

# École Phoenix Middle School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Taken by Sarah Neil

January 24, 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 unceded traditional territories of the Laichwiltach, Klahoose, and K'omoks First Nations.*

### 1. Welcome & introductions

**Meeting Start Time: 7:03pm**

**In Attendance:** Beth Pechter, Sarah Jordan, Eric Smith, Dino Pagliardi, Sarah Derks, Sarah Neil, Rachel Nelson, Michelle Nohr (vice principal), Sarah Quenneville

### 2. Meeting agenda & minutes:

- a. Review and approve the meeting agenda.

**Beth - Only change is to remove Treasurer's Report from agenda as Myriah Foort is away this meeting.**

- b. Review and approve the minutes from Nov 29th meeting

### 3. Reports

- a. Principal's Report

**Rachel:**

– students came back from the break, staff commented very seamless return from the winter break. Students came back calm and settled and ready to learn.

- Volleyball rounded up before Winter break, Basketball underway right now. Lots of kids signed up for basketball. Lots of teams and staff engaged.

- All the clubs are still running. New D&D club runs in the library.

- Choir was student initiated, early December students approached asking to have choir start. Mme Elson offered to help at lunch with the choir. The choir performed at the winter assembly. Mix of Grade 6, 7 and 8s. Talented musician in Grade 8 student from the Philippines, has been playing the piano for the choir.

- Student council had their first meeting. The student council has now been elected. 425 students voted. The student council will meet with the superintendent for SD72 every month to provide a student voice. A nice diverse group of students, a mix of ages, 10 kids total.

- Hot lunch canteen cards are now up and running. \$30 per card. Can be paid by email transfer to the school with the note "hot lunch canteen" with student's name. A running tally will be kept at the office, to track the balances on the canteen cards. Chow mein with protein of choice (Wed), sushi (Thurs) and pizza (Fri) are the different food choices so far. Hoping to add other food options for Mon and Wed. Cash is still acceptable for kids to bring to order on the day of as well.

- We applied for extra funding for literacy supports in the school and found out we've been approved. We now have funds in place for extra staff to provide these literacy supports. And extra funding in place for counselling supports until at least Spring Break. Literacy screening has been completed to identify which students need extra supports. Learning support teachers will also support in other subjects.

- Blue January and Blue February – raising awareness about mental health with students. Cross curricular, teaching mental health topics across different school subjects.

b. President's Report

Beth – not much to report since last meeting. We have been talking about the Vision Zero grant, after lengthy discussion with various people we determined that cross walk lights would cost \$25,000. The City is supportive but they are already working with a few other groups in Campbell River. They've said to "get first in line" next year. City workers would install the lights. Vision Zero grant will only cover a portion, and the City would cover a portion, but a portion would need to be paid by us. We'd need to have some funds set aside for this project.

Sarah J – would there be a possibility to have staff or parent volunteers for cross walk guards?

Beth – kids used to volunteer as cross walk guards at my school I attended.

Sarah Q – could the Vision Zero Grant money go toward cross walk guards' payment?

Sarah J – kids would likely need parent permission to be cross walk guards.

Beth – the intersection along 7<sup>th</sup> Ave is dangerous, many kids run across without looking. Lots of vehicles parked along both sides of the roads blocking visibility. I did not apply for the Vision Zero Grant this year. But I now have a lot more information and we should apply next year.

Rachel - could we improve signage? More signage around 30km school zone.

Michelle – other option is "citizens on patrol"

c. Treasurer's Report

3.c.i. Gaming bank balance Dec 31, 2023

3.c.ii. Fundraising bank balance Dec 31, 2023

**Struck from Agenda**

Beth - School District did provide discretionary funds, so our fundraising account will go up by approx. \$200.

Rachel – staff know which funds they've been allocated. No new applications for funds.

Beth - Gaming bank balance = \$13849.63

Fundraising balance = \$3481.61

d. DPAC Report

Dino – met by Zoom yesterday, low attendance. Phil spoke with Anthropologist regarding the Douglas Treaty. It is correct to say this is “unceded” territories of the Laichwiltach First Nations.

Rachel – the School District has updated the territorial acknowledgment to acknowledge the lands each school operates on and separately acknowledge the relationships we share with other First Nations groups. The territorial acknowledgment has already been updated in the staff email signatures, the rest of the websites will be updated soon too.

Dino – Phil said there will potentially be 3 childcare sites up and running by this summer

Michelle – the child care staff will be support staff from schools

Dino – Joyce McMann said the SD72 strategic plan is being updated. Deborah Coombs – there is a BCTF conference coming up in May. Potential for a DPAC member to join her for the 3 day conference. Jamie Johnson is working on community outreach, plan a food gathering event at a school. Andrea Craddock – regarding bus strike, wanted to inform parents that the transit workers are very underpaid and asking people to have some understanding about the strike.

