



CYPRESS PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cypress Park Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes November 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair K. Millius at 10:32 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

Principal M. Labounty, Vice Principal S. Bell, PAC Chair K. Millius, PAC Member B. Perez, PAC Member R. Baggio, PAC Member E. Baldwin, PAC Member E. LeBlanc, N. Meghijani, Marie Tannis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the October 11th, 2022, PAC meeting were motioned and approved.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Vice Principal S. Bell Update

- Mrs. Bell started her update by thanking the PAC for the list of things the school had just been able to purchase with the funds provided by the PAC.
 - Subscription to Adrienne Gear picks pack of books. Adrienne Gear is a literacy guru here in Vancouver and former teacher. 3 times a year, 10 beautiful hardcover books are delivered. These are considered 'gem books' or 'mentor texts' that teachers use to inspire learning or help teach certain concepts on literacy or writing.



- Kidsbook – The School took advantage of a librarian sale to buy a bunch of non-fiction and mentor texts, keeping in mind how teachers can inspire young writers.
- Classroom enhancement funds - Invested in Grade 3's News Studio that will be used throughout the whole school. It included a green screen, blackout curtains, lighting, iPad stand, microphones for filming – which have been already used for Remembrance Day and for the Cypress Park News that is way underway. The school also got new mats for K and G1 (kids sit on mats instead of carpet), and privacy screen replacements (long overdue).
- Thank you to the families that registered with Scholastic using the CP Code and purchased from the site. That allowed the school to obtain free bonus points to purchase books. The school got approx. \$200 bonus points, which were used to order extra books that are on demand at the school.
- The Lights-Up theater after-school program is still going strong, the kids involved are loving it and the instructors seem great (details were provided details during our last meeting).
- Halloween Parade - Didn't let the weather ruin the day. The teachers and students had a great day. Thank you to the parents that stood in the cold and wet.
- EarthBites - Something to celebrate as well. As mentioned on previous meetings, this partnership project with EarthBites engaged the Grade 2 and 3s in a Fall Harvest Project, where the students had the opportunity to plant winter greens, herbs and garlic, as well as prepare the beds for winter. The staff and the students enjoyed it a lot and the school is now looking into ways they could integrate it within the units of enquiries and make it not just one day of fun, but a deeper experience of learning. Mrs. Anderson, the resident gardener at the school and Mrs. Bell are in conversations at the moment, but its definitely something the school would like to continue pursuing in the future.
- Art Projects –. The team is currently on planning phase and has already acquired a number of materials that will stay with the school (paintbrushes, extra paint). The school is looking for people to donate containers (plastic take-out recyclable containers similar to this



) that will be used to store materials. The school also needs some volunteers to do a little bit of painting before Christmas to continue this engagement on the internal library kindness mural. Estimated timelines: painting 2 weeks prior to Christmas (late Nov or first week of Dec); installation reveal after the March break.

- Parent information sessions – The PAC had asked Mrs. Bell about the possibility to hold more of these sessions during our PAC meetings.
 - Professional Development Day is coming. The teachers are going to be spending time working on how to improve certain students' written communication skills via inclusive practices. This brings up an opportunity to do an educational session as part of the PAC meeting in the New Year, with a focus on literacy and what writing can look like at the different levels. We can discuss with parents how to support and encourage kids to be a writer at

home. If this is of interest to parents, sessions will be arranged for the New Year.

PAC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Fundraising Committee Update (K. Millius)

- Fall Back into Reading Meet and Greet - We raised around \$ 3,000 which was approximately our goal. Thank you all! The funds raised will go to refurbish and renew the school library resources. Please note that you can still donate towards the Bountiful Books cause via SchoolCashOnline (Educational Enhancer option). Let us know if you have any questions.
- Social Night for Parents is coming up on Thursday November 17th at Izetta. This is our main PAC fundraising of the year. \$90 of the \$125 cost of the ticket will go directly to the school, thanks to the donations received from parents that include the wine. Deadline to purchase tickets is this Friday, as the venue need to know the final numbers. Please encourage your classroom parents to join and support our kids' education. There will be also a silent auction thanks to the generosity of the families that have donated items.

Treasurer's Update (K. Millius obo D. McKenzie)

- Our Regular Community Account + Savings Account balance was \$ 28,242. However, we just wrote a check to the school today for \$11,333, which means we have a new updated balance of approx. \$17 K. We have some deposits coming in for Teachers Gifts as well. The goal is to always keep the account balances same as where we started at the beginning of the year.
- The Trust/District account is at about \$3,500 - \$4,000. Most of these funds were raised by the gardening committee and are on reserve for the gardening project.

