

Yarrow Community School PAC Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2024 - 7:00PM School Library

Attendees: Leanne Letham, Emily Arthur, Marie Vroom, Sherisse Ellerby, Jaime Kampman, Charlotte DeBruyn, Melissa Marlowe, Maddie Kuyek, Jade Kragh, Jamie Kulmatycki, Esther Falk

Welcome/Call to Order (Leanne 7:05PM)

Approval of Agenda Emily/Esther

Adoption of Minutes from previous PAC mtg (Emily/Esther Falk)

Principal's Report - Mrs. DeBruyn

- We received a United Way Love Grant of \$1000 to hold another Books, Bannock and Bingo on Feb 9.
- February is our Month of Kindness.
 - We will be participating in Pink Shirt Day but will not be selling pink shirts this year as in previous years. Be ready to wear your pink shirt on February 27th.
- Triple ball has begun and there are more opportunities for kids to play than regular volleyball (It is less painful than volleyball).
- Basketball for grade 4's and 5's is open to play at lunchtime. A teacher will take the kids to a tournament at the end of the season. If not enough grade 4 and 5 children come, it will be opened up to younger grades.
- Soccer will be coming back next year to replace what Mr Gregory was doing when he was here.
- One School One Book is about halfway done. Teachers have recorded themselves reading the book and kids can listen to it online, check it out! So far the feedback has been very positive. One of the Yarrow EA's did the artwork that you see around the school, it looks wonderful!
- We have a talent show coming up. The kids LOVE the talent show. There have been about 100 forms given out. We can't have 100 talent pieces so there will be auditions coming up.
 - March 8 is the talent show day, mark your calendars.
- March 11 an African drummer will be coming in to teach the kids for a couple days and then doing a presentation the last day. Cost is \$5000 (\$1000 from United Way Love Grant/\$2000 from Art Starts)
- New iPads will be coming, costing \$10,000. School is paying \$5000 of that.
- The Oodle Swing is what we would like to have for the playground as part of our goal of making it a playground that is accessible to all. A grant application was written but there hasn't been a response yet. The school is applying to the United Way and Transmountain Pipeline.
 - It was a bit hard finding a place to put it but we settled on a spot near the hockey court.
 - \$29,000 is the cost. It has to be insured and only certain companies can install it. Habitat is who we will be working with. It will take time to raise money for this.
 - We can raise money through donations, they will be given a tax receipt.

- Breakfast and Lunch Programs
 - Bowls of Hope has been out in the community for a long time. They make hot soup and deliver it everyday to schools.
 - We don't have it in Yarrow because we don't have a need for families who don't come with lunches-all our kids come with lunches.
 - We haven't had it for 10 years but it's always available if the need arises. This is the same with the breakfast program. For all the years Charlotte has been in the school, there hasn't been a need (besides kids forgetting to eat breakfast or being late).
 - There have been some needs at points and Charlotte knows who the families are and gives backpacks and vouchers and food to them.
 - If YOU know of a family, please let Charlotte know and it will be addressed. The school doesn't want to make a program for the sake of making a program if there isn't a need. Needs will be taken care of, please reach out!
 - The school book fair raised \$6000 and the Ruth and Naomi fundraiser raised \$6000. The school is great at giving when there's a need and the ability to raise lots of money is there.

- Activity Day Update
 - The Aldergrove Waterpark is approved!
 - Tentative date of **June 10**.
 - Cost is \$6.72 per kid plus bussing compared to \$25/kid for the Cultus Lake water slides.
 - The PAC will provide lunch for the kids.
 - The pool is very accessible for all ages. Will find out if it will be open for parents to come join.
 - Greendale has about 180 kids and we have 275, the limit is 600 for the pool.

- Staffing:
 - Mrs Henderson went on a leave from Gr 3- Mrs Threfall is covering, Mrs. Bessie will be back after spring break.
 - Mrs Falk is returning from her maternity leave, Ms Boucher (Gr 2)will be leaving after Spring Break
 - Mrs Bauml had her baby, a little girl named Maisy
 - Mrs Philips had a baby boy and Mrs Fischer is replacing her

- Feminine hygiene products were installed in all bathrooms over Christmas, boys and girls.
 - It is district mandated.
 - It is to provide barrier free accessibility for everyone.
 - They are not kept full at this time as it has caused a lot of vandalism and money due to clogged toilets and feminine products stolen.

- Important Upcoming Dates
 - Feb 9th Books Bannock and Bingo
 - Feb 14th Valentines Day
 - Feb 15th PAC movie night
 - Feb 19th Family day
 - Feb 27th Pink shirt day/hot lunch

Chair Report - Leanne Letham

- Contacting PAC with concerns -What are appropriate ways of contacting PAC members?
 - PAC Email (yarrowpac@gmail.com)
 - Come to the Meetings,
 - Do not approach individuals individually, some issues are being brought forward in unkind and unconstructive ways
 - One issue called into question is PAC spending and some parents not agreeing with it. We want to support the kids and the school and the turnout for meetings is very low so we continue on with what we have to work with. There are monthly financial reports at meetings and we are transparent with each dollar spent.
 - A Parent Survey is an option- where do we want to concentrate spending? Ideas on what activities to do? Who would like to help create this? We would like someone to head this up. Let us know if that is you!

