

English Bluff PAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 26th, 2024

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Location: EB Staff Lunchroom

Present

Ashley Williams – President, Leah Fox – Vice President and Communications

Vanessa Sawrey – Secretary, Nancy Henderson, Michelle Bowles

Virtual Attendees

Toshi Carleton-Gaines, Laura Ramsbottom, Tessa McHardy, Mona Foufas, Michelle Ma, Heidi Abercombie, Rod Giesbrecht, Cathy Richards, Jen Labelle, Ryan Doucete, Enzo, Gurj Dhari

Meeting Called To Order at 7:03pm

1. Principal's Report
 - See Attached
2. Treasurer Report
 - a. Spirit Wear Design:
 - i. A designer has been hired for \$1,050 to create new designs for spirit wear.
 - b. Classroom Purchases:
 - i. The PAC has allocated \$150 per teacher for classroom purchases.
 - ii. For teachers in shared classes, \$75 has been allocated per teacher.
 - c. Red Cross Courses:
 - i. Held on Monday, November 25.
 1. Profit: \$502.74
4. Wreath, Door Swags, and Decorations Sales:
 - Total sales: 117 items.
 - Profit: \$1234.17
5. DJ Glow Dance Party:
 - Loss -\$455.77
6. Neufeld Fundraiser (Grade 6 Camp Trip):
 - Profit: \$1,014

Questions to Toshi after her report:

1. School Survey Results
 - a. Toshi to provide written response to the June survey results
 - b. Response from Laura Ramsbottom:
 - i. There has been a global shift in student learning post-COVID. The introduction of "Mind Up" addresses this, as children need to be regulated before they can effectively learn. Soft starts and mindfulness

exercises are used to prepare students. High school preparation is the focus for academics, not elementary.

- c. Homework:
 - i. Teachers observed that students' extracurricular activities impacted homework completion. Now, homework is assigned to grades 6/7.
- d. Parent Feedback:
 - i. Positive response from parents, many encouraging homework and adjusting schedules to prioritize school.
- e. Split Classes Concerns:
 - i. One parent raised concerns about the impact of split classes on academic performance over time.
- f. Bullying and SOAR Sheets: What steps is the school taking to address bullying, and are the SOAR sheets effective?
 - i. SOAR sheets serve as a reflective tool, not a solution to bullying. They help collect data for teachers, the principal, and the district.
 - ii. Response from Laura Ramsbottom: ** SOAR sheets are an effective tool for tracking bullying patterns and can help escalate the situation to involve the principal and parents if needed.
- g. Erase Bullying Program:
 - i. The school uses the Erase Bullying Program and will share more information in upcoming communications.
- h. Framework for Addressing Bullying: Toshi outlined steps to address bullying:
 - i. Talk to your child to open communication.
 - ii. Have a constructive conversation with the classroom teacher and set follow-up goals.
 - iii. If unresolved, involve the principal. Ongoing communication with staff is encouraged.
 - iv. Available Support: The CYCW, lunch monitors, and education assistants are available for students to reach out to anytime.
- i. Discussion around the upcoming Reading Link program for grades 4,5. The books are on order and the delivery will determine the start date. Opportunity to run Read-a-thon simultaneously for those who do not wish to be competitive.
- j. Toshi extended an invitation to parents to feel free to reach out should anyone have questions.
- k. Toshi offered suggestion for grade 6 parents to run a raffle for front row seats at the Holiday Concert.

2. PAC President Report

a. **Summary of Past Events**

- The **Glow Dance** was a major success, with the students thoroughly enjoying the event! However, there were some issues with a small group of individuals causing disruptions and acting negatively toward the school. As a result,

these students will be required to have a parent chaperone at future PAC and school events.

- The **Red Cross event** sold out quickly, and there are plans to host it again in April.

Upcoming Events:

- **Bake Sale – December 6th:** We're asking parents and students to donate baked goods and crafts for the sale. Craft donations should be dropped off on **December 3rd** in the lobby, while baked goods can be dropped off on **December 6th between 8:00-8:45 AM**. Please sign up to either donate goods or volunteer for the event.
- **Wreath Decorating – December 9th:** It was discussed that wreaths should be provided to families who may not be able to purchase one, ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate.
- **PJ Day With a Purpose – December 17th:** Students are encouraged to bring a toonie (or any donation) to be given to charities supporting children battling cancer and blood disorders.
- **Day at Parliament and Museum:** A field trip for grade 4/5 students has been submitted to Toshi for review.

