

École Margaret Jenkins School

Minutes for Parent Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2022 (7pm, Zoom)

Attendees: Maggie Black, Britta Bentz, Betty Greer, Heather Sanche, Rosie Burn, Leia Vik, Claire Helm, Megan Harvey, James Hansen (plus a few other parents – apologies for not getting your names down in the minutes!)

Regrets: Tariq Amlani, CJ Young, Heather Macdonald

1. Welcome and introductions - Maggie is chairing for the evening only.
2. Approval of the minutes from the Sept 29 meeting and agenda additions
3. Vote to add a co-treasurer to PAC Executive - motion passed successfully. Welcome to Cameron Black. Cameron will assist John MacKenzie with treasurer responsibilities; we are very grateful to former EMJS parent and PAC member Carolyn Wick who has helped with treasurer responsibilities for the past few years.
4. PAC Event / Project Updates

Hot lunch update

- all worked well except for recycling. Betty said that a few volunteers have signed up on the hot lunch website.
- Betty - everything hot lunch uses now can be composted or recycled. The school does not have compost because they tried compost a few years ago, but it was getting too contaminated.

Fall dance

- Leia and Clare - pizza order is in. DJ is booked. Kids are getting excited. Everything is prepared.
- Are there enough volunteers? Leia - we have enough for the event but will need people around to help with clean up.

Outdoor classroom project

- Heather Sanche - James took dream plan to Facilities and the plan was well-received by facilities. Their main concern in sustainability over time after families cycle through the school. The Garry Oak forest is an example of something that has fallen into disrepair when the “founders” left. Sustainability is on Heather’s radar. Next she will meet with Facilities. One of the main things is dealing with water issue that is affecting the school.

Heather reminded everyone this is a long-term project and the next steps are to break things down into stages and budget.

Walk-and-Wheel-to-School-Week

- Very positively received by staff. James and team appreciated how fast Heather M put it together.
- Summary of which divisions did best: Division 10 (87% active trips during the week) and Division 6 (98% active trips during the week) – these classes will receive a pizza lunch.

Grade 5 Activities

- Hoodie orders are due Oct 30th
- 35 hoodies have been ordered so far
- Planning for legacy art project and year end activities are underway.

Parent Education

- Heather M has not been able to connect on Internet Safety for parent education night yet.
- If there are parents who would like to organize an education night, please connect with the PAC.

Passive Fundraising

- Reminder needed: Finn and Izzie, Nicolas Randall, Fairway Market, Soap Exchange, Cobs
- **Rosie will add to next PAC newsletter.**

Teacher, Vice-principal and Principal's Reports

James Hansen - doing all 3 reports

Ashley - Teacher's Report - feedback from the parent meet was good. Ashley is also a big part of the outdoor play area plan. Staff is pleased with thought put into project and general direction (including an outdoor classroom and sustainability piece - both v important to staff).

James wants to emphasize that the outdoor playground project should go slow and involve facilities for their guidance.

James on **school goals: FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - Rosie will share in newsletter.**

Drafting from Spring of 2021 - Main 3 goals:

- 1 - inclusive school where all children can thrive
- 2 - as educators, we will collaborate with each other in our learning and out teaching
- 3 - learn and care about the environment we live in

Drafting of additional detail is ongoing and planned to be finalized soon.

Heather M - re **outdoor sports equipment**. Mr. Pite - PAC money could be used for basketball, soccer balls, hoops, rackets. Basketballs are quite expensive (\$40/ball). Outdoor basketballs are

cheaper (\$10 ish). New plastic boxes would be helpful for storage. **He said \$800-1000 from PAC would go a long way - FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED.**

James - **registration** - school is almost full.

21 divisions

11 French and 10 English.

English classes are almost entirely full. Almost full school.

Staff is now at full compliment.

Work on the logo - PAC at end of 2021 had the idea of a new logo. EMJS needs a champion for the project. The main thing with the logo is that we must connect with local First Nations through Indigenous Ed department. EMJS need to be squeakier wheel to get connected with a Lekwungen speaking nation of Esquimalt or Songhees FN to consult on logo.

Indigenous Library is now at EMJS. Indigenous Ed Department has stored material for 3-4 years at EMJS. One of staff is helping them cataloging their books and make sure books that have older attitudes are curated out. Advantage is that teachers in our building have access to the collection. Having the Indigenous Library is building up all the staff's understanding.

Lunch monitors - teachers are not supervising at lunch this year because of a decision between the district and the union, so grade 5 lunch monitors and 7 EAs help outside and inside lunches.

Question about parent's helping at lunch, but volunteers cannot take union jobs. Possible parents could take supervisor jobs over 45-minute lunch hour. This is something that could be looked into in the spring when school is restarting-it requires a part to be at lunch for 5 days per week.

Custodian - 6:30am to 11am this year. Last year was until 1:30. James cleans up anything that happens in the afternoon, unless it's vomit or blood, in which case they have to call someone in. It may mean the school seems a bit dirtier during the year.

Hurt deer in field - Conservation are the only people who will remove the deer. They prioritise deer that are still a danger to people.

Maggie - closing: **Walk-a-thon shirts and hoodies** - a number of them didn't get picked up last year. They got delivered to the teachers today. About 13 kids have left the school, so we need to decide what we do with them.

Today is last day to order pictures from Edge Imaging.

Question - **When/how can you join the PAC Exec? FURTHER ACTION: Okay if Rosie let's parents know how to join PAC Exec if they are interested in next newsletter?**

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm. Thank you, Maggie, for chairing!