- Playground (we would like to help raise \$ towards this)
 - We are thinking of sending out letters to companies in the area and the district would provide tax receipts and donors could be recognized with a plaque at the swing. Any feedback on that?

- Strategic Plan will be presented and voted on at the next meeting in Feb (Committee? We may put some Polls on FB)

DPAC Report - Jamie Kampman (full information is available on the BCCDPAC website. The following is a short condensed list of what was discussed at the recent meetings).

- A/C for portables
 - Will be purchased by district
 - Installed by spring break
- EA Supports
 - 5-10 year plan
- Vaping
 - Becoming an issue now in elementary schools
 - Trying to figure out the best way to approach it as it has been described as a "moving target"
- Bussing shortage
 - This is essentially an infrastructure problem

- Trying to figure out what to do with kids who arrive at school earlier than when there is supervision
 - The bussing shortage is a big problem with no clear immediate solution
- Affordability Fund
 - How was this used?
 - Was it accessed by schools?
- Menstrual Health
 - Barrier free for all who need it in schools, installed in both gender bathrooms
- Childcare Survey
 - Each parent should have received this by email by now
- Advocacy Letters
- SOGI 123 ([SOGI \(bccpac.bc.ca\)](https://bccpac.bc.ca))
 - DPAC attended a school board mtg that was interrupted by SOGI protestors
 - SOGI is a proven and researched tool
- Chilliwack Healthier Communities Committee
 - DPAC is a member of this
 - Supports Chilliwack Youth Health Centre
 - This was their first year of doing “Plant a Row for Us” (Salvation Army)
 - Great success for Sardis Secondary harvests
- Accessible Playgrounds
 - DPAC doesn't have the capacity for a committee right now but will continue to advocate to the district
 - They are trying to make all playgrounds wheelchair accessible.
- Resolutions ([Town Hall - Resolutions \(bccpac.bc.ca\)](https://bccpac.bc.ca))
 - Ordinary
 - Special
 - Process for Submission
- AGM is May4/5, 2024

Treasurer Report - Emily Arthur

(No PAC mtg in December so both reports are being presented now)

- We started the year with under \$1000 and had to build up from there...thanks for the support!
- What the PAC has done recently
 - PAC got a United Way grant that went towards One Book One School
 - PAC also paid for the prizes with that
 - PAC provided Pizza lunch in December
 - PAC hosted the coffee truck with United Way in Dec
 - PAC has been doing smoothies with the bike powered blender
 - PAC will be paying \$300/teacher for 13 divisions this Feb for extra supplies etc
- Our expenses have been minimal
- Hot lunch was Chopped leaf in January. Mixed reviews on that. Lowest ordering so far. Might not revisit it for a while. Feb will be Pizza, always a large order.
- We sold our old popcorn machine to a local church for \$250.

- We have \$9500 money in the bank now which is great. (This does not include the gaming grant.) With over \$2000 being owed to hot lunch.
- Activity day in June will probably be covered by the gaming grant.

Committee Reports

- **Emily - Auction Committee**
 - Looking for volunteers- PLEASE contact us ASAP if you can help with this. It will be held sometime in April.
 - We will approach local businesses for donations and outside the community if needed.
 - We've applied for West Jet's Gift of Flight for the auction. Anywhere they fly you can go if you win.
 - If you have connections with local businesses please let us know and we can get our letter out.
 - We would put the money towards supporting the accessible playground and having money available for the PAC to start next year (the PAC had to begin with \$0 this year).

- **Fundraising Report - Marie**
 - The auction is the big one we are looking forward to.
 - Neufelds will still be done before spring break in March.
 - The last fundraiser will be for Mothers Day with So Luxury, a locally based company in Mission. They will give 50% profit to us, that's the largest we have ever received. May 12 is mothers day so we would hold it in the weeks prior.

- **Events Report - Sherisse**
 - Jan movie night had to be cancelled due to the weather.
 - There weren't any other dates available to reschedule until Feb which is when our next movie night was going to be anyway.
 - We switched the Feb date to the 15th as it is one day after the One School One Book event and we will show the "Ivan" movie which will link with the book.
 - Joe Skillen, a company owned by parents whose kids attend Yarrow generously donated hot dogs, buns and treats for the original movie night so we will carry that forward to Feb. Please let us know if you are able to volunteer for this.
 - If there are any other companies owned by families in Yarrow, you are more than welcome to participate in events like this by donating food/treats/items. It's so nice to see local companies and families supporting the kids!
 - As always, if anyone has ideas and ALSO wants to help out with future events, we would love to hear about it. (The emphasis being on helping out with your idea because we all are "busy" with families, life and jobs :)
 - March 8 will be the following PAC Movie Night.

- **Food Report** - Leanne
 - Hot lunch and popcorn days are our current food commitments. We are open to other ideas.
 - Jan popcorn day got cancelled due to the weather so the next one will be in Feb.
 - Hot Lunch will be from Fresh Slice - Feb 29.
 - We will do a FB poll for the next two hot lunch options.

Other Business

- Parent Concerns - food programs
 - Charlotte addressed this in her principal's report above. It will be addressed also in the parent survey coming up. Please fill it out.
 - Next Meeting - Strategic Plan will be presented and voted on. Volunteers appreciated to help with this (it will be sent out in advance.)

Adjournment

8:02PM

Motion to adjourn-Esther/Jaime

Next Meeting Tuesday February 27, 2024 @ 7PM @ YCS