

## **SEXSMITH PAC • ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • 6:30 – 8:30pm

Online Zoom Meeting

### **EXECUTIVE**

Chairperson:	Christina Brown	Treasurer:	Angela Wong
Vice-Chairperson:	Deljit Beesla	Secretary:	Jacqui Crawford
Fundraiser:	Penny Wong		

### **APPOINTED**

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Christina Brown  
Hot Lunch Coordinator: Eva Jung

### **GUEST**

Joel Levine, Principal

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Determine quorum - 30 members present
2. Welcome and acknowledgement
  - 2.1. Voting eligibility reminder
  - 2.3. Online meeting procedures
3. Introductions
4. Approval of Agenda (no objections)
5. Approval of Minutes (moved by Brian Wynhoven, seconded by Janelle Bal – 26 members approval)
  - 5.1. May 7, 2020
6. Treasurer's Report (financial figures appended to the minutes)
  - 6.1. Current funds available are \$32,275.09
  - 6.2. Committed PAC funds total \$5,041.12

- 6.2.1. Classroom funds (18 divisions), \$2,700.00
- 6.2.2. Filing fees, \$41.12
- 6.2.3. Graduation ceremony funds, \$1,700 – carry forward
- 6.2.4. I-Ride, \$600 – approved last year and remains unpaid
- 6.3. 2020/2021 Gaming Grant Funds – PAC has applied for this.
- 6.4. 2019/2020 Gaming Grant Funds – \$8,088.76 unused, 2 years left to use.
- 6.5. Restricted funds – \$11,814.25 These are funds from the Hot Lunch Term 3, 2019-2020.
- 6.6. No further questions, Treasurers Report has been filed as submitted (see report at end of minutes).

## 7. The Hot Lunch Coordinator's Report

14.1. We will not be operating the Hot Lunch Program from October to the end of December. At the moment, it is critical that we give students and staff the time they need to adjust to the new normal. Carefully integrating the HL program into the school's new safety protocols will require time and careful planning. We are in the process of studying the Covid-19 Safety Plan, Safe Work Instruction and Covid-19, and Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings.

14.2. **Hot Lunch Survey:** At the end of June, a survey for the HL program was sent out to see how parents felt about the program during the pandemic. 164 people responded to the survey.

### **Results:**

- 1) Back in June there was some discussion in the media that we might see an increase in food costs. We asked parents what their sensitivity was to price increases and found that 64% of respondents were willing to accept a price increase if it was necessary. About 15% of respondents were not sure if they would have the funds to order from the HL program due to budget constraints.
- 2) The second question that we asked was whether parents would feel safe ordering from the HL program with the ongoing pandemic. Only 38% of respondents felt safe. The remaining parents felt their decision would depend on the level of community transmission at the time (56%). 6% of respondents were not comfortable ordering HL for their children. Some of these figures may have changed from June as food items are generally regarded as safe from Covid-19 now; however, it is clear that a large proportion of parents will not order from the HL program if community transmission rates climb.
- 3) In the past the HL program has used cash and cheques to collect payment for HL orders in advance. With Covid-19, we became concerned about volunteers handling cash and cheques so we asked parents how many would be able to accommodate an online payment system. The good news is approximately 84% of parents can accommodate an online payments system. 35% could accommodate cheques and only 7% could only

accommodate cash. This gives us strong support for moving the HL programs ordering and payment system online as the majority of parents would be able to use it.

- 4) In March and for a couple of months thereafter we experienced rolling shortages in the stores. For the HL program we experienced some difficulties with this in the beginning of February when it was impossible for us to purchase veggie balls that we typically use in the pasta dish. We asked parents how willing they would be to accept a big substitution, a small substitution, and no substitution. The good news is that 84% of parents would be willing to accept a small substitution (such as a wrap instead of a bagel); and more than half of those would accept a large substitution (i.e., one type of meat for another); however, 12% had other concerns (allergies or dietary restrictions).

Our conclusion from the survey is that most parents would be willing to use the HL program as long as we are not experiencing a large number of cases in the school or in the community; however, the HL program may experience a drop in the number of orders as more families struggle financially. A further drop in students using the program would occur by switching from cash-based payment to online payment. The good news is that the majority of parents are supportive of minor product substitutions and a slight cost increase if it is necessary; both of which give us some flexibility to operate the program.

