

Auguston PAC Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 8:50 a.m.

PAC Exec. in Attendance: Bal Claire, Laura Brown, Jessica Dowdall, Jenny Donegan, Corinne Chalmers

1. Approval of June's Minutes

Approved

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. Principal's Report

Mr. Colbert introduced himself. He has two daughters who are 12 and 14 years old. All three of them started new schools this year. His wife is a nurse.

He welcomed the new executive and recognized the tremendous parent support at this school. It's the biggest PAC meeting he has ever attended. It's nerve wracking coming to a new school but the reception has been top notch. Teachers were at the school in August getting ready for the kids, which isn't always the case at every school.

Had a great turn out at Meet the Teacher night. If anyone has changes or suggestions about that evening please let Mr. Colbert know.

Class lists are never easy because it's the hope to make everyone happy but that's not always the case. Class lists were ready by the Wednesday and then the teachers discussed changes for a few days. Being new, Mr. Colbert wasn't as involved in the process as he will be in the future. The school district is cautious and takes it slowly that first week because once you hire a teacher you can be locked in. District-wide in elementary school 100 kids didn't show up that were expected, which equals a lot of lost money in staffing. The grade 2/3 position is still vacant as we wait for other schools to complete their interviews. We have hired Mrs. Cadwell as an extra PE teacher on Monday mornings to help Mr. Lande. An educational assistant position is also still pending.

Q: Will the start of the school year be like this every year?

A: Yes, it will likely be this way going forward where the students don't have their classes until the second week. District-wide the other schools are in a similar situation. I want what you want--the teachers in the classroom teaching as quickly as possible.

Q: Can we elect to have children not here that first week and then just slot them in after that first week? We're considering taking the first week off.

A: As a parent you can do that, just as long as Mr. Colbert knows you're going to be coming. They tell us we need to see faces to guarantee that family is attending the school. As long as everyone is up front and actually does attend the school it's your choice.

Pro-D day was an administration day. Mr. Colbert met with every staff member to chat about strengths and growth areas at the school. It's OK where we are but not OK to stay there in the areas we determine needing change. He shared with staff his Theory of Action and Top Qualities for a Principal (see attached). Two documents that help to guide and motivate him.

Photo day is on Thursday. Are we happy with the photo company, Mount West? If you have ideas for different photographers let Mr. Colbert know as soon as possible as we have to sign two-year contracts.

Being new to traditional schools, Mr. Colbert would like to sit down with the dress code committee and discuss their philosophy.

Drive Away Hunger is asking for donations for the food bank. We are their number one school. They will be picking up next Friday.

The Terry Fox Run has been postponed to next Friday.

The school budget is not yet confirmed due to changes in class size. Will share the budget with you when it's ready.

Would parents be interested in some parent evenings? Topics could include the new curriculum, kids and social media, mental health, etc. Mr. Colbert could facilitate these. This idea was well received.

DPAC is presenting Not My Kid at Abby Arts on Oct. 2nd from 6:30-9:30. It's a free event but you need to get tickets. Bal will post a link on the PAC facebook page.

Mr. Colbert's door is always open if anything needs to be discussed or brought to his attention.

Q: When does the application process start for out of catchment families?

A: Likely in the spring. Parents will be informed as soon as Mr. Colbert knows.

4. Treasurer's Report

As it's the start of the school year there is no financial report but Tina will present the September report at the next meeting.

Tina submitted the application for our gaming grant. This grant gives the school \$20 per child to go towards something at the school that will benefit every child. In past years we have used it for the playground additions. If we didn't have a PAC we wouldn't be able to access this grant.

5. Introduction of New PAC

Bal Claire, Chair: Bal is excited to be a part of PAC. Her daughter started kindergarten this year, and her son will be going in a couple years. She looks forward to being the medium between parents and teachers.

Yolanda Davidowich, Vice Chair

Corinne Chalmers, DPAC Representative: DPAC meetings take place once a month at city hall. It's a meeting of all the PACs district wide and she can take any of our concerns there. Corinne thanked Bal for taking on the Chair role.

Laura Brown, Member at Large: This is her 4th year on the PAC executive. She has a daughter in grade 4 and son in grade 1.

Jessica Dowdell, Assistant Treasurer: Jessica helps Tina with the job of treasurer. She has a son in grade 1 and her daughter will be at the school in a couple years.

Tina Poudrier-Beck, Treasurer

Selena Medema, Member at Large

Deesh Sekhon, Hot Lunch Chair: This is Dee's 4th year running the hot lunch program. She has one son in the school.

