



Cheam PAC Meeting
Sept 22, 2022
Location: In person

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order: 7:03pm

Welcome, Introductions

Attendance: Megan (Chair), Lyndsay (Secretary), Sarah, Jenn, Kaitlyn, Kara, Khanh, Olessya, Laurel (Treasurer), Iain, and Tanya (Vice Chair)

Acknowledgements: Cheam Elementary PAC is acknowledging that we are on the unceded territory of the Sto:Lo people.

Quorum met

Agenda approved by Lyndsay and seconded by Tanya

Last year's AGM Minutes approved by Megan and seconded by Lyndsay

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/CARRIED OVER FROM LAST MEETING

N/A

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Principal's Report

Iain requests that parents send questions in advance of meeting to PAC (cheam-pac@sd33.bc.ca) so they can be addressed more efficiently. He will highlight things in school and the district during his report. 248 kids enrolled this year. Every school has strategic areas and goal areas. Individual schools tailor their pro d days to align with the school's goal areas. These goals are discussed ongoing by staff throughout the year.

A big initiative this year is Safe and Caring schools committee and a mental health focus in BC and academics will come secondary. The ideas is to get

everyone settled and happy to be back at school following covid. Several district initiatives are related to this theme.

Indigenous education is another big initiative; indigenizing the curriculum. Truth and reconciliation highlighted at special staff meetings held for the staff of entire district.

Improving individual education plans (IEP) is a focus. Students with designations have IEPs. Core competencies were introduced recently in BC (these competencies can be found on the district website); teachers will weave these competencies in during classroom work. Training sessions are being set up for parents who have IEPs in place already. School based team (ie resource teachers, learning support) staff have been working on this for awhile and now bringing on classroom teachers and parents. More info to come.

Question from Olessya – Will there be academic testing for grade 4? Can parents opt out of academic testing? Iain gave some context and background on the FSA foundation skills assessment grade 4 from the ministry. Previously the FSA was administered in Feb (ie middle of grade 4) but based on grade 4 curriculum but didn't make sense since children being tested on curriculum that may have not been covered yet. Teachers felt pressure to teach to the assessment and cram in curriculum. Redesigned 4 or 5 years ago. Assessment now is in Oct (ie beginning of year) and covers only grade 3 content. Focused on literacy and numeracy and is all done in English. Yes, a parent can opt their child out of it but parent will need to have a conversation with Iain first to see what makes the most sense on an individual case-by-case basis.

Specials Events update

Cops for Cancer happening; they will be doing a ride by the school on Fri Sept 23rd around 12:15pm.

Terry Fox Run on Fri Sept 23rd...Going to Walden Park at FG Leary for 1hr of running. Buses staying on site, in case students need to be transported back to Cheam before the hour is completed. Parents can come and watch.

Kindergarten kids survey The Check to be filled out by kindergarten parents Includes piece about covid impact. The Early Development Index survey though UBC, is conducted by teachers with the families. Kids complete the survey themselves to gauge how they feel about school not academics based. Surveys are district wide and information gathered can help inform future programing. Email sent out from Iain today to Kindergarten parents to remind them that survey was sent home with the students. Survey is open until the end of Oct. If parents can't find sheet then contact the school.

Next Tuesday Sept 27th the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee is joining us at our outdoor learning space. The Indigenous Students Success grant (that we can apply every year) went towards helping to pay for the outdoor learning space. But this project was expensive so we continue to fundraise. This space needed an official name so we approached the indigenous education department who has worked with Sto:Lo to get proper terminology. On Sept 27th it will be the official opening and the kids will get to come outside, see the space and hear new name.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Nothing new to report. Laurel shared the budget that was approved last year. PAC provides money for several things including money for: each classroom, kids field trips, the gym, the library, etc. Many parents don't understand what PAC does or where the funds are used. In the next PAC email sent out this Sunday, Tanya will explain what PAC does and where the funds go towards and also explain which events are fundraisers (ex hot lunch, break the rules)

3.3 Committee Formation and Reports

Lots of parents have signed up already which is great, but always looking for more volunteers.

