

Willows Parent Advisory Committee BCSD61

Meeting Minutes September 20, 2017

Commencement 7:08 pm

Adjournment 8:36 pm

Executive in Attendance Cindy Rodier (Chair) Bronwen Sharpe (Past Chair), Chelsea Wozniak (Secretary), Angela Jackson (Vice-chair), Jenny Dickson (Treasurer), Wendy Holob (Principal), Jean Pakvis (Communications), Kelli Van Leeuwen (Class Rep Coord), Stephanie Novak (CPF), 9 parents.

Welcome Welcome to parents and staff from the chair, Cindy Rodier.

Approval of today's agenda by Bronwen Sharpe, seconded by Jean Pakvis.

AGM May 17, 2017 minutes approved by Bronwen Sharpe, seconded by Chelsea Wozniak.

Report from Chair:

Explanation of PAC, who is part of the PAC.

Introduction of PAC executive.

Introduction of PAC committee members, coordinators. There are roles that still need to be filled for anyone interested in helping out.

We are fundraising free zone. Saves us time and money not selling wrapping paper, coupon books. One contribution ask each year.

New Vice principal Tim Murphy unable to be here this evening.

We should have our pizza/sushi days scheduled soon.

11 classes still missing class representatives. Try again next week.

Words from the principal Wendy Holob:

Wendy was very concerned about kids in gym, worried it would be terrible. Instead it seems everyone has pulled together. Collaborative and fun. Teachers are working together, sharing materials, working together to get the gym ready.

3 new divisions as well as many new teachers. 2 teachers retired in Sept, we have 2 retired teachers who came back temporarily. Should have 2 new teachers on Monday. Everyone is getting the opportunity to do new things.

The space in the gym looks great. Different feeling in the school this year. More collaborative. Picture day happened in the library this year, still done by noon. Went well.

Received a shipment of iPads and chrome books. Ratio has increased to 1 device to 4 kids. All are in classes. They are being used in classrooms.

Parents are asking about why things sorted the way they did with classes, but for the most part respectfully. Students are getting settled.

New PE teacher Stephanie Broocke, covering for Janice Achtem who is away this year.

Explanation of why we now have PE teacher. Works same as Music. Students spend time with

PE teacher, while regular teacher has prep time. 1 block of PE with PE teacher each week.
Regular teacher does daily physical education.
More devoted librarian time.
Computers will be in the classroom, not in a lab.
Children find being in the gym/portable desirable.
28 full time teachers, plus others.
3 new divisions. School population down from 624 to 595.
Many new teachers. All keen and enthusiastic.
8 spaces left in english, grade k-2, french mostly full. A couple spaces left.
No assemblies yet. Planning for full school assemblies when kids are out of the gym.
Kids need to avoid entering the construction area.
CTV is investigating the portables.

Kelli Van Leeuwen:

Oak Bay Police has a survey going. Community Priorities.
Look at Oak Bay Police website/facebook page.
Will be tweeted by PAC, will be put in next newsletter.

Report from Megan Squires, Education and engagement coordinator, CRD, Active and Safe Routes to School:

Willows did an action plan last Spring to encourage families to get school by means other than car, or to park farther away and walk a short distance. Barriers to active travel identified.
We can have family education night to learn about encouraging active travel.
At a pre-existing event at the school, add on this for information.
Pair up with other neighbourhood schools to do education and outreach.
Oct 2-6 active travel. Willows not currently registered, but we can still participate.
Be great to do an event in October as well as bike-to-school week in May.
Willows has three "drive to 5" minute walk locations. Drop kids or park and walk the 5 minutes into school.
We could put in covered bike racks to keep bikes dry.
Megan is our resource to coordinate and educate.

Lise Richard, Infrastructure and Enforcement.

Does larger scale projects, has more background and knows the data. Is working with principal.

Report from Vice-Chair/event planning:

Ice Cream social needs volunteers. Explanation of the social, what happens, how much fun it is to volunteer. Please approach Angela to volunteer.

Playground update from Bronwen:

163/400+ families responded.
Comments mostly positive. Questions were answered and those answers will come out soon.
Have money to purchase the playground, need money to install.
Installation won't happen until late spring by the district due to competing projects (portables) and weather.

Jenny Dickson, Treasurer:

Fundraising campaign will start soon.

Discussion on increasing the amount to donate per child.

Need to inspire families to donate money. Need to identify and celebrate where PAC money is spent.

Discussion of where money goes if it is donated to the school. How to get that money back from the district? Are there benefits to keeping our money? Do we become a registered charitable society? Jenny to investigate and report back in 2 months.

The next PAC meeting is October 18, 2017.