

Ecole Cascade Heights Elementary School

PAC Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Attendance:

Fernando De Melo, Chairperson

Makie Kutsukake, Co-chair

Anthony Yam, principal

Darlene Kikuchi, Secretary & CPF Rep

Michelle Mikacevich

Heidi Cogan, DPAC rep

Linda Marsh

Ron Singh, Treasurer

Denise Ru

Mr. Yam informed the group that Mr. McCreesh has accepted a vice principal position in Victoria and will be starting there in January 2017. Ms. McRory will continue with her two day a week schedule. A new full time teacher will need to be hired for the remainder of the school year. The Head Teacher position will also need to be filled.

Principal's Report:

-Remembrance Day assembly is on the morning of Thursday, November 10. All staff and students are requested to wear a white top and a black or dark bottom. Donations for poppies will be collected.

Darlene suggested that cadets could attend in their uniforms. The idea was well received and, due to the short timeframe, may be something to consider for the future.

-Individual photo retakes will take place on the afternoon of November 10.

-Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the library on November 15-17. Many parents have come forward to volunteer. The teachers were approached about providing wish lists for parents, but have responded that they find it "challenging" to prepare.

-November 25 is a district professional development day. Teachers will meet at Chaffey-Burke School. The focus will continue to be the redesigned curriculum.

-Volleyball has a high number of students this year, as it is for the grade 7s and 6s. Next week is the last for regular volleyball games. There will be play days on November 22 (boys) and 24(girls).

Treasurer's Report:

The gaming grant of \$8640 has been received. New Snack Bar funds of \$592.05 have been earned and deposited this year.

DPAC Representative:

-The latest meeting focused on emergency preparedness, with presentations by both the City of Burnaby and the School District.

-Heidi reminded the group about the letter sent out to parents by the Ministry of Education about the online parent survey for input on assessment reporting. The survey will be open until February 28, 2017.

-A parent volunteer is needed for the position of representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

-BCCPAC membership fee of \$75 is due by December 15, 2016. Fernando asked Ron to send a cheque.

Fundraising:

-Family Photo Night was a great success. A third evening was added and PAC raised \$1000, which is

more than double last year's earnings. The fee, 100% of which goes to PAC, was raised to \$20 booking this year. In the future, we will need to ask teachers to daily forward the booking slips that are returned, as appointments are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

-Movie Night hosted by Division 8 raised \$340, which was split 50/50 between the class and PAC. Mr. McLaughlin's class will be hosting the next event. The January and February events do not yet have a sponsoring class.

-Michelle reported on Snack Bar and noted that the quesadillas are very popular, but the time it takes to heat them slows service. Ron offered to donate a microwave.

-The most recent Subway sandwiches did not have cucumbers, as requested, and were not soggy.

French Immersion:

The CPF Burnaby Chapter is once again partially funding (50%) an arts performance in participating schools. Our students will go to Ecole Inman on November 30th in the afternoon for KUNDA African Culture Music & Dance. Each school will pay 25% of the cost of the performance and we will and perhaps host Inman in the spring for another performance.

Other Business:

-Heidi requested that French Immersion students also do the morning announcements in French. Mr. Yam pointed out that this is a new thing they are doing and will gradually introduce changes/improvements.

-Fernando inquired about whether there had been any talk of the stabbings in Abbotsford. Mr. Yam responded that there was some discussion with the older students when they broached the topic.

-There was no update on the "Buddy Bench".

-Breakfast with Santa will take place on Thursday, December 14.

-Louise Rusch from Burnaby Parks & Rec has informed Mr. Yam of the intention to redevelop Avondale Park. They will be holding a forum for community input here on Tuesday, November 22. Heidi requested that we invite a rep from Parks & Rec to our meetings so we could have a say in our afterschool programming. Mr. Yam will contact the rep.

-Michelle asked when the grade 7s will receive their grad hoodies. It was shared that the students have chosen their sizes, the design and have added their signatures. Darlene enquired about the cost. It was mentioned that the cost of the hoodie is combined with the camp cost. There was a suggestion to split the total amount into two or three payments over the year to allow parents to budget for it. Michelle suggested holding a movie night with all proceeds going to grade 7 expenses.

-Linda expressed concern that children are coming inside from the lunch break wet and then spend the remainder of the school day that way. Some children have claimed that his/her teacher doesn't give time to change or he/she may not have anything else to wear. Mr. Yam pointed out that this should not be the case and will look into it. It was recommended that parents be reminded to ensure that their children have appropriate change of clothing at school.

-There was discussion about the new waste management system at school. Mr. Yam pointed out that it is actually a seven-year-old initiative in Burnaby schools. A system for recycling drink containers will also be put in place.

-Darlene suggested doing something to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday, such as a time capsule. Mr. Yam commented that Ms. Speakman and Ms. Bennett are working on something for this occasion.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2017