

**École Crescent Park Elementary School –
Parents’ Advisory Council Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015

In attendance:

Jackie Vuilleumier	President
Laura Jones	Co-Treasurer
Pam Robertson	Secretary
Katie Messcu	Past President
David A’Bear	Principal

Kelly Ren	Katherine Botelho
Rozina Ali	Hilary Gottschalk
Nichole Gerllays	Kyung-hwa (Teresa) Chung
Angela Markopoulos	Heather Mann
Melany Barnsley	Lisa Shao
Louise Witt	Suzanne Webb
Laura Langton	

Guest: Jason Craft, mural artist

1. Welcome and introductions:

Meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made around the table.

2. Principal’s report:

Christmas Hampers

Once again I want to say a huge thank you for everyone’s contributions this year. Our goal was to support nine families and we went above and beyond that goal. Principal Catherine Berron wanted to pass along a thank you to the Crescent Park community on behalf of the families. There are cards that were recently sent and I will pass those along to PAC as soon as I get them. Thank you to our Events and Managers student leaders for consistently collecting the donations from classrooms, the parent organizers and packers, and the parent drivers.

Lantern Festival

We had an excellent turnout for the Lantern festival and the kids had a great time singing, walking through Crescent Park and having a few goodies before heading home. Thank you to

our music teacher, Ms. Hermann, for organizing the songs, the parent volunteers that guided families along the path and to the many parents that provided goodies and handed out hot chocolate to wrap up the evening.

Grade 7 Fundraising - Bottle Drive and Bingo Night

Thank you to all of the grade 7 parents that volunteered their time on a very wet day. It was a very profitable day for the grade 7 students. \$699.95 was raised in cash donations for tree chipping and we are just waiting for the final number from the bottle depot. Thank you in particular to Melany Barnsley and Angela Markopoulos for organizing the whole day. The next grade 7 fundraiser is the Family Bingo night on Thursday, February 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be more communication regarding bingo night in the next newsletter.

- Angela M. confirmed that the amount raised from the bottle drive portion was \$702.40, which is a terrific amount, bringing the total for the event to roughly \$1,400.00.
- Discussion continued about monies raised through grade 7 fundraising, and whether the PAC could keep some funds in the PAC bank account to make it easier to access, e.g. for when parents are out purchasing items or decorations for events. It was agreed that the PAC could do so and keep a line item in the budget, and reimburse expenses through one point person grade 7 parent. Treasurers Erin M. and Laura J. will meet with grade 7 parents Melany B. and Angela M. to come up with a process we can use now and in coming years.

Leadership

- Our leadership program begins this week and involves all students in grades 4 through 7. Sessions will run bi-weekly on Fridays from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- Our Athletics student leaders will be helping to run basketball intramurals this term as well as inside and outside games for primary students.
- Our Events and Managers student leaders have been busy organizing “inside day” bins to support primary classrooms. The hope is to purchase some math flash cards and board games so that they can facilitate these games during rainy days. I am hoping to get some financial support from PAC for this purchase.

Clubs and After School Programs

- Our art club for grades 2 and 3 students will have its last session this Thursday and the grades 4 and 5 students will begin next Thursday for an 8-week session.
- A notice is going home today for our new lunchtime drama club for both primary and intermediate students. The club will run for a total of 10 weeks and it will be a fun, creative lunchtime group for kids who love to use their imaginations, create characters and small skits, and play games. The intermediate program will be on Tuesdays and will be facilitated by school parent Michele Partridge. The primary program will be on Wednesdays and will be facilitated by school parent Sara MacGregor.

- We have had a lot of interest in our after school programs and they begin this week. An eight-week chess program will begin for both primary and intermediate students on Wednesday. The Mad Science program runs on Thursdays and a six-session I Am Game program runs on Fridays after school in the gym for both primary and intermediate students.

Social Media and Devices

I would like to ask all parents for their support in helping their children use social media in positive ways. We have had a number of negative incidents over the last few months involving social media. Though all of these incidents occur after school, many times the issues come into the school and it becomes incredibly time consuming for me to investigate. Nancy Smith from Safe Schools will be in later this morning to give a social media presentation to grade 6 & 7 students and I am currently organizing a parent information night for later in February.

