

Willows Parent Advisory Committee BCSD61

Meeting Minutes November 15, 2017

Commencement 7:05 pm

Adjournment 8:34 pm

Executive in Attendance Cindy Rodier (Chair) Bronwen Sharpe (Past Chair), Chelsea Wozniak (Secretary), Angela Jackson (Vice chair), Jean Pakvis (Communications), Kelli Van Leeuwen (Class Rep Coord), Tim Murphy (vice principal), 11 parents, police liason officer and school counsellor.

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

Approval of today's agenda by Bronwen Sharpe, seconded by Chelsea Wozniak. October 18, 2017 minutes approved by Jean Pakvis, seconded by Chrissy Johns.

Report from Chair:

Welcome and introduction to Tim Murphy, vice principal.

Report from Tim Murphy:

Self introduction:

Originally from Nova Scotia, moved around a lot. From northern Alberta school, then worked in Sooke. Lives in Sooke, wife is a teacher in Sooke.

Portable update:

The gym is operational as of this week. Used for gym and choir.

One class went to music room, other to library.

The hope is to move into the portables next week.

Winter Movie Night:

Waiting for a date from Wendy Holob. We can suggest Dec 13-14? Tim to take to Wendy.

Report from Cindy:

Fundraising campaign has started. Thermometer poster is made to show how much has been donated.

Discussion of how the campaign has been promoted. As an attachment in an email from class rep. Should it be laminated and outside? Should it be printed and distributed?

Is on Facebook, and in social media.

Interest in a family dance. Discussion. Our gym is too small and we have a numbered limit. Can do at another venue like Oak Bay High. Or we can sell tickets to keep numbers within limits. Interest is high, this is something we should pursue.

Traffic Safety Issues around school: Drop off Zone. 3 and 10 min parking zones for drop off. Parents are parking for long term.

Suggestions: Leaflet under windshields to remind parents to drop and go. No unattended vehicles. Circulate the map of where to drop kids away from school for a short walk. Put it in the newsletter again. Make this education a part of kindergarten parent initiation.

Traffic from Bronwyn:

Cyclist parent has contacted Oak Bay Police, abstract, Lees Richard, to create a safe crossing for Bowker Rd over Cadboro Bay. Abstract has promised \$100k to make that crossing safe.

We are wanting to put pressure on Oak Bay council to use this money. Kids working with School. Abstract is coming to Tim Murphy's classroom to discuss and plan for a safe crossing.

Lice Check:

Why do we do it? Huge volunteer hours. Difficult to organize. Invasion of privacy. Have we made a difference?

Public Nuisance not illness. If you have questions, ask pharmacist or public health nurse.

Tim to speak to teachers about lice checks, is this still needed?

Playground update from Bronwyn Sharpe:

We have sent a letter asking Abstract for \$50k for our playground.

We are still a little short, but we are moving forward.

We are on the waitlist for district installation of playground.

Spoke to Rob Fleming and Andrew Weaver, not helpful.

Report from Loring:

Emergency Preparedness: Grab and go packs have been inventoried in each classroom. These are all done for the year.

Miles Wardell went through the outdoor containers, much food was expired.

VCPAC: Missed last meeting. Still discussing dress code, lunch monitors.

Sub committee exists, french advisory committee. About enrollment and boundaries, catchment for elementary through to high school.

Ran out of time to hear from our Guest Speaker Melinda Budgell, school counsellor.

Plan to reschedule next meeting.

A few quick words from Melinda Budgell:

School counsellors have a ratio of 1:1008. Understaffed.

Currently there is a proposal in front of the board to decrease the ratio.

Also looking at having an EA with early childhood education in every kindergarten classroom. This would help get the kids identified and assessed earlier.

Will be at the table at the next district board meeting.

Will have Melinda for our next PAC meeting in January 17, 2017.

The next PAC meeting is Jan 17, 2017.