

Willows Parent Advisory Committee BCSD61

Meeting Minutes Sept 18, 2019

Commencement 7:02 pm

Adjournment 8:07 pm

Executive in Attendance: Cindy Rodier (chair), Jean Pakvis (Vice chair/communications), Bronwen Sharpe (Past chair), Krissy Johns (secretary), Stephanie Novak (CPF rep), Trish Weaver (class rep coordinator), Brenna O'Connor (Principal), Dianne Chrétien (Vice Principal), 16 parents. Special Guest: Bethann Osterman

Welcome Words by PAC chair, Cindy Rodier.

Approval of the September agenda approved by Bronwen Sharpe, seconded by Emma Mister.

Approval of the June 19 meeting minutes approved by Jean Pakvis, seconded by Cindy Rodier.

Bethan Ostermann:

Ms. Ostermann spoke in regards to the upcoming events surrounding the Global Climate Strike.

<Ms. Ostermann left the meeting>

PAC needs to remove the old sponsors on the PAC account and approve the new sponsors.

Cindy Rodier Moved and it was seconded by Alyx Valdal to approve Krissy Richelle Johns as a sponsor on the PAC account.

Motion Passed

Cindy Rodier Moved and it was seconded by Sam Crawshaw to remove the previous sponsors, on the PAC account.

Motion Passed

Introducing Brenna O'Connor, our new principal.

Update from Brenna O'Connor and Dianne Chrétien:

There's been great feedback from families about the start of the school year.

The Admin is finishing up the staffing changes. Willows is currently at 600 kids, in 28 divisions.

The first Pro-d day Sept 23rd. The topics covered are as follows:

- appreciative inquiry
- strengths as a school
- develop goals for staff and school

-extension on social and emotional learning

Cops for cancer is happening on Oct 3rd. The riders will arrive about 9am to see the kids. Const. Perry would like to do some related fundraising with the kids. Further details to come.

The cross-country season has begun, with about 100 kids showing up for the first practice.

Senior choir has started lunch time rehearsals.

The Camosun Women's basketball team came to the school, and led kids (about 100) through some basketball drills. This was an enormously successful event, and the college would like to try a repeat at a later date. Every child in the school will get tickets to all the season games of the basketball team at Camosun.

There will be no WE club this year.

Question posed to parents from Brenna O'Connor:

Do we want short segments (10 mins) on what kids are learning in the new curriculum at the PAC meetings?

-Led by the principal and vice principal.

-Topics could include how to help your children with the current maths curriculum, what teachers learn at professional days, learning beyond the core curriculum

If anyone has any ideas, they can contact PAC.

PAC Business:

Chair report, Cindy Rodier

The VCPAC rep role is still vacant. Duties include the following:

- Attend meeting a month at a school around town to discuss any district wide changes.
- You get a vote on actions affecting the whole school district.

What does PAC do and how to get involved.

Willows is a non fundraising school. Instead, we ask for a monetary donation through the pizza ordering system. The monies raised go to classroom enhancements, library books, field trips, long term expenditures and more.

We put on A few non fundraising events per year, so we need volunteers to help the event happen.

The events typically held each year are:

- Blossom Tree Festival in May, Thursday before the long weekend.
- Ice Cream social
- Dance
- Winter movie night

Other PAC initiatives:

Hot lunch day happens 1/month – 1-2 volunteers per month, per classroom, plus a few people to help sort the pizza orders when the food arrives to the school.

Field trips- Each classroom receives a \$200 allotment for bus services (Wilson's)
Each division receives \$280 for classroom necessities
Playground replacement approximately 6 years of saving up per playground.

Contact your class rep if you would like to volunteer for any PAC events.

Thursday morning PAC chat Thursday mornings in the staff room will be happening again this year.

A big thanks to the school supply coordinator for getting the kids all of their kit.

A parent asked if a local company can do the school supplies.

This has been looked into in the past, but they were lacking in communications, but it might be explored at a later date.

The Willows welcome Committee is working on an electronic package for new families with all the school information that is needed for success in the school.

Discussion:

A way to get parents asking questions is have the class reps put out the call for input.

<The class rep coordinator can contact the reps to ask for info about what parents would like to see as discussion topics at PAC meetings>

lice check update – Due to policy changes, Lice check will no longer be done in the schools. The school will send home useful information on head lice. VIHA can come to a PAC meeting to discuss how to deal with head lice.

Parent survey

Michelle Bristow put the survey together for parents to help determine some items for long term spending goals.

The survey will hopefully go out this week.

A link will be on all the PAC communication sources

It is suggested that a link to the PAC fundraising website be added to the bottom of the survey.

Emergency preparedness

Sarah Malan is the new coordinator.

A different process for this role may be explored this year.

Currently, the shipping container is unpacked, checked for expired products, then repacked.

Staff could go through classroom bags during a staff meeting

PAC uses grant money to purchase the emergency supplies

A question was asked if parents could be responsible for supplying small emergency comfort packs for their children to be kept in the classroom.

This could cause liability issues as well as become a hazard to successfully evacuating children in an emergency.

Sam Crawshaw - Events Committee:

Meet the teacher /ice cream social is coming up. Tickets for the ice cream can be picked up from the library.

Willows first annual family dance October 24th.

- Luau/beach party

- Hoping to put a song request box for students in the hallway

- lots of games

- ticketed event

- pizza may be available for advance purchase

- Need help with decorations

Holiday movie night

- December 4 and 5. The older kids on the Wednesday and then the k-2 on Thursday.

- Family event – come in pyjamas, eat popcorn

Discussion:

Is the dance restricted? No, the event is for all grades in the school.

All these events will be included in the weekly school calendars.

Adjourn at 8:07pm

The next PAC meeting October 16, 2019. 7-8:30 pm School library