

# SEXSMITH PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Meeting date: September 14, 2017**

**Location: Sexsmith Library**

**Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**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.*

## **Opening Comments from the Chair – Gurmit**

Welcome Mr. Levine!

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:

- Chocolate fundraiser;
- Diwali celebration - usually takes place in November;
- Breakfast with Santa - takes place in December. Parents serve a pancake breakfast for all the students on the last school day before Christmas vacation;
- Lunar/Chinese New Year - usually takes place in February;
- Spring Fun Fair – usually in June - community event with a great turnout;
- Filipino festival - usually takes place in May/June;
- Sports day concession;
- Hot lunch program - throughout the year.
- Support for teachers;
- Scholarship for Sexsmith student graduating from Churchill;
- Other events or donations for school events when needed;

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 – Joel Levine**

- Very welcoming environment; staff has been very helpful
- It has been a busy first week, sorting out classrooms and ensuring staffing levels;
- There has been concern raised by several parents on why their child is in a split level classroom, parents should not be concerned as each child's needs will be met no matter what class they are placed in;

- “Safe Arrival” program is being used by several schools and it is being implemented at Sexsmith; basically it is similar to the procedures used in the past but this is more formalized. If your child will not be coming into school the parent should call 604-713-5159 and then when prompted input school #80 for Sexsmith. The parent should leave a message stating that their child will not be attending school. The teacher will be notified. If you pick up your child from school YOU MUST sign out at the office otherwise the police will be called if the school staff cannot find your child.
- A teacher raised concerns over students running between parked cars to get picked up by their ride that is stopped on 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue;
- The Terry Fox Run will take place on September 29/17 – Mr. Levine would like to thank the teachers for organizing the event;
- Next month Mrs. M (librarian) will be presenting to the PAC;
- Sandy would like to discuss the procedure involved with the chocolate sales; Gurmit will discuss the process with Sandy and Joel;
- The school has received about \$11,000 of additional funds per student from the BC government; it will be used for text books, technology etc.; some funds from the \$11K were held back to purchase laptops for all the teachers from grades 3 to 7; any PAC supplied laptops will be placed in the cart for student use;
- A parent raised concerns over the lack of space to accommodate more children in before and after school daycare. The daycare told the parent that is a school issue nothing to do with their daycare – Mr. Levine to follow up with Sunset Daycare
- A parent questioned why microwaves are not provided to students – Mr. Levine stated that this would require adult supervision and there are close to 400 students which would create congestion issues and potentially safety issues.

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 the breakdown of PAC funds is as follows:

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • General account          | 19,267.50 |
| • Chocolates               | 9,773.50  |
| • Gaming account           | 267.70    |
| • Gaming membership shares | 5.49      |

This balance above is before the following balances have been accounted for:

Teacher’s memorial fund of \$1,500 still to be paid (waiting for invoice) Once this \$1,500 has been paid then the balance remaining in the account will \$27,814.19

The funds from the gaming grant (\$20 per child based on previous year’s enrollment of 350 students) should be coming in around October. This gaming grant funds should be around \$7K and they should be used within three years. There are restrictions on what the funds can be used for.

For more information please visit the following website:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/gambling/grants/guide-cgg.pdf>

### Hot Lunch Program – Stan Tam

The pizza hot lunch program will start up on October 4 with forms sent out next week. All order forms are due by September 25. If the hot lunch order form is not submitted on time due to extenuating circumstances then the parents will need to go through Mr. Levine to place the later order.

Stan and Roy with the help of parent volunteers will organize the program. It will be pizza Fridays and Nuggets on Wednesdays for the first 6 weeks and then Macaroni and Cheese for the last five Wednesdays. The hot lunch will run from October 4<sup>th</sup> through to December 15.

The PAC is always looking for parent volunteers; if you are interested please contact Stan Tam or send an email to [sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com)).

Parents are encouraged to provide suggestions at future PAC meetings however there is an expectation for parents to assist in carrying out their suggestions.

### Upcoming School Events

Diwali celebration will take place on November 20 at 11:00 am; help will be needed on November 19 to setup the gym, Kami will send out an email closer to the date requesting volunteers. 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; Mr. Levine to follow up with Ross and the Rotary Club

### Fundraising Discussions

Chocolate orders will be finalized at the next PAC meeting.

### Volunteer Coordinator – Kami Hothi

A volunteer email address has been setup ([sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com)), anyone wishing to volunteer can email Kami to let her know which events they would like to volunteer for. In the near future a calendar will be posted on the school website each month showing what activities are coming up where volunteers will be needed.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Next meeting date: October 12, 2017 at 6:30pm

Location: Sexsmith Library

Future meeting dates: November 9<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Signatures of the 2017/2018 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