

École Phoenix Middle School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Meeting Minutes taken by Sarah Neil

Nov 29, 2023

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 unceded territories of the Laichwiltach, Klahoose, and K'omoks First Nations.

1. Welcome & introductions

Meeting Start Time: 7:04pm

In Attendance:

Rachel Nelson, School Principal

Beth Pechter, President

Sarah Neil, Secretary

Sarah Jordan

Sarah Derks

Sophie Lee

Dino Pagliardi, DPAC Representative

Crystal Smith, DPAC Representative

Jennifer Calestagne

Eric Smith

Territorial Acknowledgement – Crystal Smith

We are here on the unceded territory of the Laichwiltach, shared territory of the Klahoose and K'omoks First Nation.

I've also sent a note to DPAC regarding the territorial acknowledgment that the word "unceded" should be included in all territorial acknowledgments.

The School District 72 has not acknowledged that these are unceded territories and in my opinion they should.

2. Meeting agenda & minutes:

- a. Review and approve the meeting agenda.

Motion to approve agenda by Beth. Carried.

- b. Review and approve the minutes from Nov 1st meeting.

Motion to approve minutes by Beth. Carried.

3. Reports

- a. Principal's Report

Rachel's Report:

- Indigenous Remembrance Day Acknowledgement on November 8th

- Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 9th

The two Remembrance Day Ceremonies were intentionally kept separate as that is the intention of having two days.

- Volleyball season just wrapped up - 154 kids played this season

- Basketball season is just starting next week. Sports are run by teacher and staff volunteers, grateful for the staff doing this.

- Student Elections & Spirit Club meets at lunch. Student elections are running right now. Students are running their own platforms. They are learning about the election process and rules/regulations i.e. no bribing, no false promises etc. The platforms must run on belonging/connection to the school as aligned with the School Growth Plan.

- Student Voice – starts in January 2024. Identify some students having a difficult time in Middle School and meet with them once per month. Generate some ideas to support them, create safe spaces. Will be strategic and represent a broad group across the school.

- Pod Gratitude Trees – 4 pods total in the school, student groups get to name their pod and two pods have submitted names - "Air Pods", "My Dad's Right Arm" – each pod creates a gratitude tree. The pods are a mixed group of students of different ages, backgrounds and programs.

- Door decorating challenge – focus on less waste than last year, more recycling of materials. STEM focus on this challenge with classes working with a specific theme for a chance to win the trophy. The class that wins the challenge wins the coveted handmade reindeer trophy.

- New pickleball court on the school grounds so the kids can play pickleball here as there was a disagreement with the pickleball group at Centennial Park.

- b. President's Report

Gaming audit ongoing right now. Myriah Foort helping Beth with this. Audit notice came into the PAC email and only 2 weeks to respond, was received last Friday. They want to know how far back records go. There is a binder for PAC spending that goes back 7 years, should be covered. Heads up to other PACs and DPAC that these audits will be happening re: gaming fund spending.

Sophie Lee helped with a poster asking for Yarn donations it was posted on a Facebook community page and Beth received so many donation offers and did many pick ups throughout the community.

Other people offered to drop off their donations at the school. One local resident donated a large tote of yarn and materials, she shared she is a retired principal and explained there is a lot of research around the benefits of youth learning to knit and crochet.

Treasurer's Report

3.b.i. Gaming bank balance Nov 29, 2023 = \$13,849.63

3.b.ii. Fundraising bank balance Nov 29, 2023 = \$3,256.17

Beth - We received \$225.44 from SD72 for PAC Discretionary Funds. Will be deposited into our Fundraising Account.

c. DPAC Report

Dino – was 15 minutes late at the last meeting and the meeting only ran 30 mins. DPAC AGM – everyone that held the DPAC positions last year were voted back in this year.

Crystal – At the last DPAC meeting there was a parent from another school who argued that the word unceded shouldn't be added to the territorial acknowledgement. His reasoning was that the Douglas Treaty was signed and therefore the land was ceded. Crystal attempted to deny his explanation and stated that this was unceded territory and unless he spoke and heard from the Laichwiltach chiefs and elders that he can't say the lands are ceded. Crystal said she felt dismissed by the DPAC as they did acknowledge that we are on Laichwiltach lands but would not include the unceded part to the territorial acknowledgement. She wrote a letter which was provided to Rachel Nelson and distributed to the PAC regarding this matter. She also sent the letter to the DPAC and SD72 with no response yet.

Crystal – offered to help with the DPAC social media accounts, they haven't responded back yet. She also had a list of suggested guest speakers to share with them for parent nights focused on Indigenous learning.