- In discussion, Mr. A'Bear confirmed that the parent information night would be for parents of students in all grades, and social media misuse is a massive problem, made worse by the fact that much of it is reported by hearsay (e.g. with online sites like SnapChat where the photos can dissolve away quickly after being viewed).

FSA (Grades 4 and 7)

Students in grades 4 and 7 will be taking the FSAs (Foundation Skills Assessment tests) during the first half of February. Communication about FSAs will go home to parents of students in those grades this week.

Ongoing school initiatives

- Stream of Dreams - I am wondering if anyone has connections to a wood supplier. If so, please contact me.
- Main Entrance Mural - Last month I asked the PAC to consider sprucing up the school foyer. I am hoping PAC will consider some new furniture and I have invited Jason Craft to speak to you today about updating our foyer with a mural.

Presentation: Jason Craft, mural artist

Jason Craft, who has done numerous school murals, made a great presentation of his work to PAC, showing many samples of his work on the screen and explaining his process – both in terms of how he works on the pieces and how he involves students and schools in the development of the murals. For Jason, the creation of a mural is always a collaborative process with the school and he finds interesting ways to give kids creative input. Mr. A'Bear noted that Jason has the great talent of being able to take the narrative of a school – its history, current form, students, everything – and bring it into art form. Anyone interested in seeing more examples of Jason's work is encouraged to go to his website: www.artsbycraft.com.

Late French Immersion

- For those parents interested in registering their grade 5 child in late French Immersion for next year (grade 6), there is an information session this Thursday evening at Jessie Lee Elementary at 7 p.m. I strongly urge interested parents to attend this session.
- Late French Immersion registration will take place at 8 a.m. at our school, Crescent Park Elementary, on Monday, January 26th. Registration is first come, first served. (One parent noted that some years the lineups start very early...)

New Curriculum

As reported to parents in previous meetings, staff members are slowly dipping their toes into the water of the new curriculum. The new curriculum focuses on Core Competencies of Communication, Thinking and Personal/Social. The district has many after school events coming up this winter and spring to support teachers in learning more about the new curriculum. Like anything new and broad, it is difficult to describe in words.

Last month I invited our librarian to speak to you about Learning Commons, an essential ingredient to support our moving to the new curriculum and I invited our French Immersion teachers to demonstrate how they are using digital tools to support students in demonstrating their learning in different and authentic ways. I felt I would do the same thing this month by showing you more evidence of the new curriculum in action in our school. I would like to welcome grade 6 teacher Ms. McKnight to present to you how she has used the concept of roller coasters to create problem-based learning and collaborative learning in her classroom. To learn more about the Curriculum and Core Competencies, please go to: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies.

Presentation: Ms. McKnight and members of her grade 6 class

Ms. McKnight's students brought their roller coaster model made out of foam tubing into the library and showed the PAC how they are learning physics and Newton's laws of motion by designing tracks and testing them in class. Through track design and using a marble to represent a person in a coaster car, they are learning the ins and outs of kinetic energy, velocity, acceleration, etc. Ms. McKnight noted that this is just one example of how the new curriculum allows students to work collaboratively, and that with these sorts of hands-on projects the students are more engaged in their work than you see with the use of just textbooks and traditional individual study. The challenge today, when you can click a screen to get any information you are looking for, is to find innovative ways to continue creating critical thinkers and involve them in the learning process in different ways.

- Mr. A'Bear clarified that changes to curriculum involve changes to the ways that teachers have to teach and how they are supposed to assess students. With the new curriculum coming in, teachers are given more freedom to inspire students in different ways and to assess their abilities based on less traditional/limited criteria. Teachers can

teach differently, students can learn differently. When it comes to student learning and school work, the focus is also shifting from quantity to quality.

Dates to remember:

January 15th – HOJA performance at 1:15 p.m.

French Immersion (FRIM) info session @ Jessie Lee Elementary at 7:00 p.m.

