

# PAC Meeting Agenda

**Date:** September 26, 2023

**Time:** 7PM

**Location:** School Library

*In Attendance:* Leanne, Marie, Sherisse, Charlotte, Shannon, Cassi, Jaime, Emily, Sally, Dana, Jackie, Nicole

*Online:* Esther

*Welcome/Call to Order 7:00pm* Leanne Letham

*Approval of Agenda:* Motioned by Dana, seconded by Jackie

## Principals Report

- 190 families are represented this year at Yarrow Elementary
- The school has 13 divisions and 27 staff members
- This year we have a literacy helper
- School goals this year: literacy, social responsibility, numeracy, working towards all students meeting expectations on the FSA next year
- Last year we had 80% of kids meeting literacy requirements. Goal is for next year to have 100% kids in the school meeting literacy requirements.
- District Motto this year is “Learning and growing together”.
- Focus this term is RESPECT
  - Respect for:
    - 1. My school
    - 2. Myself
    - 3. Others
- Friday is Orange shirt day. At 1:00 we will meet in the back field. All are welcome. Karen Suder has painted 200 rocks to place in a large heart after a moment of silence. The school will then go for a walk along the dike.
- October is **fire safety** month
  - Fire drill is coming up. Remind students to wear their shoes at all times during school and not to goof off in line when waiting outside during the drill.
  - Will have approx. 6 fire drills throughout the year.

- Please speak to your child's teacher or Charlotte if your child has anxiety when it comes to fire drills.
- October will also have an earthquake drill.
- We will have two lock down drills this year, the first one will probably be in December.
- Calendars are coming at the end of week
- Important upcoming dates:
  - Sept 29 National Truth and Reconciliation Day - Orange Shirt Day
  - Oct 2 Indigenous Day holiday
  - Oct 6 Pro D day
  - Oct 9 Thanksgiving holiday
  - Oct 18 Student-led conferences
  - Oct 19 Early dismissal
  - Oct 20 Pro D day
  - End of October (TBD) Pumpkin carving contest (at home event) Planners came today and should be in the students backpacks.

**Question** for Charlotte by mom of child in kindergarten: Why are lunches so short?

**Answer:** Our lunches are actually on the longer side compared to the rest of our district. Kindergarteners eventually learn to eat their lunches quickly instead of socializing. It's a learning curve for them. Kids can put snacks in their pocket if they need to eat more during the outside time.

**Guest Speaker** (Deanna Peters - United Way rep)

- Intro
  - Deanna married a Yarrowite and has been living in Yarrow for 16 years
  - She helped at the Yarrow elementary school for about 10 years
  - She ran the milk and fruit and veggie program as well as was a noon hour supervisor
  - Now Deanna is the Community builder for Yarrow for United Way
- Purpose
  - If you want to have an event locally (no charge events) they will give a grant up to \$1000
  - Examples include last years' Trunk or Treat, Books Bannock and Bingo, online scavenger hunt, Yarrow Days, tree lighting etc etc etc
  - The goal is to bring people together without people needing to spend out of their own pocket
  - Connecting through email is the easiest way to communicate with her if any families in school would like to take advantage of the program.

- The school/individuals can access the grants multiple times (they like to keep it to 3)

## Treasurer's Report

- Review of proposed budget 2023/2024
- Strategic plan discussion (runs at a deficit so we will review it next month)
- In a few words: we don't have a lot of money. We begin the school year with about \$700. We had to pull out approx. \$2000 from our terms last year to go towards technology for the school.
- We raised approx \$1800 between the Meet the Teacher BBQ and spirit wear sales this month.
- Will be doing a spirit wear order again this fall with our original graphic to raise more funds.
- We have some fundraisers coming up to hopefully bring in more money.
- The PAC usually gives teachers \$300 at the beginning of the school year to help with start up costs as a lot of it comes out of their own pockets. We also usually give money for field trips. Because of the lack of funds this year, we are allowing teachers to choose if they would like money for the start up costs or for field trips.
- Charlotte mentioned the school also gives to the teachers.
- Last year we gave \$300 per division plus the gym teacher.
- We put the amount to a vote.
  - *Nadia motioned to give \$300 to teachers this year.*
  - *Motion passed unanimously.*
- We have a fundraising goal of \$12,300-13,300 per year and to secure the \$2000 annually into new terms/investments for the Evergreen technology program. At the end of 2026 there will be a surplus in the technology account to allow for inflation and to support an additional technology project or roll over to the next 5 year plan.
- *Emily suggested trying the Amazon wish list again for the teachers so the PAC isn't depleted.*
- We were approved for \$1000 for the upcoming movie night from a United Way grant