To address some other questions from parents from the survey:

- Many parents requested additional menu offerings. When the HL program starts up again, it will only be with the pizza to start as there are a number of checkpoints that have to be passed to get the program operating. It is not clear if we will meet the requirements to cook food in the student's lunchroom as we did in the past. We need to have further discussions with Mr. Levine on this and right now the school's priority is getting the kids back to school safely.
- We had a couple of parents comment that food portions are too small. Our food portions are deliberately smaller to accommodate kids from K to around grade 3 or 4. If our portions were much larger, these grades would waste a lot of food. Students from older grades, usually around grade 4 and up order 2 menu servings rather than just 1. When you think about it paying \$2.50 for a younger child's meal or \$5.00 for an older child's meal is still pretty reasonable.
- We recognize that the menu selection is quite limited for our HL program and that the menu choices run for about 4 to 6 weeks; but I think it's important that parents need to realize that our program is entirely volunteer

run. We have a volunteer that does the shopping, volunteers that produce the tickets and tally order sheets, volunteers that prepare the meals and volunteers that serve the meals to students. Penny will discuss how much funds we raised for the school each year operating this program. If parents wish to step up and coordinate an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party program with better menu options, they are welcome to do so; however, families should also be aware that this would mean a significant drop in the amount of funds which are raised annual for our school.

We were forced to abruptly stop HL operations in March due to the pandemic. Mr. Levine let parents know that we would be carrying forward prepaid balances for parents in his June Newsletter; however, I wished to reiterate this here as we had several questions about it on the survey as well.

Finally, just prior to the shut down, we had purchased frozen nuggets and ranch salad dressing in preparation for HL term 3. At the time we were finding it difficult to purchase these items after the shortage we experienced in January/February with meatballs. We have 26 bags of chicken nuggets set to expire in February 2021. We have 6 bags of chicken nuggets and 12 bottles of ranch salad dressing (sold in 2 packs) all set to expire in December of 2020. If we do not sell this inventory off it will not be used before its expiry dates as we do not intend to prepare meals in the school until after March 2021 (at the earliest).

Eva put forth a motion to sell the remaining products, seconded by Kam Dhillon and approved by the PAC. We expect to recover approximately \$570 of the original \$740 spend on these items, about 77%. Any remaining inventory will be donated to the school for the teachers to use.

14.3. No further question, Hot Lunch Report filed as presented.

#### 15. Fundraiser Report

- 15.1. Thanks to Mr. Levine for allowing our friend the unicorn to help the welcome the students come back to school on Sep 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 15.2. Our regular fundraisers, such as the Hot Lunch Program and Chocolate sales, will not be continuing this year due to Covid-19. We raised around \$18,000 last year.
- 15.3. Our ongoing fundraiser is Fundscrip Gift Cards. This is a year-round PAC fundraiser. By purchasing your gift cards through the PAC's Fundscrip account, every gift card you purchase, the school PAC will receive a % of the sales.

Please encourage your family and friends to support the school too!

The sign-up link is: <https://www.fundscrip.com/Sign-Up.aspx?IID=2CBHHR>

- 15.4. Thanks to Mr. Levine's and parents for suggestions for future fundraising ideas, such as Art Cards for Kids, Mabel's Labels, Small Logo fabric masks and One Stop Fundraising.
- 15.5. Proposal for a new fundraising idea; personalised face mask lanyards. These would be safety lanyards with a breakaway clip, and they would be made by Sexsmith Volunteers. Payment of \$8 per lanyard will be through the online school payment system. The motion was put forth by Penny and seconded by Janelle. If 100 lanyards are sold, \$800 would be raised, materials costs are \$240, so there would be a profit of \$560. If 200 lanyards are sold, profits would be \$1,200 and if 300 are sold, which is our goal, profits would be around \$1,750. A motion was put forth to approve the cost of 100 lanyards at \$240 and if the fundraiser goes well, we will give Penny conditional approval to move onto 200 lanyards at a cost of \$552. The motion was voted on and the over 50% of the PAC agreed and the motion was passed.

#### 16. Other Business

- 16.1. We paid the \$500 scholarship to Churchill and they gratefully acknowledged the receipt of that money.

