

# SEXSMITH PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Meeting date: October 27, 2016**

**Location: Sexsmith Library**

**Time: 6:30 pm to 8:15pm**

**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 Presentation –Ms. Leeper**

Ms. Leeper held an informative presentation on the new curriculum. For further information on this please visit the <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>

## **Special Request– Ms. Conrad and Ms. Leeper – Intermediates**

Ms. Conrad, on behalf of the intermediate staff, put forth a request for all intermediate classrooms to have an Apple TV projector, laptop computer to assist in posting instructions to the students and enhancing the students' learning opportunities. Ms. Conrad came up with various options and prices, the PAC decided to allot a fixed amount to the teachers and give them the flexibility to make the acquisitions as needed. Gaming funds can/will be used for this purchase. Motioned by Gurmit to allocate \$8,000 to the teacher's request with unanimous consent by members.

## **Principal's Report – Mr. Cassie**

- Please see attached document

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 \$59,125.28\* of PAC funds, breakdown as follows:

➤ General account	22,343.90
➤ Fundraising	1,221.58
➤ Chocolates	22,365.58
➤ Gaming account	19,488.90
➤ Gaming membership shares	5.32
- There is \$7,260 Included in the gaming account which is the gaming grant received for last year; just a reminder that \$4,046.94 of the gaming funds will need to be spent by May 2017.
- Since the last meeting the following payments went out, \$2,300 (100 per teacher for 23 teachers) and \$4,000 paid towards the books for the primaries. Also the hot lunch expenses will be paid.

### Hot Lunch Program – Stan Tam

Stan and Roy prepared taste testers for the parents and students to try out their latest menu option which is meat balls and pasta. Everyone approved of the dish which will be served during the January to March for hot lunch. Total hot lunch proceeds for September to December was approximately \$10,700 with net funds projected to be approximately \$5,200.

### Fundraising Discussions

Chocolate boxes will be delivered on November 9, 2016.

### Upcoming School Events

Diwali celebration will take place on November 23 at 11:00 am; help is needed on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to setup the gym. The teachers will be served lunch. Students will be given a samosa and a juice box.

Stan has starting prepping for Breakfast with Santa; he will follow up with Santa to ensure he makes an appearance; Ross to follow up with the Rotary Club

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Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting date: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 at 6:30pm

Location: Sexsmith School Library

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

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Chair – Gurmit Sangha

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Vice Chair – Kami Hothi

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Treasurer – Fay Tam

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Secretary – Rana Sangha

## Principal's Report for the Sexsmith PAC Meeting

### **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.