DPAC Update (E. LeBlanc)

- School Websites: PACs are responsible for a portion of the school website. Attendees were tasked to go over the site to ensure the sites had current PAC Exec Lists, Meeting Minutes, Constitutional and Bylaws. Overall, our school's website is meeting the mark. Thank you to PAC Member Becky for her support with this. We need to think of what else we want/can include.
- Treasury Update: They just released a new Treasurer's handbook including new bylaws and Treasurer's report and budgets. Emphasis is on best practices and making sure these reports are written and available to the parents. One point they mentioned as an example of a best practice, is to not have more than a year's contingency funds in the bank accounts. The money that the PACs raise is for the schools to use.
- Facilities: Discussed ventilation requirements around the district and that all the schools currently meet those requirements. They are now checking at having

sensors in all the rooms and implementing filters across the board. Some of the schools do have them if they have updated HVAC systems.

- Trustee report – We have new trustees and Nov 15 is the inaugural meeting. For the next 7 weeks they will go into all the different departments in the school district and figure out what they are doing and how they can help. There is an opportunity to invite a trustee to a PAC meeting or school event if we would want that representation.
- Kinder Applications - Chris Kennedy requested everybody to promote Kinder applications. Jan 15th is when out-of-catchment and out-of-district applications open.
- Family Affordability Funds – To promote equity within the schools in the district, to help students that cannot afford things like field trips, AP test fees, etc. Depending on the size of the school, they can get \$1K-\$7K. K. Millius highlighted the fact that the PAC also keeps a contingency fund for students in need.
- Mental Health Framework – Special guests District Principal of Inclusive Education, Corrine Kinnon, and Director of Instruction, Liz Hill talked about the goal of the Mental health framework within the district and the importance of a sense of belonging. “When our students feel welcome and safe, they can learn better, and it creates a better community for us.” They emphasized focus on collected responsibility and partnership between the parents and the schools. Key initiatives: Resources, Physical literacy, the zones of regulation, and events and connecting them back to the land of the indigenous community. The biggest highlight was the Open Parachute pilot program, a resource for mental health and education. They were piloting this program for grades 6-9 and are about to expand it. The program has been very successful, and parents can access the website too, but need to be careful as some of the content is meant for an older audience.

Hot Lunch Program Update (K. Millius obo S. Elmamlouk)

- We started Subway and although it didn't have a huge pickup, it was great that we could add a third vendor. We will continue to look at options for the new term.
- Some parents would like to have Hot Lunch 5 days a week, but the school staff is not in a position to manage the extra work that comes with it, especially with the younger groups (distribute/serve, clean up, etc.) Volunteers are always welcome for additional help.
- Great thing we introduced this year is the ability to change the delivery requests up to 2 weeks in advance, as the portal is kept open for updates.
- Hot Lunch is not only help for the parents, but it's also one of our biggest fundraisers.

Experts-in-residence Program Update (R. Baggio)

- Young Actors is coming again this year, after the great feedback received from the school. The program is not about drama, but mostly about fostering confidence, collaboration and empathy. They will be at the school Nov 16, 23, 30. The organizer

will send home questions that parents can ask the little learners at home to find out more about their experiences.

- Beaty Boxes – We have 3 boxes booked for November (Forest), January (Inquiry) and May (Seashore). These are educational boxes, species and fossils that are preserved, with different themes, and are provided by the UBC Museum of Biodiversity (<https://beatymuseum.ubc.ca/learn/beaty-boxes/>).
- There were some conversations to include an Olympic Badminton instructor for the kids. However, the school doesn't have the facilities or equipment she would need to run a proper program. Perhaps we will be able to include something outdoors in the final term.
- As per available budget for the experts' program, R. Baggio wanted to confirm funds required for the Art Project, which is expected to be \$2K. This would only cover the interior, so Mrs. Bell will need to confirm the cost for exterior.

After-School Program Update (K. Millius)

- The current program, Lights-Up Theater, is coming to an end this month. There will be a little performance, and everybody is invited. Details to be shared in the weekly bulletin.
- For term 2 we have invited a mixed martial arts teacher to the school. The program will run on Thursdays as well, for 45 minutes. and will be focused on body awareness, body fitness, basics of defense, introduction to martial arts. Details for registration will be shared soon.
- For term 3 will still plan to offer Sportball which will be also offered on Thursdays. More details to come.

Other Items

- There will be a Remembrance assembly and parents are invited. There will be limited seating. All the information is on the bulletin.
- There will be a Holidays outdoor sing-along (no Christmas concert). We hope parents can join us. Details to be confirmed.
- The Cypress Park Dundarave Christmas tree has been purchased. K's and Grade 3's will go decorate, so we plan to ask some parents to volunteer to help, and maybe include some hot chocolate and do it a fun little community event. Theme is TBD.
- Next PAC meeting will take place the second week in January (January 10th, 10:30 am). December meeting will be cancelled.

Ajournement

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:10 am seconded and passed.