Sarah J – some kids have challenges getting to Phoenix due to the bus strike.

Rachel – there are around 25-30 students in the Rockland/Robron area that are having difficulties getting to school due to the bus strike.

Sarah J – could a notice be put out re: a school carpool? A parent would need a criminal record check/driving abstract on file at the school

Rachel – there is a shortage of bus drivers not just for public transit but for the school district.

Dino – at the DPAC meeting there was discussion about finding alternative transit options, some concerns about crossing picket lines. Phil said that families that aren't eligible for school transport can apply in special circumstances to the school district for transportation through the school district.

Beth – some families don't use the school transportation system as the bus schedules didn't work well (for example 7:25am pick up and drop off at school at 8am). And some buses are so jam packed there are 3 kids sharing a seat. There is a need for better transportation options. I've sent a letter to express concerns to the transportation department and received a response that no immediate changes to the transportation schedule are planned at this time.

Sarah Q – maybe a video showing the challenges with transportation could be sent, for more impact.

Sarah N – I've also sent a letter to complain about lack of service in our subdivision at Jubilee Heights and received the same sort of response from the Transportation Department.

Rachel – maybe the letters should be sent to other departments at SD72 other than the transportation department.

Beth –definitely a need from many families for transportation for their children, even putting pleas out on social media.

Sarah D – noticeable increase of vehicles doing drop offs and pick ups, parents having to park quite far away from the schools to do the drop offs and pick ups.

Dino – 25 to 30 children being impacted by the public transit strike, seems like it should be possible to solve the issue.

Sarah J – airport shuttle vans? Is it possible to hire a driver for those?

Dino – have to be careful about not crossing picket lines, maybe if it was a school district staff member driving the van?

Rachel – Phil from SD72 oversees some of the transportation issues.

Sarah Q – I’ve heard the public transit strike could last a couple more months.

Beth – I recommend keep raising awareness with the school district.

Sarah Q – could a letter be shared with the parent community, and encourage parents to send the letter in as well?

Beth – we could share information from the PAC but make sure we are not crossing any lines regarding the transit strike. Would have to come through the PAC, social media site? Apparently the Courtenay school district has their own transportation issues, French Immersion students aren’t included in the bus pick up schedule.

4. Old business – None

5. New business –

a. Fundraising

5.a.i. Online silent auction

5.a.ii. Other ideas?

Beth – in my experience fundraising works best when there is a vision or goal for where the funds will go toward. Also, easier to raise funds when the kids in attendance can see benefit from the funds raised.

Sarah N – could West Coast Seeds be a fundraiser for the Garden project?

Beth – you have to get on the list for West Coast Seeds in the Fall, we missed the deadline.

Sarah J - what about the TV for the workout room in the gym?

Rachel – Mr Grier sees that workout space being a good place for kids not into other types of sports or activities. Planning an outdoor classroom in the courtyard area right now.

Sarah Q – could we put up a “Student Idea Box” so kids could share what they would like to see in the school, that funds could go towards.

Rachel – kids are very creative and come up with lots of neat ideas. Students came up with a great idea for the large cement planters at the front of the school that can’t be used to plant anything, to cover them and paint them into chess and checker boards with bags hanging off them with the chess and checker pieces. The art student in the school collected ideas in the past.

Beth – for the student idea box, we can give kids a rough budget and see what ideas they come up with.

Rachel – we could get the student council to go through the student ideas and summarize them for us. Maybe council can pick out the best ideas of those submitted.

Beth – regarding an online auction, in previous online auctions funds raised were around \$4,000. It was successful and able to share with a broader group. Suggest we let the kids know that we could provide \$2,500-\$3,000, to give some parameters on what the fundraising funds would go toward.

Sarah Q – will the chess/checker boards be made?

Rachel – we need to investigate what sort of materials would hold up/survive the elements.

Michelle – suggest build the chess/checker boards down in the planter to be sheltered a bit.

Rachel – need a staff or parent to spearhead getting the boards made.

Beth – PAC could put a call out for parent volunteers, but we need a plan in place about what is being built. All weather plywood and marine paint are super durable. I’ll put together a request and run it by Rachel to

see about posting it on the PAC parent page and get the information out there. And get the student idea box made and put in place before Spring Break. Once we have clear ideas of what we are raising funds for, this will help with fundraising initiatives and response.

Rachel – will ensure the Student Idea Box is put in place. Will let all the staff know about it, to let all the students know.

**6. Other business**

None

**7. Motions**

None

**Next Meeting: Wed February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7pm in the Phoenix Library**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 8:41pm**