

**EHS PAC Minutes**  
**November 18, 2014**

**In attendance:** Norm Tandberg, Jeananne Brehon, Paula Switzer, Dawn Christy, Carter Giesbrecht, Erin Mitchell-Beckwith, Liz McMaster, Swati Scott, Claire Matthews

Minutes of last meeting: Norm moved to approve, Dawn seconded. Approved.

**1. Admin report: Carter Giesbrecht**

Asked for a discussion regarding the pros and cons of changing school start time to 9 a.m.

- 53 staff members were surveyed about this – asked if they were in favour or not, and whether it was for personal reasons, professional reasons, or both. Overall, 29 were in favour and 24 were against, although it appeared that all agreed that professionally it was a good idea.
- Parents were also asked about it at the parent/teacher meetings, and many liked the idea. However, these parents assumed that a later start would mean a later end time, and that did raise issues.
- Issues/questions raised by PAC members included:
  - Whether this would mean that extracurricular activities would happen more before school, rather than at lunch
  - The attachment to the early Friday finish, which many people would not want to lose
  - Issues about timing for after school activities, including sports and jobs, if the day ended later
  - Parents might be concerned if after school activities went until after dark due to a later end time
  - Bus timing issues – some kids coming from outside the catchment area would have more time to get to school, but others would probably end up taking the same bus as they do now because of their parents' schedules
  - There was general agreement that, educationally, the idea is sound

**2. Treasurer's Report: Paula Switzer**

- So far, only \$380 has been collected through the PAC Donation Request. Those who wrote cheques have not yet received tax receipts. These have to come from the School District, so they take quite a lot of time
- Norm, Paula, Jeananne and Carter met on November 17 to go over the requests for funding:

- The requests for funding matched the amount of money available in the Gaming account almost exactly
- The Gaming Grant is less this year, based on enrollment
- Three areas that usually request funding did not put in requests this year: Athletics, First Nations Graduation Gifts and Fine Arts/First Nations. \*Colin Roberts was able to confirm by text during the meeting that Athletics will not be requesting funding over and above the Rugby Academy request
- The Rugby Academy made a big request of \$11,635. At the Nov 17 meeting, the group recommended \$10,000. However, it was agreed by the PAC that this amount should be lowered to \$8,000 to allow for more wiggle room in case there are further requests later in the year. If more donations are collected, the \$2,000 could be made available to the Rugby Academy later on.
- Norm moved to approved the Gaming Fund Recommendations, with the reduction of the Rugby Academy funding from \$10,000 to \$8,000. Jeananne seconded. Approved.
- The staff will be advised that this is what the PAC can afford right now, but that more may be available later in the year. They will be advised to work on fundraising the remainder.

### **3. Alumni Association Report: Dawn Christy**

- Preparations for next year's events are coming along well
- The Alumni expect to be able to donate funds to the PAC, particularly for the school bus fund
- They have asked that the PAC help out with the BBQ in September 2015 with volunteers from the student body and PAC. Alumni will pay for the event and manage the food. \*It was noted that if we want to get the Lions for this event that they should be booked very soon
- They would also like student helpers for the school tours they will be conducting in May 2014, as well as at their events on the May long weekend

### **4. VCPAC Report: Swati Scott**

- The Vancouver Island Parent Conference takes place on Feb 7, 2015, and registrations are now being taken. Free tickets are available for two PAC members
- The BCCPAC Conference takes place in Nanaimo on Nov 21, 22 and 23 – events on the 23<sup>rd</sup> are free if anyone is interested
- The VCPAC Congress takes place on Nov 26 at S.J. Willis, starting at 7 pm.
- Paula mentioned that last year the fee request for the BCCPAC came via the PAC email, and that it is probably due soon. Claire Winterton will check the email

## 5. Other Business

- It was decided that another request for donations to the PAC should be sent out at the beginning of the new term in February
- The Province has announced a new program which would offer free tuition for first year courses at local institutions for students under the age of 19. Students will be given more information at the next Grad Assembly on Nov 26, and a Parent Info night is scheduled for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at Spectrum HS
- Another ad will be put in the Docker for the Thrifty's Smile Cards – the perfect stocking stuffers!
- Kudos to staff for including the cafeteria menu on the school Docker – very impressive
- Jeananne mentioned that there have been issues with getting the agenda and minutes up on the school website. We will work on improving this

Top priority for next meeting : Communication with parents

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.