



CYPRESS PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cypress Park Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes January 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by PAC Chair K. Millius at 10:34 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Principal S. Bell, School Trustee F. Zhu, PAC Chair K. Millius, PAC Experts in Residence member R. Baggio, PAC Fundraising & Community Committee Member J. Calleja, PAC Fundraising & Community Committee Member E. Baldwin, M. Mohajerani, N. Meghjiani, N. Zamani, M. Bazrafshan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

- Approval of the Minutes from the November 8th, 2022 PAC meeting was motioned by R. Baggio, seconded by E. Baldwin, and approved.
- The Agenda for the January PAC meeting was motioned by J. Calleja, seconded by E. Baldwin, and approved.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE FELICIA ZHU – SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Felicia gave some background information on herself. She was elected on October 15th, 2022. She is an immigrant and has been living in West Vancouver for 10 years. She is a parent to 2 children – one in high school and one in elementary school. She has a passion for education.
- Felicia discussed her role as School Trustee. She does not get involved in the day-to-day operations of the school. Trustees represent all stakeholders in the community. In her spare time, she tries to engage with parents and the school.

VICE PRINCIPAL REMARKS - S. BELL

- S. Bell provided an update on the Young Actors experts in residence program. She showed her appreciation to the PAC for funding and organizing the program. S. Bell was very impressed with the range of activities they do, the engagement from all the students and the quality of instructors. She thought it was a good use of PAC funds, and that it was interesting to see how students could express themselves in new ways. The program also gave teachers new tools to use in their classroom such as a brain break. She noted that the program dove tailed nicely with the Lights Up Theatre after school program. She enjoyed working with those instructors and organizers and would like to work with that group again.
- K. Millius thanked R. Baggio for finding the Young Actors program and for organizing it. K. Millius and the PAC thanked E. LeBlanc for bringing the Lights Up program to the school.

- S. Bell reviewed the Dundarave Christmas Tree event. She noted it was a fun community event. She thought it was special to see how many Kindergarten families were excited about the tree this year. She noted that Cypress Park won an award at the tree festival which made the experience extra special for the children. She thanked the PAC for supporting the tree initiative.
- S. Bell discussed the Holiday Singalong event. She mentioned it was a great event, with good turnout and enthusiasm. A special thank you to Ms. Oancea, who wrote the French music and lyrics.
- S. Bell discussed the Martial Arts after school program. She noted that they have been a great provider so far. All feedback has been positive to date.
- The school had Isaac from WV Art Gallery come and work with the Grade 3 students. It is an expert in residence program that is free of charge. He is coming back tomorrow to do the final piece of the art project. He may come back to work with the grade 2 class later in the year.
- The Dance program has started. Sessions are on Mondays during PE, and Wednesdays in the classrooms. S. Bell noted that it is a fantastic program, and she has been impressed that the program organizers came with a plan linked to the curriculum and tried to coordinate with the teachers on in-class learning and units of inquiry.
- Nikki Baxendale, the artist in residence, is coming today to start the first phase of the project. The art project has three steps: step 1, prep canvases with black paint; step 2, tape out the trees on the canvases; step 3, apply all the colour. The entire project should take 3 weeks. Nikki will come to the school on a weekend to do the final installation so that the result is a surprise for the students when they return to school.
- S. Bell gave an update on the incoming families for the 2023/2024 school year. There will be spots offered to four in-catchment families, and 14 in-district families.
- Discussed the upcoming fieldtrip. All four grades will be participating in the field trip. Parents have been asked to pay for the fieldtrip using School Cash Online. E. Thoma will send an email to the Class Parent Reps to remind parents to login and pay for that activity.
- IB night is coming up for parents. The event will be an in-person, adult only event.

PAC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Fundraising Committee Update - J. Calleja

- J. Calleja gave an overview of the balances raised to date:
 - Isetta Night: \$6,000
 - Fall Into Reading Event: \$2,750
 - VIP Parking: \$2,850
 - Total to date: \$11,600
- Upcoming events include the spring Fun Run. This will be held on June 16th. The goal is to raise \$4,000 at the event. Students will be asked to collect pledges or sponsorship to run a certain number of laps around the school. Students are meant to go into the community to get pledges for their run (not just ask for donations from their nuclear family). The PAC will also have a list of wish list items for the school for parents to purchase. The Fun Run will also tie into the year-end party. More details to come.
- Other fundraisers for the remainder of the year include:
 - Nellies cleaning products: Nellies is a local, green company. The PAC will have a link for parents to purchase the cleaning products online at a discount. Proceeds from the sales will also go towards the school.
 - VP for the Day: Parents bid to have their children work with S. Bell for the day.

- VIP Parking: VIP parking for the first two terms has been awarded, but we still have term 3 remaining.
 - Growing Smiles Flower fundraiser: This will occur around Mother's day.
- K. Millius noted that there will be PAC community coffee morning this Friday.
- The PAC asked S. Bell about reserving the gym for community events such as movie night and Bingo night. Booking the gym needs to be done through Facilities and may need additional custodial time. S. Bell will get the gym rental details to E. Baldwin.
- Noted that the goal for fundraising annually is \$27,000. We may be deficient this year.

PAC Chair Update – K. Millius

- Lunar New Year:
 - There will be a Lunar New Year celebration at the school on January 19th, 2023. The PAC has organized Lion Dancers to perform at the school. The event will be held in the school gym. Parents are invited to attend; however, it was noted that there will be standing room only as there will need to be enough room for the performance. There will also be some tables set up outside, one for calligraphy, and another for some crafts for the students. The PAC has also arranged for each student to receive a red envelope with a gold chocolate coin inside.
- Nowruz:
 - Nowruz (Persian New Year) is on March 20th, 2023. This lands on spring break this year. Parents have suggested that we celebrate Nowruz at the school the week before spring break. We will set up a table in the learning commons for children to explore, and S. Bell will put out Nowruz books, so children can learn more about the celebration. Parents available to help with the Nowruz celebration can email K. Millius (PAC email account).

Treasurer's Update

- No update at this meeting.

DPAC Update

- No DPAC update at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gardening Update - R. Baggio

- R. Baggio gave a gardening community update. She is looking at setting up another Earth Bites workshop for the Grade 2/3 students in the spring. There have also been discussions about setting up a gardening program for the summer to help maintain the school gardens. The PAC raised approximately \$10K a few years ago for Project Green Thumb. Funds were used to do a garden overhaul at the school. The project was very successful; however, maintenance is required (weeding and watering), especially over the summer months.

After school program for Term 3 - M. Mohajerani

- For Term 3 after school programs, the PAC has decided on Sportball. The program will start the week after Spring Break. M. Mohajerani will confirm with Sportball. The program will run Thursdays after school.
- Discussed other options such as Steamoji, Yoga and Bike riding. The PAC will look further into these options, and possibly keep them in mind for the next school year.

Hot Lunch – K. Millius

- The PAC has opened the system for Term 2. Parents can order or make changes up to 2 weeks prior to delivery date. Added a new provider for term 2: sushi restaurant (Aburi). There was a question about the quality of the food, so PAC has selected a high-quality sushi provider. If parents would like to add any options, please contact K. Millius or S. Hussein (hot lunch coordinator). A reminder that the hot lunch program is a parent run fundraiser run by volunteers. So far for Term 1 it has raised \$2,300 for the school. Term 2 and 3 are on track to raise approximately the same. Noted that the hot lunch coordinators did explore other providers for term 2. There was overwhelming support for sushi. Also discussed that if there are any parents at the end of the year that have not used their credits, please let the hot lunch coordinators know and they will be able to refund your money. S. Bell noted that she has worked at many schools, and it is challenging to get providers that are organized, on time, and have menus planned. There will always be small issues, but from an administrator point of view, the school is very happy with what we have at this time. It is harder than it appears to find great providers.

Experts in Residence – R. Baggio

- The inquiry boxes (Beaty boxes) are arriving this week. These are boxes that the PAC rents from the Museum of Biodiversity. There are 5 of them available to rent. The boxes are full of specimens and fossils, and they each have a different theme. We rent them throughout the year and the teachers take the children through the boxes.

Talent Show

- A parent asked whether we could have a talent show at the school. S. Bell noted that there will be another virtual talent show this year. It provides more children with the opportunity to participate. More details to come in term 3.

Traffic

- A parent noted the traffic congestion at the school and asked whether we could change the traffic flow so that parents could drive through the staff parking area to drop off students. S. Bell noted that the cones blocking the staff parking need to stay there for students safety. She also noted that a safety survey was recently done on how to improve flow in our area. More information to come.

ADJOURNMENT

- Noted the next meeting will be on February 14th, 2023, at 10:30am.
- A motion to adjourn was made at 11:36am seconded and passed.