## Chair Report

- We went over the handout \*How the PAC Communicates\*. This was recently sent out to families.
- We need volunteers to help with our committees. Signing up doesn't mean you have to lead the committee but ideas and help are needed to help run them smoothly and continue to have events and opportunities for the kids. We will primarily be posting on facebook to look for volunteers...please comment on the post to sign up.

## Overview

- \*Fundraising –( Marie) Most of the fundraisers are the same as what we have done in previous years. She is looking into Fundscrip to add into the mix ( Purchasing gift certificates and school gets % of sales).
- \*Events – (Sherisse) Would like volunteers to help with ideas and planning upcoming movie nights and possibly a fall event. Next movie night will be Oct 18.
- \*Hot Lunch – (Leanne) Last year was done by FUEL, feedback on the food wasn't positive so we will require more volunteers because it is more work to deal with restaurants.
  - Hot Lunch Schedule so far:
  - Rivers sushi in October
  - Perfekt Deli kids sandwiches for November
  - December is pizza lunch paid for by PAC
- Smoothie days are beginning again. Danae is willing to run them. Thank you Danae!
- Looking into popcorn days, need volunteers for that. Anyone to head that up? We bought a new bigger popcorn machine last year and need to use it!
- \*Spirit Wear – (Jackie) Will be doing an order in the fall and the spring

***NOTE: just because you sign up for one event doesn't mean you have to sign up for all***

**Question:** Can you bring your younger children while you help at events?

**Answer:** Yes

## **Other Business**

- Home Alone/Babysitter Course (pass on to Sally Lum as she usually hosts this through the community centre)
- Bike Week (Oct 16-29) Can we have a tent out front/prizes to encourage biking to school? Brent, a dad from the school, would love to help with this, ideas include having volunteers out front helping kids learn bike safety and fix any issues with their bikes.
- The affordability fund that was promised not to be taken back by the government has indeed been taken back so that is not available anymore.
- Food Drive (this is always run by the teachers) supports RAN (Ruth and Naomi non profit ministry). They are always SO happy to receive whatever we give.
  - **Question:** Can we support the Yarrow food bank as well with our donations?
  - **Answer:** We can support whatever charity the parents/kids would like but traditionally it has been RAN. Perhaps each charity gets a percentage?
- We as a school get support from local churches for our families in need - in the form of hampers etc.

- The school has granola bars, fruit cups, sandwiches, etc. available if kids forget their lunches (parents can donate physical food to this if they want). Sometimes kids try to use the food as a “treat center”. This is frowned upon.
- Breakfast program discussed by Charlotte. It is not in place at this time, it requires a lot of support. It would occur if there was a lot of need for it. Students are supported in a variety of other ways.
- If anyone needs help with school supplies ever, contact Charlotte and they can be given. Yarrow has LOTS of support available.
- A new popcorn machine was purchased last year. Do we sell the old one? Put to a vote:
  - *Emily motions to sell.*
  - *Unanimously passed.*
- Amanda Froese is willing to do the yearbooks again this year.
- DPAC rep was Shantini last year. Will ask and see if she is willing to do it again this year. If not, looking for someone to fill her shoes.

*Adjournment:* Jackie motioned to adjourn. Emily seconds. 8:30pm

**Next Meeting Tuesday October 24, 2023 (A week early due to Halloween)**