

PHSS PAC MEETING, AGM
Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021, Via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE: Chris Lekakis, Anne Pino, Tanis Zayshley, Mary MacKay, Katrina Bishop, Melanie Ewen, Jodee Young, Samantha Haines

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 pm

Chris introduced **Michelle Roberts**, who is the new full-time Counselor. She will be doing some teaching as well. Michelle gave a bit of her educational background, and provided her email address (mroberts@sd46.bc.ca) for anyone with questions. She's approaching her work here as more of a family systems model. Her teaching here will be only in mental health. She also has seminars and a TA, and is helping to prepare students for post-secondary.

There were no additions to the agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA - Tanis Zayshley

2nd - Jodee Young

CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM 2020 AGM - Anne Pino

2nd - Tanis Zayshley

CARRIED

Treasurer's report attached.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT - Anne Pino

2nd - Mary MacKay

CARRIED

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Staffing** - Michelle Roberts is our Counselor, Humanities 7 & 8 will be taught by Miss Prasad along with French 7, 8 and 9 and senior languages in the second semester. Senior humanities - Mr. Stoddart is on a leave of absence, and Mr. Gibson-Fraser will fill in. Mr. Stoddart will take on music, and Ms. Brunson will help as well. Mr. Bowen will also help with music. He has 40 years experience and just moved to the coast. Chris would like to organize some music-based field trips.
- Health and Safety Protocols** - Masks are required for age 12 and up, and extra custodial staff comes in periodically to help the full-time custodian. Sanitizer is still available.

3. **New Superintendent - October PAC** - The new superintendant is Kate Kerr. She would like to attend a PAC meeting of each school on the coast this Fall. If parents have questions for her, they can give them to Chris, and he hopes to have her here at our October PAC meeting.

4. **Verification Forms** - Half of parents filled them out so far. In addition to online forms, there are also paper versions being sent home.

5. **Start Up** - With input from students and community, the focus has been on team-building. The first week was about events, games based on TA groups, to set the tone for the year. Students were given a survey about what they like and what they'd like to see changed. The culminating event was the Skookumchuk hike, where the school photo was taken. The PAC parents thought their kids enjoyed this outing (especially the bakery), and Chris said it may be a regular event, along with other community-connection events, and that having a full-time counselor will also help with student connections.

6. **Renovations** - The Shop had a new dust extraction system put in. It's more decluttered now so it looks more open, and is now separated from the auto and welding side by a new wall to keep wood dust and sparks separated. Overall, a more functional space. He'll take us on a tour of the changes at our first in-person PAC meeting. The Hub has new furniture and concept, designed to create different spaces, and is more functional. Some furniture is still being completed.

7. **Ensouling Our Schools** - The district focus is a path to truth and reconciliation across all mediums. This is a book by Jennifer Katz and Kevin Lamoureux (spelling?). Kevin will speak to the DPAC. The idea is trauma-informed care, and working side-by-side rather than a hierarchy, and promoting a sense of belonging. Analogy - like a braid, where each strand is someone's story and skill-set. Woven together, it's a strong rope.

8. **Sports Teams/Intramurals** - PHSS has fewer students. Would like to create more travel opportunities. Tried to take soccer boys (15 signed up) for a trip to Hope, but it fell through because the roster was full. Anne asked when the next opportunity would be, and Chris said there's a chance to go to Merritt soon. Mary asked about girls, and Chris said the girls' soccer season is in the Spring, and boys are in the Fall. There's an interest in a lot of different sports, trying to find which ones have enough people. Intramurals will happen with different sports, and pick-up basketball has started for after school. There have been one-off tournaments, like the 'sugar bowl' for grade 7s. District Student Leadership Events - possibly a Dodgeball tournament.

Melanie asked if a child could join another school's team if there aren't enough students here. Chris has submitted that question to BC School Sports already and is waiting to hear a response. Many years ago they used to allow that. Melanie said that Ms. Pedno at Chatelech said it was okay a couple of years ago. Chris said Covid is a concern right now, but hopes to know by Friday.

Mary asked if there was a cross-country running team or district tournament. Chris will check with Elphinstone and Chatelech to see if they have teams and if our kids can try out.

Chris said there's been good turnout for boys' after school basketball. His hope is that we can create opportunities for our kids here, through trips and tournaments. Anne summarized that Chris would like a boys' soccer trip to Merritt soon, a boys' basketball trip in the winter, and a girls' soccer tournament in the Spring, and that volleyball doesn't yet have enough interest. Chris said we're a 'tier 1' school, which is 200 or fewer students. That means we'd compete with other tier 1 schools, where teams are school-wide, not based on grades. We try to use our X-blocks as practice time for sports teams. Kids are requesting these sports for x-blocks anyway. Girls' soccer, however, has traditionally been an early morning practice or after school.

