

PAC MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

November 14, 2007, 9:15 am PAC meeting

Co-Chair, Gwendolyn

Treasurer, Tomoko

Vice-Principal, Angela

2 parents

3 speakers

John Cortens, teacher

Today's Agenda and Oct 10 PAC Meeting Minutes were approved.

As guest speaker, Educational Audiologist **M. Claire Cartford** (Canadian Sensory Institute) discussed a *Surround Sound* system for classroom settings. Perhaps Lord Roberts could be a *pilot project* so that we would evaluate the surround sound system in a class room. This system would allow teachers and students answering questions or making comments to speak at a regular volume and be heard over all the background noise in a classroom (such as fans, foot traffic in the hall etc). This system allows the "signal to noise" ratio to increase so all students to hear the teacher anywhere in the classroom. These speakers project sound from the front and back and some are portable.

Students who have chronic ear infections and/or some hearing loss may have trouble hearing the consonants at the beginning and end of words and this can compromise their listening comprehension. This system would address this type of hearing loss.

Wayne Ulian (Computer Resource Teacher), who arranged for Ms Cartford to speak at this PAC meeting, said he wants to be mindful that we do not create more noise. Ms Cartford said that the acoustics of *some class rooms* may not be favorable to this system.

Svetlana commented that ESL children would greatly benefit from this sound system, because it is often more difficult for these students to filter out background noise when they are concentrating on what teachers and students are saying.

Wayne mentioned that if we implement the system, students would pass a microphone around to the students who are going to speak. This may also help children developing *listening skills* by physically recognizing the speaker as the person with the microphone.

The cost of a pilot system is about \$1200 for one classroom.

Ms Cartford said that we may be able to get a four to six month loan of a sound surround system to evaluate its usefulness. Wayne will follow up on this with Ms Cartford.

Svetlana's Neighbourhood Assistant Report

There will be a **General Motors Place Tour** awarded to one class at Lord Roberts using a lottery system.

Please refer anyone who needs a **Christmas Food Basket** to Svetlana.

There will be a health nurse coming to the parent's room on **Friday, November 30th** to speak about hygiene and nutrition.

This Friday, a parent who recently moved here from Turkey will be preparing a carrot cake in the parent's room.

A Youth and Family worker from the West End Community Centre will be organizing and running a new **Friday Lunch Hour Drop-in Club** for students in grades 5 to 7.

There is a new **2007 Fundraising and Volunteering Program** brochure available.

Free tickets will be available next week for the Sunday, November 24th Symphony performance at 7:30 pm.

The ongoing Friday morning meetings for parents are going very well. Everyone welcome.

Tomoko, Budget

The up to date **budget** was presented. There was some discussion: Since there is no kindergarten lunch hour clubs yet, the **Library Lunch Hour Club** now has over 50 children every school day. This is about a 50% increase from last year, so the PAC was advised that the library will be spending more money on craft supplies than earlier budgeted. Angela (VP) advised that we should look into ordering supplies from Grand and Toy to save money. Also, Angela will find out if the kindergarten parents are interested in doing a lunch hour club and let them know that money is budgeted for KinderClub.

It was suggested that we look at increasing our **financial classroom support** to the 17 teachers and 4 support staff from 50 to 100.00 per year. We will discuss this further when we have the results of our Direct Appeal Fundraiser.

Direct Appeal Fundraiser: donations are still coming in and Tomoko will be counting up the donations next week.

Tomoko was officially voted in as our Treasurer for 2007/2008 school year. Thank you very much Tomoko for volunteering to be the treasurer for another year.

Angela, Vice-Principal and Principal's Report

Thank you for the PAC's support of the **100 Year School Celebration on Oct 25**. It was a great success, with excellent displays in the gymnasium and school entrance, volunteers from First Baptist Church as hallway monitors, and current students interviewing former students, representing almost every decade since the 1910s.

Youth Credit Union Update: volunteers are still needed for this program (only one student volunteer).

Student Council: *Guess the Jellybeans* Halloween Special event (the parents were called before the jelly beans were sent home).

Bi-weekly meetings but they will be voting on having the meetings weekly.

They may be planning a winter dance.

Band program for grades 6 and 7: now in full swing. Thank you to the parents who helped out with the instrument rental night. A press conference was held on 24 Oct by Music BC at the school to mark the successful completion of the fundraising project to provide instruments for Lord Roberts.

Volleyball: for grades 5, 6, and 7 is now underway. Steve and parent volunteers hold practices before and after school.

School Plan: the fall data is being collected in the areas of math and personal planning and will be evaluated in the spring to see how the students are progressing.

Inner City Plan: data is being collected on literacy and social responsibility. A comparison to the behavior referrals of last year shows an overall reduction this year.

Code Red Drill (intruder inside the school): the drill went well. There will be another drill later this year.

Dragana, a parent from Elsie Roy School, came to discuss the **Boy Smarts** Workshop. *"It will help parents to understand how their boys think."*

PAC voted to fund 25% of the \$1000, along with 3 other neighbourhood schools, for the workshop. We recommend asking participants to make a 2 dollar donation at the door. The lecture will be scheduled some time in January. Gwen will be in contact with Dragana to finalize plans.

John Cortens, teacher

FSA, Foundations Skills Assessment Test Discussion.

This test will be given to all grade 4 and 7 students in February. It was previously given in May. There are exceptions for learning disabled students and students with written requests for exemption from their parents.

This **FSA** test is outside of the regular school assessments. It is not used by classroom teachers to evaluate students. The ministry provides practice tests. The FSA tests are expensive to administer and expensive to mark. They have been used by the Fraser Institute to rank schools even though the results are not intended to be used this way. Many teachers do not support this test and feel that the money could be better spent on the curriculum.

He said that **Dr Paul Shaker of SFU** has examined these FSA tests and feels that the test results are not necessarily "good science".

Previous to the FSA, there was a **Provincial Learning Assessment** that randomly sampled students from school across BC. This was less expensive and the results were not attached to individual schools or students. It gave a global picture of how the school system was working and was not meant to assess individual schools or students. Mr Cortens preferred this system.

Gwen said the PAC will look into preparing something on our web page to provide parents with impartial information on the FSA tests.

Other Business:

Gwendolyn: there was not enough time to discuss the **Playground grant funding application**. We may have a meeting to discuss this some time next week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.