gmail.com.

Meeting Adjournment

Next meeting - Tuesday, October 29th, 2019