Special Events:

5 people signed up. Before scheduling a special event, committee needs to check dates with Iain to ensure no conflicts in the calendar. So far the committee has been brainstorming in a chat group about historically what has been done and what works and what doesn't. Budget is \$850 for special events. Also \$200 in addition for staff appreciation. Previous year received a United Way grant to help support but not likely again. Is pancake breakfast allowed? Iain explained the challenge is that the school is over capacity to all be in the gym. Also it is an expensive and labour intensive event to run. Christmas Concert? Also can't easily be done because of logistics, no room to park and not all kids can fit in gym. We are over capacity because we are a choice program school. Could we rent a hall? This would have needed to be considered earlier (ie during previous school year) to allow enough time for planning with the staff. Iain explained that any event planned for around Christmastime needs to be done off site to accommodate the number of people, and we also need to consider how unfavorable weather can potentially disrupt the event (as has happened multiple times in previous years). A larger event is better if planned in Springtime. Spring Carnival perhaps? Previously school was planning an Arts Fair but then covid hit and many of the staff involved in planning a few years ago have since left the school. Any smaller special events being planned for Fall? Fantasy Farms? Green Acres? Ice skating? Low numbers in the past so does it make sense to organize? But group agreed still providing the option would be nice. Committee to discuss ideas further and come up with a plan

Bulletin Board:

3 people signed up. Board has been cleaned up and looks great.

Hot Lunch:

2 people signed up. Carla has already set up 4 dates on Munch-a-Lunch and ordering is open. Lyndsay to check with Carla to make sure class divisions are updated on Munch-a-Lunch to make sure distribution of lunches is smooth and efficient.

Fundraising:

4 people signed up. Hot lunches already happening and coupon books (likely sell until Thanksgiving). Two events already planned. Neufeld Farms: ordering Oct 14 – Oct 30; pickup Nov 8th. Purdy's Chocolates: ordering Nov 8 – Nov 30; pickup Dec 15th. DeVry plants – Carla is investigating. Lyndsay will set up group chat so committee can look at planning more events. Things like bake sales, cake walks, etc now allowed since no longer covid restrictions.

Grade 5 Grad:

3 people signed up

Spirit Committee:

2 people signed up. Before scheduling a special event, committee needs to check dates with Iain to ensure no conflicts in the calendar. No spirit days confirmed yet.

Yearbook:

Still need someone to do this role. We'll need to put out a call for volunteers. Parents will already start to take photos at events such as the Terry Fox Run (happening tomorrow) and they will need to know where to send the photos to be included in the yearbook. Tanya will include this contact info in the PAC email sent out on Sunday PAC.

3.4 PAC Email Sign Up

In past years a pink slip was sent home with a child for a parent to fill out but then someone needed to manually enter the info; this was extremely labour intensive. So now we use Microsoft forms which efficient. The only downside is that for legal reasons we need to get consent at the start of every year (regardless of if the parent has already consented in previous years). The email sign up info has been sent out by Merilee and it's on the Facebook page but some parents don't check there. So Megan will create a paper reminder with the link included; this paper will be sent home with each student by their classroom teacher.

3.5 Letter to teachers regarding budget and due date for reimbursement

A letter has been drafted and will be sent out to all Cheam teachers informing them of the money they have available to them to spend on extra classroom necessities. There is also a field trip fund available this year for each teacher, split evenly among the 248 students registered at Cheam. Laurel will send to Merilee to forward to staff.

3.6 Field Trip Money

Merilee is keeping track of the funds per student but this is an onerous task. She will still continue to track but deadlines will be provided to the teachers to allow for enough time to get this task completed before the end of the school year. Every child gets \$8. By end of April will be deadline for teachers to submit their plans and receipts.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

N/A

5. Meeting adjourned at: 8:20pm

Business carried over

Next PAC Meeting: Monday Oct 24th at 7:30pm on Zoom