

Porter Street PAC



Minutes for PSPAC MEETING Thursday October 5th, 2023

In-person Meeting @ Porter Street Elementary
6:30 - 7:30pm



Visit our website www.PSPAC.com

Attendees

Principal and PAC Executives:

Ashif Jiwa (Principal), Jenn Faccin (PAC Chair), Ashley Ainsley (PAC Secretary), Silviya Vasilevska (PAC Treasurer), Angie Lee (DPAC Representative)

Members (25):

Karen Bhartu, Stephanie Campbell, Dal Parhar, Ashley Semenoff, Bahareh Hajari Zadeh, Hetal Kanabar, Tiffany Fonseka, Heather Wallace, Heather Nowak, Nicole Marcelin, Shikha Khandeleval, Vipul Goyal, Steven Faccin, Anne Barbosa, Wella Santa Ana, Xu Hou, Kimberly Sivak, Noel Faytone, Joe O'Reilly, Judith Effen-Kokou, Parisa Mohammadi, Golnoosh Bizhani, Aviegaille Icban, Katie Taylor, Tiffanie Tromp

Quorum is met

Introduction

- 1. Commence meeting:** Jenn called the meeting to order at 6:35pm
 - Acknowledgments, Welcome & Introductions
- 2. Adopt previous minutes - May 23, 2023**
 - Vipul motioned to adopt previous minutes, Ashley seconded. Previous minutes are adopted.
- 3. Additions to agenda**
 - No additions to the meeting.

Business Arising

Jenn discussed the purpose of the PAC and advised parents that all are part of the PAC.

4. Principal's Report

- Welcome to all parents - we have a great turnout and hope it continues through the year.
- All money raised is for the students - to support learning and offer fun events. Certain funds must be used for particular types of events.
- Ashif explained the reasons behind split (or blended) classes at the school - it is to accommodate all students within class size limits. French catchment area is fairly large which

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results in larger numbers of students. English catchment area is smaller, and with a smaller student base there is more need for split classes.

- School is making certain changes to ensure program of choice (French) is given same prominence in the school. Moving French learning assistance to the middle of school and tomorrow the school will hold its first bilingual assembly.
- Jerseys - PAC will fundraise for new sports jerseys.
- SOGI curriculum (sexual orientation and gender identity). Ashif explained it is part of the curriculum and the basis of it is being inclusive of everyone. It is not a part of the curriculum that can be opted out of. Last year there were some challenges from parents to some of the teachers discussing this curriculum in their classrooms. This year, Ashif has determined he will lead these discussions and will be the main point of contact for parents who have questions about this curriculum. There are resources in the school library. An email will go out with more information to parents. Principal's view is that any learning on this curriculum in the school is an excellent opportunity for parents to open up discussions about any different belief systems or values in their own households.

5. Upcoming Events, Projects & Updates

- Planned events for 2023/2024 year:
 - i. PJ/movie night (Oct)
 - ii. Paint night (Nov)
 - iii. Pancake breakfast with craft market (Dec)
 - iv. Bingo night (Feb)
 - v. PJ/movie night (Mar)
 - vi. Spring picnic (May)
- KM club
 - i. Currently run by Laura but we need someone to take it over as she is no longer at the school next year. She has offered to train the person who wants to take over
- Ongoing fundraisers: recycling, mabels labels, tru earth. Jenn will send out a link for parents interested in these fundraisers.
- Hot Lunch Update (Jenn)
 - i. Hot lunch will take place on the third Thursday of every month this year
 - ii. Ordering is already up on munchalunch
 - iii. Looking for parent volunteers to help hand out food on hot lunch days. It's a nice easy way to get involved as it's a short commitment.
- Fruit & Veggie program
 - i. Permission forms have gone home already.
 - ii. BC farmers provide excess of fruits and veggies. Children with allergies are catered for.
 - iii. Approx 3hr commitment once per month
 - iv. Reach out to Tiffany if interested

6. Treasurer's Report

- Silviya provided a general report on 2023 current standing in
 - i. Savings: \$6,408.04

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- ii. Gaming: \$6,613.50. These are for events that benefit the whole community, not just the school.
- iii. Chequing: \$13,749.01. For general budgeted spending on PAC events and commitments.
- iv. School funds: \$0. This money comes from online donations. An email will be coming from the Principal. Donations tend to cover approx. half of spending.
- This year we are raising money for a commitment to upgrading the school technology.
- Most funds go to curriculum enhancement fund, which is funding additional events and activities for students which are not covered by school funding.
 - i. Next week the school is having a capoeira demonstration and workshops. The school does not get funding for these types of events. PAC funds it.
 - ii. Other events such as staff appreciation lunch, grade 5 graduation.
 - iii. Additional playground equipment to enhance items that were funded by the government but did not fully cover needs.
 - iv. Each class gets \$225 toward supplies and field trips.
- In summary, all of the money raised is going back to the students to improve their school experience.
- Gaming account funds need to be spent within 3 years of receiving the grant. PAC will review timing of funds received to determine timeline for spending and plan accordingly.
- PAC must still apply for this year's gaming grant.

7. Voting Items - 2023/2024 budget

- Silviya reviewed the proposed PAC budget for the 2023/2024 year
- Projecting approx. \$43,000 income from various sources
- Expecting a deficit of approx. \$2,000 due to technology enhancement spend
- PAC has sufficient funds to cover the deficit
- PAC likes to keep \$3,000-\$5,000 float to cover unexpected items
- Typically PAC provides money to cover hardship (where families cannot pay for student participation in certain events). This year the government has provided extra funding for this purpose.
- Bahareh asked about a discussion last year to cover expenditures for outdoor tables. PAC members explained this project is under discussion, and because they are for community use gaming funds can be used for that purpose.
- Past-chair Nicole explained that the budget represents the base expenses the PAC has agreed to fund for the year. PAC is open to any suggestions from parents of different ways to spend money or new project
- Nicole motioned to approve the proposed 2023/2024 budget, seconded by Karen
 - i. 21 eligible voters
 - ii. Votes for: 21 / against: 0
 - iii. Motion passes unanimously; 2023/24 budget is approved

8. DPAC Update

- Angie provided an update on the items discussed at the DPAC meeting on October 4, 2023
- Angie advised parents that all are welcome to attend DPAC meetings for more information about what is happening at the district level

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- Info sessions
- IEPs will be discussed at the next meeting - date to be provided by Mr. Jiwa via email

9. Additional Items

- Principal explained how hardship spending is done. The school has access to funds specifically purposed for assisting families facing hardship. Parents in need are encouraged to reach out. Parents who know of a family in need should encourage them to reach out or let the school know.
 - i. For example - hot lunch is purchase for approx 7 children. Field trips are taken care of. Principal purchases Superstore gift cards to distribute to these families.
- Principal noted for grade 5 parents that there will be a meeting for those families to discuss grade 5 grad.

10. Adjourning

- Closing comments
 - i. Next meeting November 22, 2023
 - ii. We plan to stick to in person meetings but will do a survey to determine interest in hybrid meetings.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm