



CYPRESS PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cypress Park Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes October 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair K. Millius at 10:05 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

Principal M. Labounty, Vice Principal S. Bell, PAC Chair K. Millius, PAC Treasurer D. McKenzie, PAC Member B. Perez, PAC Member J. Calleja, J. Perez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the September 15th, 2022, PAC meeting were motioned and approved.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Vice Principal S. Bell Update

Recap of things accomplished since our last meeting:

- Conclusion of our Grade 3 cross country participation – This is a districtwide event, and the only district sport we are able to participate in as a K-G3 primary school. Thank you to Mrs. Trotter and Mrs. Boddez, who volunteered to make this happen and worked with the children. We encourage Grade 2 parents to have their kids keep up with the run club in the spring in anticipation to participating in next years' cross-country event.
- Terry Fox Run – This year was a loop back to the wider circuit, that meant the children ran all around the block, the tennis court, marine drive and up again. Kids enjoyed the extra challenge. Could not have happened without the parent volunteers. Thank you for participating and for providing feedback on how to make it an even safer event next year.
- Truth and Reconciliation – Not a huge art installation but the school community put some orange hearts and yarns and other small art pieces on the corner of the school where the school sign is, in recognition of the T&R and orange shirt day. It can be a challenging and difficult topic but thank you to the teachers who were able to have meaningful conversations for our kids at all grade levels, and hope they were able to bring those conversations home.
- Parent Information night – It was lovely to have so many families come out and participate. The energy was great, and it was good to have everybody back in the building. The staff was also invigorated by seeing everybodys faces. Thank you to all that parents that joined us.
- Lights-Up theater – Back to having this afterschool program. Thank you to the PAC for providing this opportunity for our students. The school is thrilled with the leaders

and the program, which takes place every Thursday 2:30-4:30pm. It is a good mix of kids from all grades, boys and girls.

- Student release drill – We acknowledge this can be an inconvenience for the community, so thank you to everybody for the support. The drill went smoothly, hadn't been done for a long time, but parents really understood the importance of running these drills every 2 years. Thank you for putting up with this inconvenient. Great participation overall.
- Gardening – Looking fabulous. The sign on the corner of Marine Drive has been cleaned up, we had a crew of parents come up to help plant this last week. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Things that are coming up:

- Seesaw – This is replacing Freshgrade. If you haven't done yet, please sign up using the teachers' invitation you should have received last Friday. Please check the kids planner for the details.
- Parent-Teacher Conference – These will take place on October 19th and October 20th. Registration will be done online only. You will receive the link to register on Thursday's bulletin.
- EarthBites - As mentioned on last month's meeting, this partnership project with EarthBites will engage the Grade 2 and 3s in a Fall Harvest Project, where the students will have the opportunity to plan winter greens, herbs and garlic, as well as prepare the beds for winter. The gardening crew was coming on supposedly on October 18th. However, due to the dry weather, we are moving it by a week or two.
- Halloween – Monday October 31st. Hopefully it won't be the first rainy day of the season. Kids will be invited to dress up for school. More information for families to come.

PAC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Fundraising Committee Update (J. Calleja)

- This Friday October 14th is our Fall Back into Reading Meet and Greet – 2:30-4:30. The main goal is to fundraise for the books ([Project Bountiful Books](#)), but there will be of course games and activities for the families to participate in. The e-bulletin will include a link where parents can donate through [SchoolCashOnline](#) directly ahead of the event. They will also be able to donate during the event, the PAC members will be there to support the process. And they will be able to see the booklist as well.
- Social Night for Parents at Izetta on Thursday November 17th – This will be the main PAC fundraising event. Tickets sales will be the key fundraising portion of it, so we want to spread the word, encourage parents to join. There will be some door prizes, each ticket will include some appetizers and a couple of drinks. Hope teachers can join as well.