#### 17. New Business

- 17.1. Deljit, the Vice PAC Chair and manager of the volunteer database, shared information about parents and caregivers volunteering for PAC organised events and fundraisers. If you are registered in the volunteer database, you will periodically receive emails about upcoming events. This is a good way to get involved with the school and give back. This year will look different, there will be fewer opportunities for events and fundraising, however, we are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining the email list then email Deljit at [sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com)

#### 17.2 New PAC Event and Fundraising Procedures

In order to help ensure the PAC is following the VSB (and Provincial Health Officers) guidelines for covid-19, the following procedures will be implemented:

- 1.) All PAC Executive and appointed Senior Managers (Eva) will confirm that they have read and understand the VSB's "Covid-19 Safety Plan, Safe Work Instruction and Protocols" as well as the BC Ministry of Health/BC CDC document "Covid-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School setting".
- 2.) All PAC event and fundraising organizers will need to read the VSB's "Covid-19 Safety Plan, Safe Work Instruction and Protocols" as well as the BC Ministry of Health/BC CDC document "Covid-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School setting".
- 3.) All PAC event and fundraising organizers will need to put together a high-level plan describing how the event will take place and the safety protocols

for Covid-19. This plan must be forwarded to PAC Executives for review first (to determine feasibility), and then submitted to Joel for review and approval.

17.3. I realize these procedures are a big departure from the traditional way we do things; however, in order to protect the staff, students and volunteers of Sexsmith we need to make sure that the PAC is aware of and following the VSB (and Provincial Health Officers) guidelines. In the past many of our events ran like clockwork so it was a simple matter to present them to the PAC and everyone pretty much understood what they would and would not entail. This year, many of the events and fundraisers we had in the past will need to be significantly overhauled and will look completely different from past events. For this reason, we need to prepare a well thought out event plan and submit it to Joel for review

#### 17.4 Funding Requests from Penny

Last year it was difficult to purchase 450 candy canes close to Christmas and 450 chocolate coins close for Chinese New Year. Penny put forth a motion for \$500 to purchase candy canes and prizes for Christmas and chocolate coins for Chinese NY in advance. Janelle seconded the motion and the PAC voted over 50% and the motion was passed.

#### 17.5 Funding Requests from Mr. Levine

17.5.1 Mr. Levine put forth a motion to request \$3,000, \$150/division and there are 18 divisions, plus \$300 for the resource teachers. Motion was seconded by Pam and the PAC voted more that 50% in favour, the motion passed.

17.5.2 Mr. Levine put forth a motion to request \$1000 towards Diwali Celebrations. Motion was seconded by Pandora and the PAC voted more that 50% in favour, the motion passed.

#### 17.6 Black Lives Matter Discussion

17.6.1 In a study out of Yale, published on September 28, 2016, researchers found that preschool educators who participated in the study tended to assume and expect more challenging behaviours from black boys than from other children.

17.6.2 The study was executed in two parts. One-hundred and thirty-two children — a black boy, a black girl, a white boy and a white girl — and told to watch for potentially problematic behaviour. No problematic behaviour was shown in the clips, but researchers quantified participants' time spent looking at each of the four children by using sophisticated eye-tracking technology. They found that on average teachers spent significantly more time watching black boys than other children.

17.6.3 In the second phase of the experiment, participants were randomly split into eight groups to measure how three variables — race,

gender and knowledge of home situation — might affect an educator's propensity to recommend a child for suspension or expulsion. Researchers gave the educators a fictitious vignette of a problematic student, changing the names in each group to stereotypically black or white and female or male names — DeShawn, Jake, Latoya and Emily. Half of the participants were also read a short paragraph about this fictitious child's problematic home life to see if the educators' evaluations of the situation would differ from those of their peers who did not receive the background information.

