

# École Phoenix Middle School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Taken by Sarah Neil

February 28, 2024

7pm

Library Learning Commons

### Current PAC Executive:

**President:** *Beth Pechter*

**Vice President:** *Sarah Quenneville*

**Secretary:** *Sarah Neil*

**Treasurer:** *Myriah Foort*

**DPAC Representatives:** *Dino Pagliardi and Crystal Smith*

*The Ecole Phoenix Middle School PAC recognizes that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Laichwiltach, Klahoose, and K'omoks First Nations.*

### 1. Welcome & introductions

**Meeting Start Time: 7:07pm**

**In Attendance:** Beth Pechter, Sarah Derks, Sophie Lee, Sarah Neil, Sarah Quenneville, Rachel Nelson, Sarah Jordan, Eric Smith

### 2. Meeting agenda & minutes:

- a. Review and approve the meeting agenda.

**Beth – Myriah is away but sent her Treasurers Report by email. Dino is away but also sent his DPAC update by email.**

- b. Review and approve the minutes from January 24, 2024 meeting.

**Accepted**

### 3. Reports

- a. Principal's Report

**Rachel:**

- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Pink Shirt Day (anti bullying day). Guest speaker at the school assembly today Michael Bortolotto. Michael has cerebral palsy and speaks to many schools delivering a powerful message about acceptance and treating others with kindness. The students were very receptive.
- Feb 29<sup>th</sup> Basketball North Island Tournament
- Lunch/breakfast program will be extended with renovations to the school kitchen coming.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous Student Recognition Luncheon. Students are nominated by school staff. Celebratory event with lunch provided and gifts given.
- Student learning survey to be sent out by email. Parents keep an eye on your email, a portion will be for parents to fill out.

- **Final Draft of Mission Statement:**

**"At Ecole Phoenix Middle School, we are a unique tapestry of students who bring their gifts to create a vibrant and inclusive learning community that celebrates diversity and promotes personal excellence. Our core values of belonging, hope and achievement are reflected in our belief that every student, regardless of background or identity, feels respected, heard, and appreciated. Through a commitment to cultural understanding and inclusivity, we aim to provide a foundation for personal growth and excellence."**

**Looking for parent feedback on the mission statement.**

**Beth – suggestion to add comments about how staff contribute to the school environment.**

**Rachel – how could these themes fit: journey or self-discovery; unique; resilient, value relationships with our community and the environment. This will also be sent out to parents by email.**

**Rachel - lots of exciting things coming up after Spring Break.**

**b. President's Report**

**Beth – a letter came out from the Superintendent's office to notify parents about the end of the Transit strike. The letter identified that some students were impacted but they acknowledged that there wasn't much more SD72 could have done. There needs to be acknowledgment from SD72 that the school bus system needs to be updated to address new needs of the community.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**3.b.i. Gaming bank balance Jan 27, 2024 \$13,849.63**

**3.b.ii. Fundraising bank balance Jan 27, 2024 \$3,481.61**

**See attached Treasurer's report from Myriah.**

**Beth – new funding request came in from Staff – Amy James. Asking \$500 towards two Grade 8 student classes going to WildPlay in Nanaimo for a field trip. She estimated the total trip costs to be \$2,180. PAC already contributed \$80 to each class when we set our funding allocations at our previous meeting. Group discussion determined we will reject funding this request.**

**c. DPAC Report**

**Dino sent DPAC meeting notes by email:**

**"Hey Beth,**

**I won't be able to make it tonight now but here's some Notes from DPAC. Not a super eventful meeting.**

**Phil S - Showed digital walk through of daycare facility. Nice buildings. Ripple Rock, Ocean Grove and Pinecrest very close to being done. The intent is to have daycare during spring break and summer but then are still finalizing decision and figuring out the demand. EDM won't be getting one due to the terrain and lack of space.**

**Joyce - Cell phone policy not looking at a ban but how can cell phones be better utilized in and around classrooms.**

**Debra C - Talked about interest in having pro D type workshops for parents. Just an idea at this point.**

**Thanks, Dino"**

#### **4. Old business –**

##### **4.a. Fundraising**

**Beth – did the student suggestion boxes get put out?**

**Rachel – they haven't been put out. Due to staff illness, haven't had a chance.**

**Beth – maybe we could collect suggestions before the end of year with targeted fundraising in the Fall. Online Silent Auction takes a lot of work but a good fundraiser. Would be good to have set fundraising goals before running this fundraiser.**

**Sophie – previous auctions that we've run usually by the end of the school year many businesses are tapped out for donations. Aiming for earlier in the school year would help with collecting donations.**

**Beth – lets aim to get suggestions in from students this Spring.**

**Rachel – I'll bring this to the student voice group. Get them to generate some ideas.**

**Sophie – Willow Point PAC is considering putting together a fundraising sub committee as it takes a lot more involvement. Discussion about the commitment of parent volunteers for the auction that was run, takes many hands and quite a bit of time to organize.**

**Beth – will investigate having our PAC Coastal Community Credit Union account set up with auto deposit for email transfer payments. I like the idea of a fundraising coordinator or sub committee.**

##### **4.b. Planters:**

**Beth – Regarding the planters outside the main entry along 7<sup>th</sup>. Students had a great idea to convert the planters into game boards with chess or checkers, that is weather resistant and can be played year-round on top of the planters. Would Sophie be able to put together a poster that could be circulated to parents by email, to get the information out to obtain parent feedback on how to build these game boards? And look for parent volunteers to build the game boards and pieces.**

**Sophie – if someone can send me some photos, I can put something together.**

**Beth – will ask Rachel to take some photos for us. And measurements of the planters.**

**Eric – would recommend marine grade materials and supplies.**

**Beth – thinking of a resin type material?**

**Sarah J – recommend a thin layer of resin, due to the cost. Maybe a wood base with resin coating.**

**Beth – there would be some remaining PAC money left towards this, but we need parent volunteers.**

##### **4.c. School Garden update**

**Rachel – fencing is needed to keep animals out and gardens safe. We'd like to create more neighbourhood involvement to create some public garden space. Right now, things are in the talking and planning phase. As Spring approaches, more work will be done on the space. Produce grown in the garden could be used in our school Foods program.**

**Beth – recommend the garden group get a hold of Windsor Plywood for donations for lumber for fencing or garden beds.**

**Rachel – speaking with Greenways Land Trust to create a schedule for what needs to be done to the Garden each season. They were happy to help with this.**

**Beth – United Rentals will sometimes donate temporary fencing. Could be a temporary solution for fencing of the garden.**

**Sophie – "Feeding families" grant available. Could be possible to apply for this grant. Could we approach the local Rotary groups to see if they'd be willing to donate?**

**Beth – we should send this grant information to the staff in charge of the gardening program. Karim Maher, Leah Wilson and Breanne Gale. We should also send this out to parents to see if any parents would like to volunteer. The PAC would be willing to help share or circulate the Gardening group updates or requests.**

**4.d. Elder program update**

**Rachel – we have a new Elder in residence until June.**

**5. New business**

**None**

**6. Other business**

**None**

**7. Motions**

**None**

**Next Meeting: Wed May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7pm**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 8:10pm**