Jenny Donegan, Secretary: This is Jenny's 3rd year as PAC secretary.

6. Committee Updates/Needs:

a. Dress code

Marissa Osborne heads the committee and is planning for the first check to take place in October. She is looking for some help with that. The dress code

check takes about an hour and involves a few volunteers going into the classrooms, all students stand up, and the volunteers make a mental note of any violations and fill in the paper work in the hallway, not bringing any attention to individual children. The process for the dress code checks is at the front of our planners.

Q: Should we revisit doing lice checks at the same time as dress code checks?

A: There are some privacy concerns around this. Suggested that we'd need to outline the process to parents so they'd feel comfortable. Some schools have a nurse visit the school to do the checks. Suggested that we could have more information on lice, what to look for, how to treat, how to prevent lice, etc., at one of the parent information meetings mentioned by Mr. Colbert. Mr. Colbert will discuss with Marissa.

b. Class Representatives

Faith Gatt has lead this the past number of years and we are looking for someone to take over. This is the person that ensures each class has a parent representative who acts as a liaison between parents and teachers, sends out the class-initiated list, organizes Christmas and end-of-year gifts for the teacher, as well as a birthday card.

c. Fun Fair

The Fun Fair has been moved to the spring - May 3rd. This is the main fundraiser for our school and includes a silent auction of themed baskets with items donated by the families. There will be other spring-themed activities to replace the pumpkin carving contest.

Because this isn't happening until the spring the VIP parking spot will be auctioned off within the next week or so. Possibly a silent auction or secret bid. We could also incorporate the VIP parking stall bid at the halloween dance or send home raffle tickets.

It was brought to our attention that the family that has had the VIP spot for the past couple years doesn't necessarily get to use the parking spot because other people park there. We could make better signage, more elaborate paint on the asphalt, or put a cone in that spot. Suggested that we could auction that spot off monthly or in three-month slots to raise more money and awareness.

It was suggested to have a silent auction combined with the VIP bid earlier in the year and a silent auction in the spring to raise more money.

7. Upcoming Events:

a. Hot Lunch - Sept. 28th

91% of parents placed orders on time. Ordering multiple lunches at one time has been very successful. Those who want to order month-to-month can still do that. Dee is thinking of cutting out cash payments since less than 10 parents pay this way though she still wants to include everyone.

Dee is trying out some different menus for next term. Winter session hot lunch ordering will also be grouped together. Questions or menu ideas are always welcome.

b. Halloween Dance - TBD

Mr. Colbert said to double check the availability of the school and himself before setting a date because the school board now requires the principal to be at after-school events due to liability issues.

The dance would start around 6 or 6:30 and run until 8. We are exploring the idea of having a DJ that can also include games for the kids to keep them engaged. The suggestion was made to have a costume parade or talent show to keep the traffic out of the hallways and in the gym.

8. Questions & Answers

Q: Dee would like to organize a Run for Water team for our school.

A: Yes, that's a great cause. Makes sense to make a team and there are several curricular competencies that go along with that.

Q: What's going on at the school during the week after hours? How can parents utilize activities going on at the school?

A: Organizations book the school through the district. Mr. Colbert isn't involved. Mr. Colbert will look into the activities that do take place and let parents know if members of the community can get involved as well.

Mr. Colbert has some thoughts about some after school activity ideas that he's looking into along with Mr. Lande.

Q: When are the benches coming back to the playground?

A: The playground company, Habitat, took out the benches to put in the new playground and have charged us to reinstall them but first there is a drainage problem that needs to be dealt with, and then the district will reinstall them. We will get a refund from Habitat for the installation cost. The district will also be adding hopscotches (this might also be a good time to paint the VIP parking spot). Laura Brown is contributing two buddy benches in honour of her parents.

Q: The cars parked right in front of the school makes it so only one car can get by and creates a danger to children crossing. The crosswalks are so far apart that people cross in that middle section. Do people agree that there should be no parking (at least at certain times of day) directly in front of the school?

A: Could create a petition and take it to the city. There is also parking along the field in the parking lot that shouldn't be allowed, as well as in the drop-off loop. Parent volunteers could grab vests and enforce the rules. We could create a Road Safety Committee.

These are all good ideas. To execute them we need volunteers. Suggested that if volunteers are needed getting as much info. about the volunteer position out to parents as early as possible will help them plan and encourage more to volunteer.

Our next PAC meeting will be October 23rd at 7pm. Based on the poll we took, the majority of people preferred the evening but a large portion voted mornings so we may alternate. The meeting minutes will be distributed via email from Mrs. Tait after every meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20 a.m.