



CYPRESS PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cypress Park Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting September 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair N. Quilty at 9:26am.

N. Quilty gave the land acknowledgment.

IN ATTENDANCE

Principal S. Slater, Vice Principal C. Hulme, PAC Chair N. Quilty, Vice Chair C. Antoni-Wilkinson, Treasurer R. Vernon, Co-Secretary B. Perez-Cahill, Co-Secretary E. Baldwin, Garden Committee Member K. Boyd, Flower Fundraiser E. Little, Member S. Gounielli, Member A. Lobashkov, Member R. Yada, 2 anonymous members, Member K. Millius, Member L. Ghassemzadeh, Member N. Meghjiani, Member M. Mohajerani, Member Mortaheb, Member Farahani, Member S. Hussein, Member S. Cahill, Member D. Howard

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The approval of the minutes from the June 2023 PAC meeting was motioned by E. Baldwin and seconded by C. Antoni-Wilkinson. All members were in favour. The June 2023 PAC meeting minutes were approved.

MEET THE TEAM

The following executive team members gave a brief introduction about themselves.
C. Hulme – Vice Principal, S. Slater – Principal, N. Quilty – PAC Chair, C. Antoni-Wilkinson – Vice Chair, R. Vernon – Treasurer, K. Millius – Past Chair and E. Baldwin – Co-Secretary.

TOP PAC INITIATIVES

N. Quilty presented this 2023/2024 PAC initiatives. She explained that the PAC executive is a conduit between the administration/teachers and parents. The PAC supports a number of initiatives such as:

- Community and cultural events
- Amplification of classroom supplies
- Organizing hot lunch and spirit wear
- Events, raffles, and fundraisers
- Teacher appreciation lunch and gifts
- Community partnerships and socials
- Outdoor classroom and garden maintenance
- After school programs

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Presented by N. Quilty and R. Vernon. Each year the PAC spends approximately \$35K. The budget is earmarked and totals \$35K. The PAC usually writes the school a large cheque at the start of each school year. The funds are mostly drawn from the community bank account. The PAC hopes to write a cheque for \$12K this month; however, the bank account is just shy of this amount (\$11K). This school year, the PAC has already raised \$3K.

A lot of the school initiatives are funded by the PAC. Often there is a misconception that the extra funding comes from the government.

R. Vernon presented an overview of the PAC bank accounts. There are 3 accounts community, trust and gaming. School cash online goes to the trust account. The gaming account is primarily funded by a provincial grant if we apply. The PAC anticipates \$2K this year from this grant; however, we will receive a final ruling at end of month on whether or not we qualify for the grant funding. The gaming fund comes with restrictions - it should be used for extra curricular activities and uniforms. The approximate balance in the gaming account is \$5,500. The community account is everything else – donations, funding futures, cheque drive etc. – anything paid through square. If you want a tax receipt for a donation it has to be paid through school cash online.

The PAC has several fundraising initiatives throughout the year such as the hot lunch program, VIP Parking etc. One new initiative this year is a gift card program where a percentage of the purchase gets kicked back to the PAC. This gift card program will launch soon (see Fundscrip below for more information). Other kick-back opportunities include the parent socials at the Orchard and Isetta gift cards. Natalie is still working out the kick-back opportunity with Isetta.

This year the PAC will also be raising funds through the Funding Futures campaign, the Fall Fair, the Fun Run and through Spirit Wear sales. The goal this year is to raise \$43K so that we can cover the \$35K operating costs and leave a contingency so that the next years PAC has an opening balance of funds to work with.

OPERATING COSTS

The PAC funds go towards a number of initiatives throughout the year such as:

- Experts in residence program: this includes Beatty Boxes, nutrition, health, science, self-expression/dance and theatre programs that the students incorporate into their IB learning
- Cultural events: such as Lunar New Year and Nowruz
- Reading enhancement: library books and reading equipment
- Technology: for example the school purchased 10 new ipads this year
- Social: parents events to build community such as the coffee mornings etc.

The total cost for this year is \$34,660.

N. Quilty asked if all were in favour of approving budget – all members raised their hands. None were opposed. The motion to approve the 2023/2024 budget was passed.

EXPERTS IN RESIDENCE

Experts in residence programs for this school year will include:

- Earth Bites (once in the fall and once in the spring)

- Field hockey
- Skating – C. Hulme is still working with West Van Recreation on the details
- Beatty boxes – the focus this year on Marine box
- Dance - Troys Bob Shop – hip hop dancing
- Science – teachers working in their IB collab time to see when matches units of inquiry
- Stream of dreams

N. Quilty thanked C. Hulme and R. Baggio for supporting and organizing a robust experts in residence program for this year.