January 16th – Hot Lunch orders due

January 22nd – Kindergarten dental screening

January 23rd – Pro-D (students do not attend school)

3. Minutes from the December 2014 meeting:

Motion to adopt the December minutes made by Jackie V. and seconded by Nichole G. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's report

- Before the official treasurer's report, the PAC discussed the proposal to hire Jason Craft to produce a mural for the school's foyer, and the various decisions to be made about how we would proceed re: student involvement and ideas coming from the whole school community. Parents were very impressed by the quality of the artist's work and his collaborative approach, and were interested in getting a mural underway as soon as possible.
- Based on general discussion and estimated costs, a motion was made by Louise W. to approve \$3,500 right now in PAC funds to get the mural's development underway, and seconded by Hilary G. Motion passed. Laura J. wondered if we could use some of our gaming account funds, which have spending limitations, for this project and said she would check the guidelines.
- Parents were also very interested in how to best get students involved, during development, design, creation, etc. Mr. A'Bear will consult with Jason Craft and teachers/parents to come up with a process and get it rolling.

Treasurer's report

December 2014 Treasurer's Report:

Prepared by: Erin Mazza & Laura Jones

Balances: Bank Balances		
Gaming Casino Fund School Grant	31-Dec-14	\$ 6,010.21
Crescent Park PAC	31-Dec-14	\$ 25,664.46
GIC Invested in 1 year term at 1.5% (Mar 30, 2015)	31-Dec-14	\$ 15,480.40
School Account (Left over from last year - Fieldtrips)	31-Dec-14	\$ 2,197.05
District Held PAC	31-Dec-14	\$ 2,517.94
		\$ 51,870.06

Activity to December 31, 2014

PAC General Account: December 31, 2014	Income:	Expenses:
Admin: Bank fees - October		\$ 22.40
Hot Lunch Program	\$228.35	\$ 4,243.02
Bins for Holiday Hampers		\$ 135.78
Fundraising - Spirit Wear		\$ 2,108.00
Integration Room - books & games		\$ 221.45
Classroom improvements (principal's list items)		\$ 2,007.28
Hall Rental Deposit - Spring Fling		\$ 125.00
Coffee Carafe		\$ 169.08
	\$228.35	\$ 9,032.01

Gaming Account: December 31, 2014	Income:	Expenses:
Bank Fees		\$ 2.50
	\$ -	\$ 2.50

Co-treasurer Laura J. mentioned that there was not a lot of activity in December but with hot lunch orders coming in, etc., we will see more soon. We have roughly \$6,000 in gaming grant funds to spend, within the restrictions placed on those funds, as well as money held for us by the District and money left over from last year held by the school. We will want to find suitable ways to spend those funds soon.

- There was some discussion about the hampers we made up for donation at Christmas and whether our school's parents felt stretched by the increase in families we supported; we should plan to take that into consideration when making a commitment next year. The bins purchased by PAC worked well for the hampers.
- The treasurers continue to be concerned about our high banking fees, which have increased, and per cheque costs in particular. They will look into what is available at other local lenders.

- Laura J. reminded PAC that we still need to schedule a pizza lunch to make up for the hot lunch cancellations last year due to job action, and will consult with the hot lunch team about making that happen.
- The updated budget sheet follows at the end of these minutes.

5. Chinese New Year

Lisa S. presented the plans for the upcoming new year's celebration at the school, happening February 13. The primary end celebration was such a success last year, and enjoyed so much by the students, that this year's event will include the whole school as well as performances in the gym and more elaborate decorations. The emphasis will be on celebrating all Asian cultures, too. Information about the event will be provided to school parents closer to the date.

- Lisa has a number of volunteers committed to food preparation for the snacks that will be provided, but will need more volunteers to help that day with decorations, set-up, serving, etc. A call for volunteers will go out directly to school parents.
- One parent wondered about whether FoodSafe certification would be a concern. Pam R. noted that this event would not require FoodSafe, but parents agreed that it would be good to have some people involved who do have it. Lisa also provided the PAC with the food information and permission letter that will be sent home with students to address concerns about allergies.
- Last year the parents who organized the primary event covered all the costs on their own. This year, Lisa was wondering if the PAC could provide some funds to help cover the costs of ingredients, red envelopes, etc. A motion was made by Pam R. for the PAC to cover up to \$200 in expenses, seconded by Laura L. Motion passed.

6. Spring Fling

Co-coordinator Nichole G. updated the PAC on the plans for the Spring Fling fundraiser, scheduled for April 25. The theme for the parents' night out, being held at the Legion, is going to be Western. Calls out for donations and approaching businesses to donate are starting now, and plans are underway to get the school's classes started on the art projects we will be auctioning off. Nichole also noted that the Sun Run is on a different weekend this year, which will be happy news for parents wanting to do both.

