

# Porter Street PAC



## Minutes for PSPAC MEETING Wednesday November 22, 2023

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



Visit our website [www.PSPAC.com](http://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), Nicole Marcelin (past chair)

Members (14):

Elisha Jang, Fatemeh Renani, Katie Taylor, Anika Calder, Kimberly Thurd, Steven Janes, Heather Wallace, Claire McCrea, Kylie Wright, Joe O'Reilly, Jodi Frisk, Amy Williams, Tiffany Fonseca, Kalfana Kaushile,

**Quorum is met**

### **Introduction**

1. **Commence meeting:** Jenn called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
  - Acknowledgments, Welcome & Introductions
2. **Adopt previous minutes - Oct 5, 2023**
  - Nicole motioned to adopt previous minutes, Ashley seconded. Previous minutes are adopted.
2. **Additions to agenda**
  - Ashley noted the scheduled guest speaker could not attend and the OSC item would be removed from the agenda.
  - Ashley moved to add a discussion around meeting format.
3. **Principals Report**
  - Ashif thanked everyone for coming and noted another great turnout.
  - Grade 5 parent meeting just before this - 10-15 in person and 30 online. This is great when we just want to get information out. Connection at in person meetings is important for PAC.
  - New secretary started this week - Jacqueline Becker. Lives in tri-cities and has kids in the district. Has been a great help so far.
  - Email sent out regarding late arrivals to school in the morning. Doesn't set up for the best mornings. Certain teachers do a soft start to the day (reading, quiet, etc.) to help facilitate transitions. There can be up to 45 minutes of clerical time to account for missing attendees. Late attendees or joiners coming in through separate doors can lead to miscommunication about attendance. He understands parking is a challenge, like at every school. Remember that staff

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parking is for staff only. There is a drop and go area. No parking here. Neighbours have complained about parents blocking driveway. Thank you for your cooperation with following rules and road signs.

- Lunches and garbage/recycling. School has historically done pack in/pack out, but school will start to teach proper garbage and recycling procedures.
- Today Porter delivered lunch to Hazel Trembath to help provide support in this difficult transition time.
- This year, no winter concert but there will be a special winter activity. IN the past, gingerbread decorating and singing in the gym. Concert will come back next year.
- OSC - in the old computer lab there is space where Step By Step has applied to use for OSC program in future. Still going through licensing. May start as early as January. Likely to be more new spaces. More information to come.
- Board is now responsible for daycare/OSC for students up to grade 9. There will be surveys, etc. for planning purposes.
- Ashif sent an email several weeks ago regarding SOGI. Approx. 25 emails back from families. Around 15 were thankful about the school taking the initiative. Others had questions and objections, largely tied to differing religious views. Parents have been respectful on discussions about this topic. It is up to each teacher how much is covered and in what way in the classroom.
- STEAM initiatives -AT the end if time

## **Business Arising**

### **4. Jersey Replacement Options**

- Vote at next meeting to determine how many jerseys to purchase. The current jerseys are very large. Ashif showed an example - they fit him! They are extremely large, particularly on younger children. However, they are in great shape.
- Ashif showed the choice that is favoured for the new jerseys. It will be blue in line with school colours and
- When ordering new it will cover Youth medium to Youth extra large
- Options for the vote will be on how many to buy - 40 now (\$1400) or 20 this year (\$700) and another 20 next year (\$700)
- One parent raised whether this would make a good item for Grade 5 legacy
- Question regarding style - T shirt vs. basketball style. T shirt is warmer, but more comfortable for kids where the arm holes are not revealing.
- PAC will still vote on it at next meeting. Then if grade 5s decide to give it as a legacy they can do it instead.
- Question whether 40 is sufficient. May be worth raising to 60 since that's how many will be needed.

### **5. After school Programs**

- PAC is seeking feedback on the available programs - Jody.
- Younger students signing up more frequently than older students. Is there something else we could offer to entice older kids?

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- Jan - looking at Queen's Academy and Place des Arts general art program. May offer for younger grades as there is not enough interest from older grades. Looking at VR program.
- Nicole - her kids signed up to Place des Arts program and did not enjoy so that is why they aren't signing up. Her other child gave feedback that they miss theatrics. She believes there's
- Place des Arts offers other programs that students participate in separately and enjoy ("sine time")
- Staying away from sports because those are available separately
- Chess and Lazer Masters (alternative chess)