STEAMOJI

M. Mohajerani presented this term's after school program, Steamoji. Steamoji will run on Thursdays starting this week. The program had 23 registrants ranging from kindergarten to grade 3. Since there was so much demand, they will split the class into 2 groups: K/Gr. 1 will work on fabrication and Gr. 2/Gr. 3 will work on coding.

Next term, we will look at having after school programs 2 days a week. A survey was extended to parents at the end of last year in order to get input on what appealed to parents, so there is great feedback on potential interest in activities for next term.

N. Quilty thanked M. Mohajerani for all her hard work organizing the after-school programs.

R. Yada is currently working on an application to make it easier for parents to know what activity options are available for kids, to make it easier for kids to be active together.

HOT LUNCH

Thank you to K. Millius for running the hot lunch program. The program has raised \$1,588 this term. Parents can add or edit their orders up to 2 weeks before delivery.

VIP Parking

VIP Parking has raised \$1600 this term. Thank you to bidders and the Miller Family for their high bids. Reminder to families to not park in these 2 spots. The 2 spots will be marked with a special sign but will not specify the family's names that won the parking spots so that we are compliant with the District.

SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit wear day is Fridays. The deadline to order new Spirit Wear is September 30th.

FALL FAIR

This is a free event for all CPP students. The event includes apple & cider tasting, popcorn, snacks, bouncy castle, fall photo booth and carnival games. There will be a small fundraiser cakewalk. Tickets for the cake walk will be sold in the following bundles: 1 ticket/\$5, 3 tickets/\$10. The PAC has received commitments from a number of retailers for cake donations; however, we are still looking for families to bake and bring in cakes – just please ensure they are nut free.

R IS FOR RAFFLE

Each family will get 2 booklets with 10 tickets in each booklet. Tickets are \$10 each. The PAC is hoping to wrap up prizes this week. If any families have anything they could donate as prizes, please contact the PAC. R. Vernon is going to apply for the gaming licence. The raffle sales will launch on October 19th. An Early Bird draw will take place on November 9th. The final draw will be live at a school community event. Prizes secured so far include a 2-night stay at Fairmont Chateau, EA games, private soccer coaching, laser tag, steamoji, tickets to VSO etc.

FUNDING FUTURES

The goal is to raise \$20K this year. The PAC has already purchased several items from last years fundraiser. This year's brochure is linked to the schools to square account. There are new wish list items this year, and items prices range from \$20-\$2K. If you have any of the actual items you can donate – please donate. If you want a tax receipt, you can pay through school cash online, but please specify what it is for.

WELCOME BACK PICNIC

Thank you to everyone that helped out and attended!

PARENT SOCIAL

The parent social at the Orchard was a huge success! There were approximately 25 parents from all grades. Thanks to R. Vernon, N. Hincks and A. Barrow for organizing.

COMMITTEES

If you want to join one of the PAC committees – its easy. Just scan the QR code that will be sent around the class group chats.

FUNDSCRIP

This is a gift card kick-back fundraising opportunity for the PAC. They have a wide range of retailers you can buy gift cards from, and the site shows the kick-back that goes to the PAC. R. Vernon was referred to it from a friend that is also fundraising for a PAC in Surrey. Fundscrip has been in place for over 15 yrs. They buy corporate cards at discount in bulk.

GROWING SMILES

The PAC will be selling poinsettias this winter as part of the Growing Smiles fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information.

VICE PRINCIPAL REMARKS

C. Hulme thanked N. Quilty for all her hard work leading the PAC. 10 new ipads were purchased which completes a full set of 20. She thanked all those parents that volunteered and participated at the Terry Fox Run. The teachers have been feeling very supported by the parent group this year. The school is at full enrollment with 75 students this year.

There are a few new staff members this year:

- Education assistant
- Grade 2 teacher
- Counsellor
- Inclusive education learning resources teacher

C. Hulme noted that it has been a very cohesive staff team this year.

Current events:

- The grade 3's have been participating in cross-country. The last run is next Tuesday. Approximately half of the grade is participating which is a great participation rate.

Upcoming events:

- Orange shirt day is this Friday. Thank you to the PAC for providing teachers with their orange shirts.
- Open House is this Thursday September 28th. It will look different this year as families are encouraged to attend. It will open at 5pm to give students the opportunity to show their parents their classrooms. Then everyone will meet in the gym around 5:45pm for a brief presentation by C. Hulme and S. Slater.
- Learning Conferences: Teachers will have 10 minutes to spend with each family. If parents cannot meet in person, teachers will be able to meet online or find an alternate time that works.
- ELL Welcome Tea with West Bay will be on October 24th with our ELL teacher. The event will be at 9am at West Bay.
- IB parent information session will be on October 9th at West Bay in the evening. The event will be run by our IB coordinator Mrs. Anderson.

The next PAC meeting is October 24th from 7-8pm

End of meeting – 10:08am