Beth – feels like DPAC used to share more information via social media and through other PACs and not much messaging from them in recent years.

4. Old business – Review outstanding gaming grant applications (2) and allocate funds

See Attached Spreadsheet

5. New business –

a. Vision Zero grant

Beth - Grant available to improve transportation and road safety around the school. Suggestion of flashing crosswalk lights at main crosswalk across 7th Ave. Suggestion of yellow paint along sidewalk by intersections, to maintain parking setbacks at intersections to improve visibility.

Sophie – EWP PAC surveyed local area to see how many vehicles and pedestrians were using the neighbourhood roads/sidewalks/etc. The EWP PAC put together a PowerPoint presentation for the City of Campbell River to approach them first to see what they could do to improve safety around the school. The EWP PAC presented at a recent City Hall meeting. Letters from concerned parents were included in the presentation.

Rachel – offered to email Phoenix parents to receive their feedback.

Beth – we would need a letter of support from the City of Campbell River for proposed transportation projects before applying for the grant. Beth has a contact at the City, Melissa.

Eric – more education needed for the school community re: rules of the road and road safety.

Sarah J – question about are there biking programs still running? And loaner bikes available? Beth confirmed Leah Wilson runs a mountain bike program again the Spring (March) and she has a bunch of loaner bikes.

Beth – if anyone wants to be involved with the grant application and process please let her know. The grant application is due Jan 15, 2024.

b. Fundraising

5.b.i. Comox Valley Waste Management

Beth – previous school groups have volunteered at the Comox Valley Waste Management to sort bottles and received money from bottles sorted. The Band and Quebec Trip Student Groups previously have done this.

The new rules are all bottles must be removed from the Waste Management site and sorted off site and then returned to the Waste Management site.

Jennifer – The Quebec Trip group will not be participating in this this year.

Beth -this is a fundraiser that would be available to us. It takes a few hours, can make up to \$2,500 in one day. If there is no burning need, it is a lot of work to coordinate – two trips to the Comox Waste Management site, need a cube van for transport etc. Beth said that she will get back to the contact person at Comox Waste Management and mention we don't have a need right now. They want the PAC to be the primary contact and any other fundraising groups to go through the PAC.

5.b.ii. Other ideas?

6. Other business

- 1) Sophie – funding is available for new teachers in the school district in the French Immersion program for the last 3 years up to \$1,000 each, for classroom/student initiatives. Pass along this information to the staff in the school and Quebec Trip coordinators.
- 2) Crystal – provided a spreadsheet with a list of proposed indigenous guest speakers including topics they would present on, and honorarium amounts and contact information. These are topics that would be presented to parents at the school, this could also be offered on a school district wide level. DPAC has \$4,500 available for guest speakers. This money could go toward the honorarium amounts. Suggested presentation dates are on Wednesdays in 2024, in alignment with Phoenix PAC meeting dates.

Beth – suggested that the DPAC be approached first as they have more funds available. The PAC would need to run some fundraising first as we don't have many funds left at the moment. Beth also suggested maybe a parent survey be sent out first to ensure topics that they are most interested in to ensure a high level of parent involvement.

Rachel – look at synchronizing funds between the DPAC, PAC and school. There might be learning resource funds available through the school where maybe an Open Gym night where the school could offer an opportunity for guest speaker presentation at that event.

Crystal – feels that all guest speakers should be included, and that PAC should support it.

Beth – feels that it would be important and want to ensure that it is a successful event. She mentioned that gaming grant money couldn't go toward this as it would be for parents and not students. Also, Phoenix PAC currently has no funds available, so dedicated fundraising would have to happen in advance of making any commitments to speakers.

Sophie – suggested hosting an evening at a later date maybe in April 2024 to give time to do a bit more fundraising and also promote it more through the school community. Depending on what DPAC decides, could consider 2 presentations (on the same evening) this school year and maybe 2 next year.

Beth – agreed that spreading the presentations out a couple this year and a couple next year. She said that she thinks this would encourage attendance too.

Sarah J – is there a way to survey parents on this?

Rachel – she will bring this to her indigenous department and will continue this discussion and will get back to Crystal on this.

7. Motions

Beth made a motion to approve \$500 from fundraising towards the funding request for Student Council Election and to approve \$1,000 from gaming to the indigenous department for the Indigenous artist, Adam Lewis seconded by Sarah Derks. Carried.

See attached spreadsheet for final gaming and fundraising allocations.

Next Meeting Date:

January 17, 2024 7pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:41pm