

SEXSMITH PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting date: September 29, 2016

Location: Sexsmith Staffroom

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00pm

Chairperson: Gurmit Sangha

Members present: As per attendance sheet.

- *A big thank you to all the parents who came to the meeting. We encourage you to continue attending the upcoming PAC meetings.*

Special Request– Ms. Overall (Primary Staff K-2 teachers – 6 classes)

Ms. Overall, on behalf of the primary staff, kindergarten to grade 2 (6 classes), asked for funding to purchase home reading books and a new centre for each kindergarten class (e.g. a new train or Lego etc.) This request also supports student literacy. Total request for funds is \$4,000 which includes \$3,300 for the home reading books (\$550 a class for six classes) and \$700 for the new kindergarten centre materials (\$350 per class for two classes). Motioned by Gurmit, seconded by Fay, unanimous consent.

The PAC also voted to provide each teacher with \$100 to spend on materials for their classroom. There are 23 teachers as per Mr. Cassie. Motioned by Gurmit, seconded by Fay, unanimous consent.

Opening Comments from the Chair – Gurmit

Parent Introductions

Summary of PAC activities: The PAC is run by the parents of the students attending Sexsmith. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to raise funds which are used to buy school equipment or to contribute towards school events. The PAC actively holds, supports or contributes to events such as:

- Diwali celebration in November;
- Breakfast with Santa in December. Parents prepare and serve a pancake breakfast for all the students on the last school day before Christmas vacation starts;
- Chinese/Lunar New Year in February;
- Filipino festival in May;
- Sports day concession in May;
- Spring Fun Fair in June. This is a community event held after school for the last three years and we have a great turnout;
- Hot lunch program throughout the year. This year we will be trying to bring more variety to the hot lunch program;
- Support for teachers;
- Scholarship for Sexsmith student graduating from Churchill;
- Other events or donations for school events when needed;
- Chocolate fundraiser;

Parents are encouraged to come to the monthly PAC meetings, to find out what is happening at Sexsmith and meet other school parents.

Principal's Report – Mr. Cassie

- Please see attached document
- Comments on the use of the grass field: school has not been permitted to use the field for soccer. Gurmit will be writing to the school trustees on this issue;
- There are several staff presentations that will take place at the next few PAC meetings. In October Ms. Leeper will be presenting on the new curriculum. In November Ms. Geer will do a presentation on critical thinking. Ms. Geer has spoken on this topic worldwide. In the New Year Mr. Kevin Lang (principal at Churchill) will be visiting Sexsmith.
- Thanks to Raman Heir, a Sexsmith parent, who helped obtain a grant for \$800 from TD Bank for sports equipment. Thanks to Chris Brown and Mr. Kay for coordinating. Mr. Cassie will ask Raman to present the grant at the next school assembly and he will be writing a thank you letter to TD Bank.

Parents are encouraged to visit the school website for more details:

<http://sexsmith.vsb.bc.ca/default.htm>

Financial Update from the Treasurer – Fay Tam

- Currently there is \$49,400.27* of PAC funds, breakdown as follows:
- General account 13,579.90
- Fundraising 1,221.58
- Chocolates 22,365.58
- Gaming account 12,227.89
- Gaming membership shares 5.32
- Included in the gaming account are funds of \$4,046.94, which need to be spent by October 7, 2017.

Hot Lunch Program – Stan Tam

The hot lunch program is off to a great start, the sales are up by \$550 compared to last year's \$10,700. Last year's hot lunch netted a profit of \$16,500. Thank you to all the volunteers that took time out of their schedules to help. More volunteers are needed to assist this year, please sign up.

Stan will bring meat balls to the next PAC meeting to have parents try them to see if the kids would like to have this in January's hot lunch.

Fundraising Discussions

Chocolate sales are a go. Gurmit will be placing the order for 200 boxes of chocolate almonds. Kami suggested having one prize for the child who sells the most boxes of chocolates. The process of handing out the chocolates was also discussed.

