



Auguston Traditional
Elementary School

October PAC Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2018 @ 6pm

PAC Executive in Attendance: Yolanda Davidowich, Corinne Chalmers, Laura Brown, Deesh Sekhon, Jessica Dowdall, Jenny Donegan, Tina Poudrier-Beck

1. Welcome and Introductions

Yolanda is the vice chair of the PAC and ran tonight's meeting in place of Bal who could not make it. Yolanda has a daughter at the school and two older children in middle and secondary school. She has been a part of various PACs for the past 10 years.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved and seconded.

3. Approval of September 25, 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Approved and seconded.

4. Principal's Report

a. School Updates

Safety emergency drills: Mr. Colbert is setting up clear procedures. He held a Shelter in Place drill last week and is chatting with the students to prepare them but not scare them. When an emergency drill is taking place the school is locked to visitors. He is looking to purchase two sandwich boards to go at the entrances that can communicate messages to parents, such as "Emergency Drill in Progress" or "PAC Meeting in Progress." He has also purchased walkie talkies to improve communication, is training the kids who man the office, and set up group texts to all staff.

Parking/traffic: Currently working on signage.

Lice checks: Mr. Colbert talked to staff and they are open to having lice checks again. Could combine lice checks with uniform checks. Suggested that we inform parents ahead of time of when lice checks are taking place. The kids are never singled out or informed of an instance of lice. Mr. Colbert would call or email the parents if there is a case of lice. Lice checks aren't to get rid of lice but to make people aware as cases of lice have been on the rise over the past few years throughout many schools.

Benches: Mr. Colbert has emailed maintenance and facilities and is waiting to hear back.

Grade 5 Ski Trip: Currently being booked.

School Plan: Mr. Colbert is working on a social/emotional school plan. Developing this idea will be a focus moving forward.

Christmas Concert: As a staff, they have spent time discussing the concert and decided not to hold it at the Abbotsford Arts Centre this year since they don't have a member of staff to lead it. Instead, they are thinking of using our school gym and having an afternoon and evening performance. McMillan does a three-night concert organized by grade level. There was also talk of organizing the concerts alphabetically. Could possibly have it in classrooms with parents travelling from classroom to classroom.

b. Photo Company

There has been some feedback that some parents aren't happy with Mountain West. Mr. Colbert will put out a survey to parents to see if they want to continue using Mountain West and include a space for comments. If we do change there's no guarantee that the new company will be better.

Comment: It really comes down to the photographers visiting the school. Some can be much better than others even though they're employed by the same company. Mr. Colbert will share comments that come in with the photo company.

c. Social Media

The school now has a Twitter handle: @augustontraditional, and Facebook is currently being set up. Mr. Colbert says the amount of communication that comes from the school is great.

d. Dress Code and Traditional Tenets

Mr. Colbert is new to the traditional system and is exploring with staff questions such as, Are we a traditional school and/or a catchment school? What makes us traditional? How does the new curriculum sync with traditional tenets? All 3 traditional school principals are new to the traditional system. Mr. Colbert met with uniform committee coordinator, Marissa, to look at the current uniform.

e. School Budget

The school budget is still being defined so Mr. Colbert is cautious to spend until that's finalized. Mr. Lande was interested in getting a golf pro. to come in and teach lessons. Q: Is this something the PAC could support? A: Yes, this would be something we could support with gaming money. The PAC would like to collect a wish list from teachers on their top needs. Mr. Colbert will invite PAC exec. to 10 minutes of the next staff meeting to hear what staff are needing.

f. Afterschool Programs

Mr. Colbert looked into programs that happen at the school after school hours but there is currently nothing going on that the students could get involved with. He has some ideas for after school programs that he'll look into further, such as Abbotsford Judo.

Mr. Colbert's highlights from past 31 days as principal: Currently, all parent communication from staff goes through Mr. Colbert first so he can learn what goes on at the school. He has never seen a school with so much communication with parents, which is fantastic. Teachers come early and leave late and book field trips, which is something they aren't obligated to do. He's thankful that the staff are doing that, and finds them very hard working. The care for the kids is fantastic. He feels very fortunate to be principal here.

5. Treasurer's Report

The annual budget was approved in April during the AGM, which is the budgeting for the whole year. Previously money has been spent on the playground, and now we have a surplus that can go towards new projects. There is the general budget, which includes the money each division gets (\$100 each) for field trips, classroom supplies, etc., and the gaming budget through the gaming grant, which totals \$7400 that must be spent on extracurricular activities that can be enjoyed by all students.