- School parents who have donations to contribute to the silent or live auctions should watch the PAC weekly update for ways to do so.

7. Other business

- Jackie V. reminded PAC of the suggestion that we replace the furniture in the foyer. Mr. A'Bear will look into what is needed and where we need to order it from, in terms of District policy. Will discuss at next meeting.

- Parents discussed the “inside day” bins Mr. A’Bear would like to put together for student use. Motion was made by Laura L. to approve up to \$500 to stock the bins with games and activities, seconded by Laura J. Motion passed.
- Pam R. mentioned that the iGuy afterschool peer-relations workshop scheduled for late April needs a new date due to a schedule conflict at Saleema Noon. Mr. A’Bear will check what dates would work for the school. The iGirl workshop remains scheduled for April 21. Pam R. neglected to bring along any actually useful information about the workshops but promised to do better next meeting. (Late addition: the iGuy workshop has been rescheduled for April 30. PR)
- Laura J. has started looking at updating the constitution and bylaws, and would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help. Other schools have up-to-date bylaws online that should be useful references. A couple of volunteers have come forward but more are always welcome. Just be in touch with Laura if you would like to be part of the process or be one of the parents to review the draft bylaws before they are presented to PAC.

Motion to adjourn made by Pam R. and seconded by Louise W. Motion passed. Minutes recorded by PAC secretary Pam R. Next meeting will be Monday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., in the school library. [Budget sheet follows this page.]

CRESCENT PARK ELEMENTARY - PAC
2014-2015 Budget to Actuals Report

Category Description	2014-2015 Estimated Income	Actual Income (Dec 31)	Difference	Notes for 2014-2015
INCOME				
Fundraising Income				
BBQs (Meet the Teacher Night)	500.00	200.37	299.63	
Family Portraits	400.00	280.00	120.00	
Fun Fair	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Spring Dance	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	
TOTAL Fundraising Income	10,900.00	480.37	10,419.63	
Hot Lunch				
Hct Lunch Income	50,000.00	25,339.00	24,661.00	
Hct Lunch Expenses	40,000.00	13,847.81	26,152.19	
TOTAL Hot Lunch	10,000.00	11,491.19	-1,491.19	
Grants & Misc.				
Gaming Grants	5,900.00	6,520.00	-540.00	
Income Interests	200.00	0.00	200.00	
Income Other t-shirts and SD36	0.00	1,218.85	-1,218.85	
TOTAL Grants & Misc	6,100.00	7,738.85	-1,558.85	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,080.00	\$ 19,710.41	\$ 7,369.59	
Category Description	2014-2015 Budget (CURRENT)	Actual Expenses (Dec 31)	Difference	
EXPENSES				
Administration				
Administration exp. including bank fees	400.00	87.51	312.09	
Hospitality	400.00	712.17	-312.17	
TOTAL Administration	800.00	800.68	-0.08	
PAC Programs				
Emergency Preparedness	900.00	783.32	116.68	
Grt Account - Leaving Teachers	800.00	0.00	800.00	
Scholarship Elgin & EMS	900.00	0.00	900.00	
Integration Room Supplies/Special needs	750.00	472.12	277.88	
Sports Day Snack	200.00	0.00	200.00	
Student Education Programs	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
TOTAL PAC Programs	5,550.00	1,255.44	4,294.56	
School Programs				
Computers & Technology	6,000.00	4,366.18	1,334.82	
Field Trip Expense 356kids/S15	5,340.00	5,340.00	0.00	
Fine Arts Performances	3,000.00	3,300.00	0.00	
Library Fund	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00	
Fine Arts Supplies	600.00	0.00	600.00	
PE Equipment	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Classroom Improvement Fund	1,435.00	586.43	849.57	
Library Commone	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	12/01 Approved
Student Leadership	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Sports (tennis, gymnastics, inline skating)	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00	
Teacher's Fund \$200/13 divs+Music+FS,+LST+IN	4,000.00	4,300.00	0.00	
TOTAL School Programs	36,775.00	17,590.61	19,184.39	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 43,125.00	\$ 19,646.13	\$ 23,478.87	
NET (Income - Expenses)	-16,045.00			