

EHS PAC Minutes

Dec 16, 2014

In attendance: Colin Roberts, Norm Tandberg, Jeananne Brehon, Dawn Christy, Swati Scott, Erin Mitchell-Beckwith, Claire Matthews

Jeananne moved to accept the Minutes from the November meeting; Norm seconded.

1. Admin report: Colin Roberts

- **Parent Open House** scheduled for Jan 14, 7 pm. Colin asked if someone from the PAC would speak. Norm volunteered.
Jeananne said that she would look for the notes used for last year's Open House and forward them to Norm.
- **Later start time:** Colin distributed a handout listing the pros and cons put together by the staff.
No other school in SD61 starts later – there is in fact a push to get all schools on much more similar schedules so that students could access specialized programs at a different school without throwing off their schedule.
Vic High, Oak Bay and Esquimalt are currently on pretty close schedules.
Traffic is a real issue re the time change.
Also, there's some concern that kids travelling to sports events would have to miss some class at the end of the day – however this is a small percentage of students.
Colin doesn't have a preference re changing the start time or not, but he does agree that teenagers do better later in the day. We don't know how the teachers would vote if it came to that.
Dawn pointed out that Shoreline does ABL (Activity Before Learning) from 8:30 – 9:00 am. Kids who are late miss ABL, but most everybody is there by 9:00.
There is a lot of information about later start times and the pros/cons on the EHS website.

2. Alumni report: Dawn Christy

- Invitations have gone out for the May long weekend event. 800 people are expected on the first night, and 1,000 on the second.
- Dawn has contacted Dave Allen about getting the Lions to do the BBQ, but she hasn't heard back from him.

3. VCPAC report: Swati Scott

- At the last minute, a recognition for long-time trustee Bev Horsman took place.

- VCPAC is trying to figure out the best way to communicate with parents.
- The Congress was a success – the discussion tables had good topics.
- Now in full gear for the Vancouver Island Parent Conference on February 7.
- All VCPAC meeting minutes are online at their website <http://www.vcpac.ca>

4. Treasurer's report: postponed

- Treasurer was not in attendance; in any case, the budget was settled at the November meeting.
- The ATM machine debacle is still ongoing – change is coming.

5. Communication with parents – Discussion

- Jeananne suggested having special presentations at the PAC meetings to encourage attendance – for example, topics presented by teachers
- Ideas suggested:
 - Presentation on mental health by The Force. They could also talk about the new app from Island Health, or a session on the importance of sleep.
 - Health and nutrition guidelines
 - Someone from Esquimalt First Nation or Native Friendship Centre
- We need to somehow show parents how their involvement in the PAC helps their kids – and reassure them that there is no fundraising involved, and no positions to be filled.

6. Other business: news of funding for first year university courses – Erin Mitchell-Beckwith

- Erin shared some information she got from a meeting about the program – although the information seems to be changing. Her impressions:
 - It seemed to be very trades oriented
 - The counsellors at EHS are involved
 - It looks as though it has to be part of UStart
- Erin will continue to try and collect information

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next meeting: January 20, 6:45 p.m.