PAC Meeting Minutes – Other Communication:

- **School Artwork:** Discussions are underway for a new mural, as well as potential artwork for the inside of the school and the chain-link fence surrounding the property.
- **Event Communication:** Updates for PAC events will be shared primarily through **Hot Lunch, Instagram**, and the communication boards located at the **office window** and **library window**.
- **School Roundabout:** There are still ongoing issues with the roundabout. Students must be able to get in and out of the car independently. Drivers and anyone dropping off a student are not permitted to exit the vehicle to assist, and vehicles must not be left unattended during drop-off. If a student requires assistance, please park and walk them in. Students should not run across the center of the roundabout and must exit from the right side of the vehicle.
- **Treasurer Role:** The treasurer position is still unfilled. We may need to hire an outside accountant to take on the role, which will result in reduced fundraising profits for each event.
- **Playground Committee:** A lead role for the playground committee is still open.
- **Volunteering:** While we've seen an increase in volunteer participation, there is still a need for help on the executive team.
- **Collaboration Efforts:** Ongoing work is being done to strengthen the collaboration between the PAC, teachers, and Toshi.
- **Suggestion Box:** A suggestion box is now available on the ledge of the administrative area in the lobby for anyone wishing to submit feedback.
- **DPAC Update:** An update from DPAC will be available for the next meeting, including meeting minutes.
- **Second Dance:** A potential second dance for students is being considered, with a possible date between **February and April**.

- **Grade 6 Fundraising:** A 50/50 draw at the Holiday Concert was suggested as a potential fundraiser for Grade 6.
- **Art Day Suggestion:** The idea of an **Art Day** at school was proposed. Each classroom would focus on a different medium or project, and students would rotate between classrooms, contributing to a variety of creative works.
- **Book Collaboration Idea:** A suggestion was made for a **book collaboration** project. Each class would focus on a different topic, incorporating artwork. The completed book could be published and sold as a fundraiser throughout the community, potentially as a year-end project.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:29pm

Principal's Report

School Goals:

This year we are focusing on a Social Emotional Learning Goal and will be using the MindUp program to support our teaching & learning. Our inquiry question is: How will intentionally teaching self-regulation strategies help students manage their emotions to better succeed academically and socially?

- Entry points for parents to participate?

PAC funds to support school enhancements:

Teachers are wondering when they will be paid their \$150 classroom amount (some have submitted receipts already) Please respond

Offset Evan's Lake Camp fees – will this happen this year

New ipads – will there be funding to begin this process?

Fine Arts performances: March - Art Starts \$900-\$1000 (Ache Brasil)

Teacher wish-list (see below)

Classroom Funds: Would the PAC consider funding some items off the Teacher's wishlist?

Yoga mats

Mini speaker

Phonics flash cards

French books

Games

Posters

STEM and specialty art supplies

Gingerbread house supplies (graham crackers and icing)

Prizes and treats for classroom economy

Carpets for classrooms

School Initiatives & Events

Music Program – Band with gr. 7s

Volleyball for grade 6&7s

Created by Kids (Is there a way to simplify the process? Other schools do it differently)

Junior Choir – preformed at the Remembrance Day Assembly

Primary Craft club

Spirit Club

This month: PJ Day, Yoga Buddies (div 9, 10 & 11), visit from Delta Firefighters to primary classes;

visit from Nathan Wilson (Indigenous Education Coordinator), IT Coordinator taught robotics in

Library (Primary classes)

Earthquake Bin item count – Thank you Michelle Ma

Food Drive to support Deltassist

Nov 18-21: Rocks & Rings (curling sessions in the gym)

Nov 18-22: Scholastic Book Fair (open Tues & Thurs before school, Tues, Wed & Thurs after school)

Intermediate classes attending Oliver Junior (at SDSS on Nov 29)

Dec 12: Holiday Concert

Dec 17: Pancake Breakfast

Beginning of Jan: Martial Arts, Hockey Day & Delta Warriors, Literacy Week
LSF (Learning for a Sustainable Future). We are committed to becoming an LSF school.
LSF receive funds from grants & federally and need to show that schools are committed. They have some great resources.

LSF site: <https://lsf-1st.ca/programs/sustainable-future-schools/>
Discussions about Spirit Wear

Questions/Comments/Other items:

Parking Lot: reserve for staff & K/daycare drop-off

Police noticing many young children riding in the front seats of cars

Staff Question: Please clarify where fundraising money is going? To support some initiatives –

equity amongst classes.

Is there a need for parent support with cut & paste? (Yes please) – Tessa M will organize

Is the grade 6 camp feasible? Share details to grade 6 parents on zoom

Would like to see more educational field trips (not just a focus on sports)

Parent Survey & Discussion:

Articulate this in newsletters – thoughtful responses that are thorough

Some questions have been responded to (IB questions, Code of Conduct, this month we will focus on Mindful behaviour & our school goal of SEL (address questions about kindness).

Also this month, teachers have committed to being a part of LSF (fostering civic participation,

see above)

Focus on the Arts, not just sports (bringing a variety of guests in)

Stronger focus on communication (parents connecting with the teacher to have positive discussions) – communication with teachers

Homework discussion was valuable & will be discussed with teachers

Discussion about bullying – what our steps are to prevent & address bullying (use of erase for

learning tools: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

What is the framework to discuss Bullying: Begins with conversation between parent & child (gather details). Connect with Teacher (take some time to sort out feelings so you can be a

proactive advocate for your child). Ask questions (supports in place, next steps), Loop

Principal

into the conversation (Do we need more supports? Are we addressing the actual problem?

Next Steps).

We use WITS (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help)