## 6. Upcoming Events, Projects & Updates

- Santa Pancake Breakfast
  - i. Showed photos from last year
  - ii. Sunday December 10 -
  - iii. This year there will be a craft marketplace as well
  - iv. We need pancake flippers! Outside organization not helping out this year. We need individuals to make batter, flip pancakes, hot beverage table, craft tables, help with Santa station
  - v. Joe to try to source pancake dispensers
  - vi. Service times? 50 tickets per timeslot per 30 minutes to not overwhelm pancake makers and avoid long wait times.
  - vii. Volunteer breakfast service at 8:30-9:00am with reduced ticket price.
  - viii. This will be open to general public as well. As a community event, we can use gaming funds toward this
  - ix. We will be set up with cashless payments
  - x. Pancake breakfast save the date to go out very soon! Will also call for volunteers.
- Hot Lunch
  - i. Next hot lunch date tomorrow Nov 23.
  - ii. Jan/Feb/March menus up as soon as Dec comes down
  - iii. Ordering closes 10 days prior to delivery date. All 3 menus up at same time, but only close as it comes up to the specific lunch date.
- KM Club
  - i. Laura runs this currently. It is well enjoyed by students.
  - ii. A parent raised whether this could be run during school times instead. Certain classes do this on a class by class basis, but it's too difficult to organize school-wide. However, the point of THE KM club is to get parents and others involved.
  - iii. Virtually and in person, like was done during Covid?
  - iv. Some daycare pick ups stay back to allow the kids to participate.
  - v. Laura's kids are moving on next year so we need someone to take it over. Ashif noted that PAC exec puts in a lot of work for all of the events, so please parents volunteer to help at these events or run clubs to help our children.

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- Fundraising to help pay for technology update this year
  - i. Family donation
- Fundraising to date:
  - i. PJ/movie night (Oct): \$424
  - ii. Holiday Photos: \$420
  - iii. Paint night (Nov): \$57 - less lucrative but a great night. will consider running another night with kids as there were some requests from parents.
  - iv. Hot lunch - each day so far just over \$500. Parent suggested increasing this to 2x per month. Jenn noted we have already increased to every month. It is a lot of work and it is a lot on the hot lunch coordinator. We could consider increasing frequency if there is another volunteer to assist with coordinating with restaurants.
- Fruit and veggie program, run by Tiffany. Parents wash and sort fruit, and student helpers bring it out to the classrooms. Next one is mandarin oranges and milk
- Ongoing fundraisers: recycling, mabels labels, tru earth. We will circulate slides to parents so they have the information.

## 7. PAC Action Group Chat

- Please consider joining the group chat for information, input and to be involved.
- This will be a group chat for anything PAC related or generally school related

## 8. Call for childminders

- QR code for childminder volunteers. We need 2 for each meeting and they are paid \$20 for their time. We will do a draw to choose order in which volunteers are contacted for upcoming meetings.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

- Silviya provided a general report on 2023 current standing in
  - i. Savings: \$6,424.11
  - ii. Gaming: \$6,613.50. Majority of gaming funds received September 2022.
  - iii. Chequing: \$17,545.52.
  - iv. School funds: \$4,720.
  - v. We received an extra donation of \$300
  - vi. We are in good shape to funding our commitments for this year.

## 10. DPAC Update

- Angie attends monthly DPAC meeting. Last meeting was talking about report cards, and how it has shifted from focusing on grading to a focus on growth, development and learning. This has been happening at elementary level for years, but grade 9s will notice a big change.
- There was a presentation on IEPs. DPAC website has the slide show available on their website from this presentation. Covered what IEP is and how they work.
- Upcoming meeting regarding nutrition for families which will also be online

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- i. Ashif noted that school is looking at a hot breakfast program to utilize government funding available. Porter demographic likely does not call for a full hot breakfast every day. A grab and go system is likely to be more relevant and widely used here. May look at doing a special sit down breakfast once per month. Challenge is determining the best timing to feed kids without too large of a gap prior to school start time. More information to come. Banting has a canteen operated within the school which works very well, run by a Porter parent. Ashif to reach out.
- o Additional information will be circulated.

## Additional Items

### 11. STEAM update

- o This is worked into many aspects of the curriculum. There are group projects. Ashif went on the roof to drop eggs in various structures to see what would keep them from breaking. That;s STEAM,
- o School has specific equipment for STEAM activity but it's more than just that.
- o Minecraft collaboration with kwikwetlem first nation.
- o School has a STEAM cart which goes around
- o Varies class by class
- o STEM activities include designing, creating, testing, adjusting

### 12. Meeting format

- o It has been raised that we would like to return to hybrid
- o Difficulty is getting everyone to hear
- o Also difficult for voting
- o We could stream it so that people could tune in to get information, but would not be able to participate
- o Please have conversations and let us know what everyone wants
- o A parent noted they attended a workshop recently and microphone was used. She will look into it.

### 13. Pancake breakfast dietary needs

- o Jenn requested input for dietary needs for pancake breakfast so we can be as accommodating as possible

**14. Truffle pig** - see email from Mr. Jiwa sent earlier today. Make sure to use the code. It's a great fundraiser with great chocolate. Claire runs these fundraisers - thanks!

**15. PAC Website** - it does get updated, but if anyone wants to help with this it would be greatly appreciated.

### 16. Adjourning

- o Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm
- o Next meeting January 17, 2024