

Porter Street PAC



Minutes for PSPAC MEETING #1 **Monday September 23, 2024**

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



Visit our website www.PSPAC.com

Attendees (21)

Ashif Jiwa (Principal), Jenn Faccin (PAC Chair), Silviya Rankova (PAC Treasurer), Ashley Ainsley (PAC Secretary), Angie Lee (DPAC Representative), Kathleen Green, Tiffany Sek, Heather Wallace, Ashley Semanoff, Steve Faccin, Hudson Wong, Eileen Ni, Kalpona Kaushile, Jennifer Reily, Anne Barbosa, Aaron Lee, Anika Calder, Jacky Zhang, Harbir Deel, Tiffanie Tromp, Charlie Parmar .

Voting Members (20)

Quorum is met

Introduction

- 1. Commence meeting:** Jenn called the meeting to order at 6:31pm
 - Land acknowledgment, Welcome & Introductions
 - i. Jenn introduced 2024/25 PAC execs and coordinators
 - ii. Jenn went through the PAC structure and advised parents that all are part of the PAC.
 - iii. Discussed the purpose of the PAC.

Business Arising

- 2. Principal's Report**
 - Welcome to all parents -thank you so much for coming. We know everyone is busy. It takes a village to raise our children and we are that village.
 - We are lucky to have a fantastic school community, including hard working staff, and a PAC that is involved with open communication with the school
 - Principal asked all parents to keep dialogue as open as possible. While class chat groups are great for connecting parents, the conversations in those groups sometimes mean things don't get brought to the school's attention. Please encourage parents to be open with the school.
 - School was given a grant from Maxine Wilson and family for the new murals in the main hallway and in the gym.
 - How does the school get funded for student's needs? Funding comes from the district based on headcount for students and composition of the student population. Money is provided from the government to the District, and then allocated by the District to all the schools within the district. Currently the school is advocating for more support as they don't feel there is enough allocated from the District for current needs.
 - i. The school then gets to decide how to use the resources (headcount, money) allocated to the school. Mme Rowe is heading up the student support services this year.

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- Principal's purpose/aim is CONNECTEDNESS. He wants students to feel like they belong, that the school is their community and safe place. He wants students to feel supported and to be able to take risks.
- Split classes/blends
- SOGI curriculum. This is an important part of the school curriculum. It is an important part of making everyone feel like they belong in the school. The Principal is very passionate about the SOGI curriculum.
 - i. The amount it is covered in each class is up to the teacher and their comfort levels.
- Hardship. Times are hard for everyone, and the Principal is aware that even the school is creating extra expense demands on parents with school supplies, etc. The government has given school districts money to help families experiencing hardship. Parents should reach out to the school if they need help.

3. Upcoming Events, Projects & Updates

- Planned events for 2023/2024 year:
 - i. PJ/movie night (Oct 18, 2024)
 - ii. Pancake breakfast with craft market (Dec 1, 2024)
 - iii. Bingo night (Feb)
 - iv. Spring picnic (May)
- We need volunteers to help run all events! A link will be available on munchalunch.
- KM club
 - i. Huge hit with students. New volunteer running the club this year
 - ii. Also need parent volunteers to help this club run
 - iii. This Wednesday will be the first meeting
- Hot Lunch Update
 - i. First hot lunch will be this week on Friday.
 - ii. Hot lunches are a big source of fundraising revenue for PAC.
 - iii. Ordering is already up on munchalunch - closes 10 days prior to the lunch date. Deadline for next Hot Lunch is tomorrow.
 - iv. Looking for parent volunteers to help hand out food on hot lunch days.
- Fruit & Veggie program
 - i. Tiffanie and Brandy Bailey run the fruit and veggie program.
 - ii. In previous years it was fruit & veggies and milk. This year the milk will not be included.
 - iii. Volunteers are also needed for handing out the fruit and veggies
 - iv. We will likely need volunteers to take over coordinating this program after next year.
 - v. Produce comes from local farmers. Some new items this year - hard boiled eggs, yogurt.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Silviya provided a general report on 2024 current standing in:
 - i. Savings: \$4,645.55
 - ii. Gaming: \$7,028.94. These are for events that benefit the whole community, not just the school. Can only be spent on specific initiatives. Funds must be spent within 2 years of receiving grant.
 - iii. Chequing: \$6,505.09 . For general budgeted spending on PAC events and commitments.
 - iv. School funds: \$0.

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- Gaming grant has been applied for this year but we are still waiting on the result. We will know by next meeting.
- Sylviya presented this year's budget which was approved last year. We have increased the revenues compared to what was approved based on additional hot lunches for this year and addition of Bingo night. We have coordinators for hot lunches and events, which will help us carry out these initiatives this year.

5. Gaming Grant Funds Proposals

- Sylviya explained the gaming grant funds are subject to restrictions. We can use it for family engagement events, beautification of common spaces, extracurricular clubs
 - i. Proposals that have been put forward include a blackstone griddle for events, concrete ping pong tables for the schoolyard, replacement curtains for the stage.
 - ii. If anyone has an interest in running a special interest club, please let us know - gaming grant money can be used to fund it.
- Next meeting the PAC exec wants to put forward proposals for consideration. All parents are welcome to submit any ideas to put forward.

6. DPAC Update

- Upcoming DPAC meeting on October 2, 2024.
- Topic: PAC 101
- Location - Winslow Avenue
- Any questions from parents about District matters can be directed to Angie

7. Fundraising

- Ongoing Fundraisers: Mabel's Labels, Return-It Depot, Frans Flowers, Tru Earth

8. Other reminders

- PAC Action Group - Whatsapp group to connect with PAC and other parents in the school
 - i. PAC will use it to call for volunteers and parents are welcome to ask questions
- Call for childminders at PAC meetings - we pay \$20 per meeting to each childminder (2 per meeting). We draw from the availability list

9. Adopt previous minutes - May 27, 2024

- Jenn motioned to adopt previous minutes, Ashley seconded. Previous minutes are adopted.

10. Parent questions

- Cell phone policy - what is the school doing?
 - i. Mr. Jiwa answered that the rule in the district is K-9 no cell phone access at all during the school day.
 - ii. It has not been an issue at Porter Street.
- A parent's wife works with Transit Police - would the school be interested in a safety demonstration from Transit police? (e.g., crossing street, stranger awareness, etc.)
 - i. Mr. Jiwa confirmed the school would be interested and asked the parent to get in touch.

Adjourning

- Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm