

Willows Parent Advisory Committee BCSD61

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021

Commencement 7:02pm

Adjournment 8pm

Executive in Attendance: Cindy Rodier (Chair), Karen Manders (Vice-chair/communications), Brenna O'Connor (Principal), Dianne Chrétien (Vice principal), 4 parents.

Special guests:

Music teachers Gail Evans and Anja Rebstock discuss the music and strings programs at Willows.

Welcome Words by PAC Chair, Cindy Rodier.

Approval of the January 20, 2021 agenda approved by Karen Manders, seconded by Cindy Rodier.

Update from Brenna O'Connor and Dianne Chrétien:

School news

Professional day on Monday, January 25.

Indigenous education was the topic of the last professional day.

MDI Survey – how students feel inside and outside of school. Data used for student satisfaction. For grade 4s.

Maturation talks started today. Abby from Island Sexual Health gave the talk via Zoom to classrooms.

Kids were very receptive. A pamphlet about changes happening to bodies was given to the participating students. 59 parents joined the parent zoom talk Tuesday night.

Pilot Project

Willows is participating in a pilot project for competency-based IEPs, to develop individual plans for students that have specialized need and requirements, while still falling within the framework of the core competencies in the BC curriculum.

Focus is on inclusion in classrooms.

Working with Shelley Moore in the area of Special Education, as part of a cohort of 2 elementary and 2 middle schools.

Code of Conduct

Evelyn Morales has made a comic book form of the code of conduct, with posters, and other media.

Each year, kids will be able to add in new pictures to the materials to create a living document, that reflects the current situation and interests of the children.

Available in French and English.

Each page of the comic book expands on core ideas.

Will be sharing with school in zoom assembly. Classes will take on a topic each month to teach each of the expectations outlined in the handbook.

This will be finished this week, and then available on the class website. Shortly after, this will be distributed to parents via email.

PAC Business:

Chair report, Cindy Rodier

Traffic safety

Margaret is concerned with the pedestrian traffic at the Cadboro Bay crosswalk. Margaret has ordered some orange pylons to expand the crosswalk area. Oak Bay will also be adding bollards similar to the ones on Oak Bay Avenue to expand the pedestrian area around the crosswalk.

Jackie's bench (K/1 playground)

As a retirement gift, Shannon Bixby is organising the procurement of a bench to honour Jackie's retirement on the K/1 playground.

OB lodge development – CRD has reached out to PAC, to gather input for this upcoming project
OB Orcas swim club has openings, COVID protocols in place.

PAC Executive Vacancies

The following positions are either currently vacant, or will be vacant for the 2021/22 school year:

- CFP (Member at large)
- Chair
- VCPAC Rep
- Secretary
- Kindergarten liaison

Vice Chair, Karen Manders:

Holiday food drive – donated over 1000lbs of food to mustard seed.

Karen would be willing to organise another food drive when needed.

Ideas for future PAC meetings

- Emergency preparedness *<Cindy will look into this for next month.>*
- Talk about French immersion – PAC could help publicize district events.
- Sensitive topics and how to talk to children – Residential schools, racism, climate change.

The next PAC meeting is on February 17th, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00pm Via Zoom