



Minutes of Panorama Heights Elementary School PAC Meeting

November 23rd, 2020

Chairperson: Shilpi Mehrotra & Shahnaaz Balsara

Secretary: Colby Anderson

Meeting conducted via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:16 by Shilpi

Introductions and Housekeeping

- Timekeeper designated - Colby
- Next meeting is set for January 18th, 2021 at 7:15pm
- Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and approved by Kelsey, seconded by Natalie
- These are also on the PAC website (panoramaheightspac.ca)

Chair Report

- Debora has stepped up to lead the fundraising initiatives for this year, and Rebecca will join her in these efforts
- Beeta has created a draft Facebook page for PAC
- Photos of students won't be posted, and the PAC website will continue to contain any important information for parents that do not join the Facebook group
- Any parent that would like to join a PAC committee, take on a role, or become involved in any way in PAC for the 2020/2021 is very welcome and asked to email chair@panoramaheightspac.ca for more information

School Report – Mr. Muxworthy

General updates

- The school and site safety protocols have been renewed, and involved mainly a reminder to everyone to keep up what they are doing as efforts have been successful
- All schools are required to be prepared for the possibility of going remote,

although this is not noted to be a probability at this time

- As a precaution, parents are asked to be familiar with Teams and/or Fresh Grade, depending on the grade and information that teachers may share in the coming weeks
- Report cards will come out in December
- There is a slight adaptation to the existing report card template, with the teacher comments collapsed into one box, rather than separated across the report as was done previously
- This reporting period will be less than usual in terms of academic curriculum reporting, as a significant part of Term One has been around learning and adapting to the new protocols
- There will be a time for parent-teacher meetings in the new year
- Some winter break initiatives will be coming up, such as a card exchange among students in the school, communal carol singing, and other morale boosting activities around the school
- The school has been approached by the Food Bank to see whether we would like to participate in a winter food drive again, as we have in the past
- The school will be doing a loonie or toonie drive for this, rather than bringing in food because of Covid protocols (see further notes in fundraising, below)
- The school renovation is ongoing and on-track
- Repairs to the existing blacktop playground have been completed, and we are awaiting the invoice for this work as PAC has offered to pay for half of the cost
- When the playground was inspected, it was noted that other parts of the playground will require replacement in the next 3-5 years, as it is the original structure from the school's opening
- Mr. Muxworthy suggested that this would be a good initiative for PAC to create a 5-year plan to budget for the eventual replacement of the blacktop playground
- Ways to enhance the playground may include renovating the box in the middle of the blacktop into a sandbox area, of which the cost may be partially covered by the district

Responses to parent questions

- A question was asked regarding whether Christmas break may start at the beginning of December, however Mr. Muxworthy noted that this is not anticipated
- It should be noted however that the provincial guidelines will continue to be followed, and changes to the information we currently have now is always possible
- A question was asked regarding whether gifts for staff are permitted given the Covid safety guidelines, and the answer is yes, however items such as home-baked foods or items prepared in the home should be given some consideration in terms of teacher comfort level in accepting these types of gifts/possible increase risk in transmission

- A question was asked about whether students can at this point be removed from school and do online learning
 - Mr Muxworthy noted that this is quite challenging for teachers to do both remote learning and in-class learning at the same time
 - While parents' choice to keep their students at home is respected, parents are encouraged to try to set up a part-time schedule at school in order for the teachers to still have some connect with the student to keep informed on how they are doing
 - If the parent is not comfortable enough to have their child at school part-time, then they move into the gradual re-entry program
 - In this option, the teacher is not providing materials and updates are provided by the district and passed on via Mr. Muxworthy
 - It was noted that this option has proven to be quite challenging for many families

- A question was asked regarding a "Challenge test" and it was noted that the Grade 3 students took part in this last week, with a follow up in two weeks
 - This is a district program that is used as a filter to see if some students may benefit from the Gifted program
 - If a child is absent on one of these two test days, other arrangements will be made for them to take part

- A question was asked whether Mme. Luca will be returning, and it was noted that she has extended her maternity leave but is expected back sometime in the new year

New Business

- Fundraising
 - Two Christmas fundraiser ideas were suggested:
 - Christmas Elves
 - These are handmade by a local woman, with the child's name on the hat and the year 2020
 - These will be sold to the school for \$6 and the school will sell them for \$10
 - Because of Covid protocols that do not allow for delivery to individual classrooms/students, these would then be picked up by parents at the woman's home at a set time
 - All ordering would be done online, in the same format as hot lunch
 - Macy would be required to provide daily reports to the woman who makes them so that she can create as the orders come in
 - Christmas Candy Cake
 - All candy is pre-wrapped and the cake is 3-4 feet tall
 - This would be a raffle, with the maximum amount of tickets per student being 5, at \$1-2 each

- This initiative can go from December 9th with the draw on December 16th
 - As this is a raffle, we may need to provide each student that buys a ticket with something, otherwise a Gaming License may be needed
 - It was discussed that candy canes could be handed out
 - This could be paired with the school's food bank fundraiser, with the raffle tickets being \$2 and \$1 of each ticket going to the food bank
- Community Support Fund
 - Mr. Muxworthy will let the PAC know if there are families that would benefit from this program this year
- The idea of a school mascot was suggested by Debora, along with a suggestion for a contest for the intermediate students to create a new school logo
- It was discussed that a consultation process to exploring the idea of a new logo would be necessary, including discussion with staff, parents, and students
- Mr. Muxworthy noted that this would likely need to be a professional quality design and production
- As Panorama does not have a mascot, this idea may be better received by the school community, and Teri has offered to look around to see what other neighboring schools have as their mascots

Committee reports

- Fundraising - The poinsettia fundraiser went well, given the short time-frame. The totals will be in around the end of the week, and Debora notes that sales were just below \$3000. She is looking for volunteers for December 6th at 9:45am-12:00 to help distribute the orders.
- Website & Communication Coordinator – No report
- Emergency Preparedness – No report
- Grade 5 committee – The orders for the hoodies have been completed. The same company sent samples for adult and child masks to use as a fundraiser. These were tried on and do not have adjustable straps, and did not fit well, so the PAC will pass on those.
- DPAC – No report
- Class liaison & communications – No report
- Parent education – No report
- CPF – No report

Treasurer's report

- We have received \$2730 in donations thus far
- A reminder email will be put out in the new year, possibly around February
- The grade 5 hoodie order has been processed, along with Teacher Incentive Fund and some expenses
- No transactions have been made in the gaming account this period

- Any questions about the budget can be sent to Fiona at treasurer@panoramaheightspac.ca

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Date of next meeting is set for: **January 18th at 7:15pm**