Mary asked if we're looking for coaches outside of school, or within teachers. It depends on the sport, but where there's a community volunteer, they need a staff sponsor in the building.

9. PAC Hot Lunch - The Oak Tree says each hot lunch costs about \$250. Chris says their meals are high quality, and some kids come in for seconds or thirds. Community sponsorship is being pursued. Chris is going to apply for the Sun Grant again. He'd like to add a second hot lunch date.

Upcoming Dates

- Pro-D day on Monday
- Orange Shirt day is the 28th
- The 29th is a busy day, with the Terry Fox run, a Truth and Reconciliation memorial lunch assembly, and a drop-in vaccine clinic.
- Thursday the 30th is Truth and Reconciliation day, no classes
- October 6th is school photos
- October 11th is Thanksgiving
- October 13th is Grad photos

Anne asked whether timetables were finalized yet. Chris said they had to redo it, with final proof Friday and newest version available on Tuesday. Tanis asked about whether course selections could be available in June rather than September. Chris said it's tricky because they didn't yet have some positions filled, for example for languages and music. They had to wait until that was resolved to see what courses would be available. Anne asked if he had support for that, and he said Paul Bishop had been a big help. There is also a cohort of small rural high schools.

Anne said it would be good to see a list of all courses that were offered and all that were taken. Chris said an advantage of a small school is that they can offer a course even if there aren't many that sign up for it. Sciences are offered on a two-year rotation. For example, this year it's Chemistry 11 and 12, and next year it will be Biology 11 and 12.

The plan is that all kids in grades 10, 11 and 12 will meet with the counselor over the next month to talk about what they're interested in (giving grads priority), as that will ultimately dictate what courses they should be taking.

Mary asked about AP courses. We offer AP English and Literature. If you score a 5 or 6 on the assessment, you will get a first year university credit for English. Katrina asked how a student would go about getting that assessment. Chris said they set it up in-house. One student wrote it last year.

Workplace Skill Certificates course is also offered, and all grade 12s take it so they can be gainfully employed as soon as they leave.

Anne said an information night with the counselor present about timetables, courses and early goal-setting for the kids would be very helpful. Parents can feel disconnected about how it all works and how best to support their kids' goals.

Community School Update - no update, Patti absent

DPAC Update - we have no representative yet

School Trustee - Sam Haines

The new superintendent is Kate Kerr. The new student trustee is Matthew Douglas. September 30th they will be observing the day of Truth and Reconciliation. Yesterday they attended the opening of West Sechelt Elementary. Over the summer conferences covered information on inclusion, anti-racism, reconciliation, and finance and government that included talk of equity and more funding for K-12 education. If anyone has questions regarding vaccines and health, they can contact VCH - Dr. Harding at 604-983-6701.

Tanis asked for follow-up regarding cameras on busses in Pender Harbour. Sam said most busses got them, and she'll ask about it at their next meeting. Mary recalled that whether a bus got a camera had been based on the number of kids, so not all busses had gotten one. Katrina recalled that at the last meeting the information was that 12 of 15 busses on the coast had gotten a camera so far. Chris said that Pender Harbour busses do now have cameras. Sam said the intent was that all busses would eventually get them, with an aim at completing it over the summer.

Old Business

Anne said that there are four sponsors for hot lunch for the month of October, and an ad in the Harbour Spiel. The PAC is paying for the ad, and the Spiel is giving us a deal because we're cool. The ad will be in colour. We have four businesses already for November. Everyone can ask around for sponsors - it doesn't have to just be businesses, it could also be an individual. Tax receipts are available.

New Business

Nominations - It was decided to wait until the next PAC meeting. In the meantime, we can put the word out to other parents that positions are available. Anne suggested that if we can meet in person we could make it an event to bring out other parents. Chris said we could advertise it as an open-house with a PAC meeting afterward.

Bronze Star - Chris said in 2nd semester 7's and 8's will be able to do bronze star, and bronze medallion for senior courses. May have some kids by end of year that are trained as lifeguards. If we have at least six students we could get a national lifeguard course. It was suggested we might want to look at offering a swim team. Chris said any number of swim options could be an x-block, but remembering that it's not our pool and we have to work within what the SCRCD is willing to offer. We're also looking to offer Bronze Cross. Tanis asked if there is a joint agreement between the SCRCD and schools, and Chris confirmed that is the case.

Next regular meeting was set for Wednesday, October 27th, 6:30 pm

ADJOURNED: 7:49 PM

- kb -