We have approx. \$28,000 in the cash account. It will be good to talk to staff and learn where they would like to see money spent. Committees can also access this money, but anything over \$199 must be voted for at a PAC meeting.

See full financial report attached.

6. Committee Updates/Needs

a. Dress Code Committee

This committee needs volunteers. Q: Is there support from the principal and staff for the dress code? A: Mr. Colbert likes the dress code but feels some items probably need to be discussed further. Q: When did the cresting on blue shirts start? It seems two tier--the higher cost of the blue shirts vs. white.

A: The cresting on blue shirts was to keep the colour consistent. Everything that is in the dress code was voted on and approved by parents. If enough people want to see a change we can hold a referendum and vote on changes to the dress code.

b. Class Rep.

If you would like to be a parent rep. for your child's class contact their teacher and they will know if that space still needs to be filled. This role involves being a liaison between parents and teachers when required and organizing Christmas and end-of-year gifts for teachers.

c. Safety Committee

Would need parent volunteers if there is interest in this committee.

d. Lost and Found

Lost and found items are currently on display in the lobby.

e. Fun Fair

Though the fun fair is scheduled for May 3, we need parent volunteers to begin organizing. Must book games and vendors now to secure availability.

Q: What would parents like to see at the fair? Comments: Having events in different classrooms works out well. Mr. Colbert has connections with a company that could bring a rock climbing wall. The school now owns several hamster balls that could be used in games. Important to keep the face painting simple and quick or else the lineup can be too long.

f. Social Committees

We are in desperate need of volunteers to join this committee. We would like to host a dance in November but need volunteers or it can't happen.

7. Old Business

a. Morning vs. Evening Meetings

There was a great turnout at this meeting and at the morning meeting. Different times bring out different faces so it was decided to continue alternating for now. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 20th at 8:50am in the library.

b. VIP Parking

The Gill family will have the VIP parking spot until the end of year. We will auction the spot at the Christmas concert and the winner will get it from January to June.

Mr. Colbert will get an estimate on putting yellow diagonal lines in the spot to make it more visible and ensure no one else parks there.

8. New Business

a. Popcorn Days

The first one is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 25. Other dates are being determined. If we want parents to pay online using Munch-a-Lunch we need to know all dates ahead of time.

b. Winter Dance

This is currently scheduled for Nov. 16th if there are volunteers to plan it.

c. Parking and Road Safety

If there are parents that want to volunteer to put out cones and act as crossing guards the school has the supplies to support this. Would need a solid commitment from parents. Comment: The school would need to clearly communicate to parents that the volunteers in safety vests are managing traffic, etc. for the safety of the students in order to limit any verbal abuse.

APD Awareness will be at the school for an assembly at 9:30, Oct. 24.

d. Committee Sign-Up Day

The PAC would like to host a Timbit and coffee morning to reach out to parents and encourage them to participate on a committee.

e. Pancake Breakfast

Mr. Colbert is open to continuing this tradition. He will talk about it with staff.

f. Book Fair

Laura Brown and Corinne Chalmers agreed to lead the book fair this year.

g. Use of Gaming Funds

Ideas for use of the funds included: Hip Hop dance sessions, golf pro., drama or music sessions, cooking class, after school basketball or soccer, guest speakers, roller skating. There is \$5000 to spend. If you have ideas on how you'd like to see this money spent please email them to augustonpac@gmail.com.

h. Christmas Craft Fair

If this is something we want to do we need volunteers to take this on and book vendors as soon as possible.

9. Upcoming Events

Hot Lunch: White Spot - Oct. 26th

10. Question & Answer

Q: There were some issues with having no straws at hot lunch. Are there going to be any going forward? **A:** No, we won't be providing straws any longer. If kids need a straw parents can send one that day.

Q: A parent has connections to the Gordon Neufeld Institute. Would parents be interested in bringing in a facilitator to do a class on anxiety or other issues? **A:** Yes, a lot of interest. Mr. Colbert says that Jan/Feb. would be a good time to look at this.

Q: Who owns the locked playground that was attached to the former daycare? **A:** That area is the school's but the playground equipment belongs to the daycare owners. They were supposed to remove it and sell it but didn't. There was talk amongst staff to turn that area into a learning space. When Mr. Colbert meets with the facilities manager he'll talk about that area.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm