



Willows Parent Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes: 15 October 2014

Call to Order: 7:07pm

Approval of the Agenda: The 15 October 2014 agenda was approved by Miriam Bixby, seconded by Chelsea Wozniak

Approval of the Minutes: The 21 May 2014 Annual General Meeting minutes were approved by Chelsea Wozniak, seconded by Angela Jackson

Attended: 22 people (including Principal Wendy Holob and Vice Principal Christine Patterson)

Reports from our Community (Part I):

Eric Payne, Oak Bay Police Liaison:

- New to position
- 10 years on the force
- He is a resource for parents and the school community, not the "bad guy"
- Criminal matters need urgent attention: Contact call centre – do not wait to contact him
- **Police and Fire Hall Open House: Saturday, October 18, 2014 (11am-3pm)**

New Business:

Introduction to history of Willows PAC and PAC executive by Dana Bell (Chair): What is PAC and how does it function?

- Our four core values: Community, Parental engagement, Student achievement and Service
- Focus = school- or grade-wide events (not individual classes)
- Willows = fundraising free zone!
- PAC is always open to new ideas: E-mail willowspac@gmail.com

See agenda for key positions filled and vacant

Reported on pilot bus program to teachers and urged them to spend field trip allotments

UPDATES:

Craig Mount, Earthquake Preparedness Chair

- Reported on history of program, location of earthquake preparedness supplies in container outside (food, tents, lights, first aid kits) and in bags in classrooms, library, etc.
- Great BC Shake Out (earthquake drill), Thursday, 16 October 2014
- Also helps Willows staff with emergency training
- Looking for a volunteer to take over the program in the future!

Pizza Day Update

- Online ordering and payments now available until October 24
- Reminder about the PAC website – www.willowspac.ca
- First Pizza Day = 31 October 2014

Clint Lalonde, Treasurer on Contribution Plan

- 27 October: letter will go out to parents
- Donate online or by cheque
- Program goes until 7 November
- Goal = \$13,500

Principal Wendy Holob

- Welcome!
- New teachers adding something new to our community
- Ideas on how to help your kids have a successful year:
 - o Communication
 - **Parents and teachers:** Choose the right time. Talk to teachers about your concerns. Talk to Wendy. Ask questions. Use the agendas for communication.
 - **Teachers and children:** Sometimes effective communication takes time. Learning how they learn best takes time. Teachers need to know what the children DO NOT know (yet)! Get your kids to talk to their teachers.
 - **Parents and children:** Ask the right questions. Be specific. What did you focus on in math? What games did you play in gym? What stories did you read? Let your child take ownership of good and bad stuff.
 - o Involvement
 - Share a skill or talent. Go on a field trip. Come in to read and write with our children in the classroom.
 - Read the newsletters!

Kyla Ward, VCPAC Representative (and former Willows PAC chair)

- Elementary school is a great time to get involved in your children's education!
- VCPAC = district PAC, member of BCCPAC – can move on more sweeping issues beyond individual school PACs
- VCPAC PAC Congress on 26 November 2014
- PAC Chair Summit on 22 January 2015
- VCPAC will hold two all candidate meetings for school trustee elections (22 October, 5 November 2014)
- ww.vcpac.ca

Angela Jackson, Vice-Chair: Plug for upcoming Holly Tree Festival

Christine Patterson, VP: Announcement for public talk by Alison Rees on anxiety, 6 November 2014 – More news to come

Adjournment: 8:45pm

- Next meeting – November 19, 2014
- For more PAC information subscribe to www.willowspac.ca or like us on Facebook “Willows PAC”
- Please direct any questions or requests to willowspac@gmail.com