

Parent Advisory Committee - ir James Douglas Elementary - General Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2015.

Attendees: Paula Marchese, Brenna O'Connor, Isadora DeBortoli, Raj Mehta, Alex Cruikshank, Michelle Gilmour, Janice Williams, Jen Canterbury, Alice Cochran, Nancy Needham, Tanya Binette, Karen Henry, Ann Tvarozkova, Laura Jones, Kris Repay, Murray Harris.

1. Welcome: Co-chairs Paula Marchese and Laura Jones welcomed everyone.
2. Past Minutes: The Minutes from the meeting of September 16, 2015 were reviewed and accepted. Those Minutes will be posted on the PAC website.
3. Treasurer's Report by Alice Cochran:
 - We have \$18,000 in our operating budget and another \$18,000 in gaming funds (\$20 per child in the school) and a Rainy Day Fund. The gaming funds are subject to some restrictions (e.g. not for educational activities).
 - The 2015/2016 Budget will be discussed and set at our November 2015 meeting.
 - School District 61 will be accepting applications for grants of up to \$250 per individual school for parent education. One parent has expressed interest in parent ed workshops and has been asked to arrange a workshop on anxiety.
4. School Update by Murray Harris and Brenna O'Connor:
 - Many changes are coming up this year, including a new curriculum, new reporting systems and mechanisms, and an increased emphasis on aboriginal awareness throughout the curriculum.
 - Murray and Brenna want to build competencies and community within the school staff. In particular, they want to increase student success by increasing opportunities for staff to collaborate and work together.
 - Brenna will be working with Fresh Grade, a new program to be used by some of the Grade 4 and 5 teachers to showcase learning through creating online digital archives that student, teachers, and parents can access.
 - Grade 5 students will be interviewing other classes for the school newsletter.
 - Clubs: There are two Math Clubs and a Science Club this year.
 - Murray will explore different ways to communicate with parents through the school website and a shorter newsletter.
 - Pro-D days – Two more Pro-D days in this school year are now required by SD61 to address the new curriculum. These two dates have not been set.
5. Election of the PAC Executive: A quorum was not present at the Executive meeting in May 2015 so the election was adjourned to October 2015. For the 2015/2016 school year, offers by the following volunteers to be on the PAC Executive were accepted:
 - Co-chairs: **Isadora DeBortoli and Paula Marchese**
 - Vice-chair: **Janice Williams**

- Treasurer: **Alice Cochran**
- Secretary: **Karen Henry** (another volunteer will be sought as needed)
- Directors at large: **Jen Canterbury, Nancy Needham, Michelle Gilmour, Alex Cruikshnk, Tanya Binette, Laura Jones and Kris Repay.**
- Victoria Confederation Parent Advisory Council: **One person is needed.**
- Canadian Parents for French: **Raj Mehta**

6. Hallowe'en Update:

- Many volunteers are needed. It is too late to invite students from Central Middle School and Victoria High to volunteer for the Hallowe'en Dance, but we will ask the Holiday Emporium coordinator to connect with middle and high school students to see if they would like to volunteer for this December event.

7. Volunteer Opportunities:

- Community Bulletin Board – **Jen Canterbury** volunteered to update and organize the Community Bulletin Board outside the front of the school each week.
- SD61 is going to create a Technology Stewardship Committee to develop best practices for technology use in elementary, middle and secondary schools: The SJD PAC can propose a parent from our school to be considered for this committee. . The elementary school parent representative will be chosen via a random draw. Time commitment is one meeting per month, starting in November. If you are interested in being considered for this committee or would like further information, please write to pacsj@@gmail.com
- Lice Check – Volunteers are needed for this program or it will not happen. Checks are needed in light of the prevalence of lice in the community. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 11:40 (you do not have to stay for the entire time) on the first Friday of every month. Additional reminders will be posted on the website and in the PAC newsletter. No experience necessary – all training is provided. If you are interested, please contact Catherine McGhie (jpandcath@hotmail.com).

8. New Ideas:

- The PAC is exploring offering samosas in addition to Subway sandwiches on Hot Lunch days. Laura Jones will work on logistics with the hot lunch coordinators to see if this idea is feasible.
- More social lunch times, possible picnic in the gym with food/music from different cultures.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The following items were adjourned to the next PAC meeting on November __18__, 2015:

1. Possible movie night and Kernels Popcorn fundraiser.

2. Communicating with Parents – what works? Do parents prefer email from class reps, Facebook or Twitter postings, school newsletter, bulletin board postings? Tell us at pacsjd@gmail.com what works for you.

3. Pre-budget brainstorming: What areas would parents like to see funded (e.g. school playground, visual arts, physical activity, technology, etc.) This topic will be explored further on the website, on Facebook, and via email before our November PAC meeting when the 2015-16 budget will be voted upon. Please send your thoughts to pacsjd@gmail.com about what areas you would like to see PAC money go towards (particularly regarding more than one class or all school initiatives).