

École Margaret Jenkins School

Parent Advisory Council Meeting- Minutes

Thursday, September 29, 2022 (7pm, Zoom)

Attendees: James Hansen, Heather Macdonald, Sarah Turnbull, Ashley Frketich, Tariq Amiani, CJ Young, Riley Jovanovic, Vanessa Silva Aristi, Elizabeth Woodward, Heather Sanche, Tonya Winton, Joe Day, Niki Sundher, Leia Vik, Carolyn Blum, Sarah Pridy, Jacqueline Sanchez, Chattaya Jitthumma, Iris, Suzanne Weckend, Betty Greer, Sarah Langdon, Shokoufeh Zandleh

Regrets: Britta Bentz, Rosie Burn, Maggie Black

1. Welcome and introductions – Heather welcomed the attendees, and stated gratitude for being able to work on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples.
2. Approval of the minutes from the June 8th meeting and agenda additions.
3. PAC overview & 2022/23 budget
 - i. Slide presentation about the role of the PAC from organizing and funding events, communications, liaison between parents/ admin, financial support to families when needed, supporting and encouraging the education and well being of students. Exciting to be running more in person events this year.
4. PAC Event / Project Updates
 - i. Hot lunch
 - a. Betty reported individual bags are no longer required. Menu remains the same and she is looking for more parent volunteers to help deliver the lunches – sign up [here](#). Cost of taking all the compost is \$10 per bag pick up. Maggie will do the 1st lunch this year. So far there are about 220 orders.
 - b. Order deadline for first lunch is Thursday, October 6. Order [here](#).
 - c. Heather mentioned that this is Betty's last year at EMJS so PAC is looking for a new hot lunch coordinator. Would be great if this could be someone from the current hot lunch team, as they know how things work.
 - ii. Outdoor classroom project
 - a. Heather Sanche reported that preliminary research has begun on this long term project. Heather has met with environmental consultant Lehna Malmkvist who has worked on the Bowker creek restoration who has offered to participate in discussions around the project. The committee toured the upgraded outdoor space at Strawberry Vale school. Next step will be to speak with facilities and staff and outline the stages planning. Preliminary draft drawings were presented which displayed the current water well on the grounds of EMJS and where the water pools to show why the remediation is necessary. Early ideas would be to add in trails and an outdoor classroom and potentially design the wetland to be used as a resource tied to the curriculum where kids could learn first hand about the natural aspects, indigenous factors and possibly have an edible garden. Ideal to find grant money as part of the fundraising.
 - b. James will take the plan as is to staff meeting, facilities is happy to start discussing early.
 - iii. Walk & Wheel to School Week
 - a. Students encouraged to get to school in whatever active mode to try and encourage physical activity and reduce congestion. Students can put names in a draw and win prizes. Classes with the most active trips can win a pizza lunch.
 - iv. Fall Dance
 - a. Leia Vik is organizing the dance. DJ has been booked and there will be craft table and pizza sales. Parents would who like to help plan the event can sign up [here](#).
 - v. Class reps
 - a. Still need reps for div 3,8,9,12, and 14. Sign up [here](#).

- vi. Grade 5 Committee
 - a. Luka Hayes is organizing the grad hoodies for Grade 5 students and Mme Small will coordinate a grade 5 legacy project. Any parents who would like to help can contact [Heather](#).
- vii. Staff appreciation
 - a. Betty reported that Staff Lunch will be brought in in February. Last year it was from Red Barn, this year might consider something different. Volunteers will be needed. Coffee and cookies are provided once a month on Fridays and greatly appreciated by staff.
 - b. Heather mentioned that this is another role PAC will be looking to fill next year.
- viii. Emergency supplies
 - a. Last year, the emergency supplies were refreshed. Now have water for the entire school with a 50 year shelf life and food with a 25 year shelf life. Leaks were discovered in the steel containers that hold the emergency supplies, so thinking of storing in plastic Tupperware's and might have to unpack and repack the contents of the containers.
 - b. Also have about 23 first aid kits. Checking if any items need replacing,
- ix. Parent education
 - a. Nothing currently planned, ideas are welcome.
 - b. Niki Sundher commented in the chat that she would be happy to present – she works with Saanich police and has spoken to preschool groups on topics such as preventing child abuse and internet safety.
- x. Passive fundraising
 - a. Reminders about our passive fundraising opportunities – Cobs Bread, Finn & Izzy (online only), The Soap Exchange, Mabel's Label's – details on our [website](#).
- xi. Other volunteer opportunities - sign up [here](#)
- 5. Teachers' update (Ashley Frketich)
 - i. Ashley thanked Heather for supporting programs, thanked Betty and Taryn for the treats, and Heather Sanche for the outdoor classroom project.
- 6. Administration's update (James Hansen & Tonya Winton)
 - i. Grade 4 FSAs are coming up which will assess literacy and numeracy. Used to guide student learning, not used for ranking students or teachers.
 - ii. Anaphylaxis – qualifying students at the school have an action plan and staff have training.
 - iii. Leadership groups have been run in previous years. This year Grade 4/5 teachers have created mini exploratory groups; every student will have an opportunity to learn leadership skills and participate in other activities (e.g., arts & crafts, woodworking, soccer). There will be 6 5-week rotations – students are in groups with kids from other classes and French and English kids are mixed – will hopefully promote more connections.
 - iv. Student population started off with 444 kids and 21 divisions. All teachers are in place. Grade 5 students are being trained as lunch monitors after the ruling by the union that teachers could no longer monitor during lunch time.
 - v. Student affordability fund through the school board trying to get the funding into families, hopefully EMJS will receive some of these funds.
 - vi. Custodian time has been cut back. Now has a morning (until 11am) and evening custodian.
 - vii. Strings program is back for grade 5 – 60 students participating once per week.
 - viii. Cross Country is coming up and trying to see if there is a way to compete with other schools. Hoping to have at least 1 or 2 district wide events. If not, will do a school run. Would also like to add some other sports at schools and multi school jamboree.
- 7. New business and open Q & A
 - i. Reminders to new parents that exec positions are opening up next year including Chair and hot lunch coordinator.
 - ii. Adherence to food guidelines to be monitored as part of the hot lunch program.
 - iii. Sept 30th Truth and Reconciliation events in the community.
 - iv. VPAC bringing attention to school board trustee candidates. Forums are taking place prior to the election.

Next meeting: Oct 20, 2022 on Zoom - register [here](#)

**Need to contact the PAC Exec? Email Chair@emjspac.ca or Exec@emjspac.ca
EMJS PAC Website, Online Orders and Class Contact Lists: <https://emjs.hotlunches.net>
Newsletter subscription: <https://tinyurl.com/ycn4fxab>
EMJS PAC on Twitter & Instagram: @emjs_pac
EMJS PAC Facebook group: [EMJS PAC](#)
School Website and Calendar: <https://margaretjenkins.sd61.bc.ca>**