- Other Funds – The team will review the amount of funds raised across all events and activities and ensure we have what is required by the school and teachers to support the different efforts. If we are short, we will look into organizing other events, or potentially requesting further donations.
- Birthday book – While discussing the Project Bountiful Book, the question was brought up whether the Birthday Book tradition was still on. Teachers will have a list of books they would like to have in their class, and students would donate one of those books on their birthdays. This tradition still exists and is mostly promoted by teachers in K and G1. The school hasn't actively promoted the Birthday Book program just not to overwhelm parents with so many book requests. Most Birthday Books will remain in the classrooms, while the Project Bountiful Books remain at the school library.

Project Greenthumb (K. Millius o.b.o. N. Quilty)

- On October 5th we had a group of parents come to the school with the plants that had been purchased from the district and outside from the district and spent 5 hours at the school planting. Big shout out to those parents. They did such a great job, and it looks fantastic.
- Now we need to water. Erica, our lead gardener, has advised that we cannot overwatered at this point because we want to establish the routes. If anyone has time to go and water, your help will be greatly appreciated. The school will make sure we have the keys for the hose.
- EarthBites - As already mentioned by Mrs. Bell, this will be delayed by a week or two.

After-School Program Update (K. Millius obo E. LeBlanc)

- Unfortunately, our Lego program scheduled for Term 2 had to be cancelled. The facilitator had some family issues come up and will not be able to support the program.
- J. Calleja, together with our new after-school program coordinator, M. Mohajerani, have been working with another facilitator to introduce a Martial Arts program. We need the Martial Arts teacher to get in touch with the district to make sure he has all the checks and insurance required. K. Millius will touch base with J. Calleja and Mrs. Bell separately. There won't be a need for a volunteer to be present during the classes, as Mrs. Bell is at the school most of the time. The PAC Program coordinator will need to have the facilitators number in case there is a need to get in touch.
- The Martial Arts Program will be scheduled for Thursdays at 2:30 pm and will be focused on body awareness, body fitness, basics of defense, introduction to martial art. Since there won't be mats, the instructor will avoid certain floor exercises.
- For Term 3 we are still looking at Sportsball.

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

Latest update on our bank account balances:

- Our Regular Community Account + Savings Account went from \$20,599 to \$28,000 in the last month thanks to the VIP parking donation, plus the \$2,000 gaming grant, and the income from the Munch and Lunch program.
- The Trust Account went from \$4,991 to \$4,100. There was an \$800 expense for the gardening project.
- There is \$1,200 outstanding in invoices for the garden project. These should go through in the coming month.

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

- We are going to keep the portal open during the term. We will close it two weeks in advance of the delivery date, so that it gives time to the hot lunch coordinator to get the reports off to the suppliers on time.
- We have some other providers that we are going to be onboarding. Subway will be added to the portal and will be available soon. We also have been having conversations with Mrs. Bell about adding Whitespot. Some things to take into consideration:
 - Need to carefully look at the menu to see what is available and limit the choices (e.g., limiting French fries, maybe just burgers, regular and veggie burgers).
 - 4 days a week might be a lot of work for the school and staff, as they have to provide support to the kids, particularly K and G1. 3 days is more realistic. Mrs. Bell will consult with the teachers and staff to make sure that they can facilitate the 4th day. A lot of the logistics is currently being done by Mrs. Bell, and when she is in class it becomes more difficult.
 - Another option is to replace one of our current suppliers for the next term (e.g., take Subway and put Whitespot instead).
 - We considered Presto but they didn't have the capacity. The nice thing about them is that they also provide sushi.
 - Every supplier needs to be in the list of district-approved providers.

Other Items

- Next PAC meeting will take place on November 8th at 10:30 am. The PAC meetings will take place on the second Tuesdays of every month at 10:30 am. We will try to advertise it a little more and include it on the school calendar. Mrs. Bell will also extend the calendar invite to the PAC Exec group so that they have it as well.

Ajournement

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:45 pm seconded and passed.