One parent suggested selling Entertainment books for fundraising however as Entertainment books are now easily obtainable at half the price they are no longer a feasible fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next meeting date: October 27th, 2016 at 6:30pm

Location: Sexsmith School – library

November 23rd 2016 (Tuesday meeting to accommodate Ms. Leeper)

Signatures of the 2016/2017 PAC Board members are as follows:

Chair – Gurmit Sangha

Vice Chair – Kami Hothi

Treasurer – Fay Tam

Secretary – Rana Sangha

September 29, 2016

September Has Flown By – The first 4 weeks of this school year have been busy.

Our enrollment really fluctuated during the first month. In the first week of school we lost 14 students. Over the next few weeks our numbers have gone up by 4 students. Our projections in May were 356 and we are currently at 354 with space in all classes except in a Gr 7 and a Grade 6 class. Athletic Programs – We have 2 soccer teams and a Cross Country team competing in the Vancouver Elementary inter scholastic leagues. In all I believe over 60 students are participating on these teams. Also, volleyball season is just around the corner. Our Grade 4 to 7 inter-mural program has also started at lunch time.

Most Magnificent School Project – During the second and third weeks of the school year all of our Grade 1 to 7 students participated in our Most Magnificent Box Project. Based on the story – The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spire, as the inspiration for their project the student's transformed boxes of all shapes and sizes into their own Most Magnificent Thing. This activity focusses one of the 3 core competencies of the new BC Curriculum – critical thinking. This year at Sexsmith we are specifically focusing on Critical Thinking with our students. In the newsletter coming out next week Ms Gear provides a detailed account of this activity and explains more about the 3 phases of Critical Thinking – Analyze- Question- Develop or as we say at Sexsmith - Hmm (analyze); Huh – (Question); Develop(Ah –Ha).

It was a hectic but great way to start the year!

Day Care Update – Our before and after school Day Care Program run by the Sunset Community Center will soon begin operating out of our lunchroom in the next few weeks. We are just awaiting some work to be complete before the program is off and running. We are hopeful that it will be on site by the end of October.

Rotary Club – As many of you know the Vancouver South Rotary Club disbanded earlier this year. This local rotary club had a long relationship with the Sexsmith Community supporting our school and students in a variety of ways. The traditional Santa Breakfast held on the last school day before our Winter Break was one of the many activities they supported at Sexsmith. Many of the Vancouver South members have joined the Vancouver Quadra Club and on Friday, October 7, I have been asked to speak about our school to this group at their luncheon on that day. Given all the wonderful aspects of the Sexsmith Community I will not be lost for words!

Hot Lunch Program – Given the amounts of orders we have received for the first term it looks like our PAC sponsored Hot Lunches on Wednesday and Friday are again a big hit with our students and their families. Many thanks to Stan Tam and his crew of volunteers for organizing this activity for our school community.

VSB News - Regrettably there has been a lot in the media recently about the VSB and most of the news has not been positive. I wish the media would present a more balanced account of Vancouver schools as I can tell you the positives about our schools dramatically outweigh the negatives which have nothing to do with the wonderful learning opportunities and experiences our students partake in every day in all of our schools.

There has been a lot of coverage recently about the possibility of 11 Vancouver schools potentially closing at the end of this school year. On September 26, the trustees voted to discuss in detail each of the 11 schools that are on the list for POTENTIAL CLOSURE. A final decision about which if any of the schools will be closed will be made by the trustees in early December. Between now and then there will be public meetings which will provide the public with the opportunity to provide input to the trustees. There will also be an opportunity for the public to present their views on the VSB website. The trustees are going to be extremely thorough in their deliberations and are encouraging input from all before they make their final decision in December.

In June the Ministry of Education announced they were appointing a Special Advisor to do the following with the Vancouver School Board:

- A full forensic audit of the financial practices of the Vancouver School Board
- A thorough review of the process that was used to develop the 2016/17 VSB Budget
- A review of the Governance and Stewardship practices used in the Vancouver School Board

This action by the Ministry of Education was in response to the VSB Trustees not submitting a balance budget for the 2016/17 school year which they are compelled to do. The Special Advisor's Report is due to be made public in the very near future.