- 17.6.4 Teachers who identified as the same race as the given child were found to be more sympathetic when given the background information. However, the opposite was found to be true in the case of teachers who did not identify as the same race as the child.
- 17.6.4 When you look at the results of this study, it's clear that Systemic Racism plays a role in our educational systems and it was interesting to note that both Black preschool educators and White preschool educators were watching the Black boy for problematic behaviours (when none were present). Researchers were conducting this study as they observed that Black preschoolers were 3.6 times as likely to receive one or more suspensions from preschool relative to White preschoolers. This is particularly concerning because Black children make up only 19% of preschool enrolments; but comprise 47% of preschoolers suspended one or more times. Boys are three times as likely as girls to be suspended one or more times. After reading the study, I wondered what we would find if this study was extended to other ethnic groups?
- 17.6.5 A lot of different terms have been floated out there in the media, when we talk about systemic racism, it refers to the ways that white supremacy (that is, the belief that white people are superior to people of other races) is reflected and upheld in the systems in our society. It looks at larger, structural, and institutional operations rather than individual biases and behaviours.
- 17.6.6 Mr. Levine shared that VSB and Sexsmith are taking this seriously. We have always used diversity, respect, caring and understanding of others as the foundation of what we do every day. However, there are subtle ways that racism can filter into everybody's' thinking. VSB helps to address racism and systemic racism in the school system and The Code of Conduct is being slightly modified to include a statement about it.
- 17.6.7 The discussion can continue in future meetings.

## 18. Guest - Joel Levine, Principals Report

- 114 kids learning from home currently and 300 in class. 414 students are enrolled in the school.
- Our librarian Sarah Grieg resigned, so we have a new librarian, Ms. Aujla.
- It is encouraging that many kids are coming to school wearing masks, Grades 6-7 and adults need to wear it, however, many K-5 kids are wearing them. We are focussing on lots of reminders for younger kids and to maximise physical distance and minimize physical contact.
- The basis of our safety is based on everybody doing a safety health check and kids not coming to school if they are sick.
- Tomorrow I will send an email to the kids that are learning from home, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the first opportunity to come back to school. Once we know who is coming, we will start a health and safety orientation. Students at home are being supported mainly by resource teachers, some teachers have a screen in the classroom, so the kids at home can join in the lessons through Microsoft Teams. We have also been given a teacher one day a week to help with this process, starting now until Christmas. In addition, the librarian has collaborative time to work with teachers, she can support the kids at home as well. At home kids have been invited to join outdoor activities, such as the Terry Fox run.
- School performances will not be the same this year, we are working on ideas of getting performers in, such as a drumming workshop, each class can participate in a workshop. Another idea was a storyteller to work with small groups of classes together.
- Heart and Mind surveys will be sent out to parents.
- It has been a very stressful month. We are very concerned about health and safety for everyone and making sure everyone is okay. We are following the guidelines and hoping for the best. It is inevitable that kids and families will be sick.
- Questions for Mr. Levine;
  - Why does Sexsmith not have staggered times for start and end of school, recess, and lunch? *At Sexsmith, we are using every exterior door for the students, so there is no crowding at entry and exit points. We have a 4-acre property, we have primaries and intermediates separated at recess and lunch. And the area that the kids can go in have been extended. If this ends up not working, we will consider other options. For late students, the doors are open until 09:30am. After 09:30am, the door near the gym/office area in the staff parking lot is open.*
  - There are concerns about kids in the grassy fields, as there have been needles found around that area, how can we make sure that the area is safe? *Mr. Levine contacted the grounds department, and they are checking this area frequently and determining if Sexsmith will be part of their regular route schedule of school grounds that need to be checked.*

- Will there be Plexiglass barriers installed around desks? *Not at this time. At the moment, only staff have been provided face shields. VSB have been given \$3.5million from the provincial government and \$9million from the federal government, with a further \$9million given at a later date.*

19. Next PAC Meeting, Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

20. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

*Note: The above meeting was held while B.C. was in State of Emergency. Under the Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M116 ("the order") was in effect at the time the meeting was held. The order allows electronic attendance and electronic voting at the virtual meeting irrespective of any provisions under the PAC's corporate enactment.*

**PAC Secretary: Jacqueline Crawford:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer's Report**

Our funds currently available balance is \$32,275.09, broken down as follows:

PAC General account	\$24,180.83
PAC Gaming account	8,088.15
Membership shares	6.11
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$32,275.09</u></b>

*Amounts listed above are net of any outstanding hot lunch expenses and previously committed PAC funds.*

**Committed PAC Funds**

Classroom funds (18 divisions)	\$ 2,700.00
Filing Fees	\$ 41.12
I Ride	\$ 600.00
Graduation ceremony	<u>\$ 1,700.00</u>

**Restricted Funds**

\$11,814.25 from the General account is restricted. They are funds from the hot lunch program from 3rd quarter 2019-2020