

École Sir William Osler PAC Meeting

Date/Time: September 17, 2024, at 6:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Google Meet

Chair: Caitlin Buchel

Minutes written by Caitlin Buchel based on Transcript created by Tactiq Software (as discussed and approved during the PAC meeting)

Chair Greetings (Caitlin)

- Requested and received consent from PAC and guests present to use Tactiq software to transcribe tonight's meeting and use that transcription to create Minutes as PAC Secretary Rebecca is unable to attend this evening.
- All parents welcomed, appreciation for new faces and familiar faces
- Assistant Superintendent Lorelei Bunkowsky was greeted and thanked for attending
- Three teacher representatives: Mme Sara Tham, Mme Amanda Toews, and Mme Meredith McGuinness
- Items added to New Business: Land Acknowledgement, Yearly Fundraising Plan

Review of Minutes (Caitlin)

- Review of Minutes from May 21, 2024
- Request for any amendments
- Motion to accept the minutes as presented:
- Moved by Lauren. Seconded by Amy

Treasurer's Report (Amy)

- Lunch Program: Current balance: **\$25,956.74**
 - This amount includes lunch payments that have been deposited but does not account for those who have split their payments, with some expected to come in February. The funds cover payroll for lunch program staff, compost fees, and supplies needed during the year.
- PAC Account: Current balance: **\$17,580.16**
 - Avery noted that \$15,000 of this amount is a grant from the Province's Building Sustainable Communities Fund, which needs to be spent by the spring to build a new play area or we will be required to return the full amount to the province.

Principal's Report (Dominique)

- Priorities for the Year: include developing French oral language, literacy, numeracy, reconciliation, and sustainability.
- General Updates: Supervision, fire drills, emergency evacuations

- Upcoming Events: Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day
- Construction Updates: The interior renovations are currently about six weeks behind schedule. The daycare rooms, which were anticipated to be operational by mid to end of September, have now been pushed back to the end of October or beginning of November. The daycare is currently using the gym space, which has affected the availability of the gym for physical education classes. The expectation is that the gym will be available again once the daycare moves into its designated space, which is now projected for the end of October or beginning of November.
- Enrollment: 190 students.
- Gym and Outdoor Activities: Gym classes held outdoors due to construction.
- Class Reps: No class reps this year as information is shared efficiently on See Saw
- Class Contact Lists: Teachers will share a list of students first names with last initial. Currently, school is not planning to create classroom contact lists. Parents were concerned about no longer having contact information for other students in their child's classroom. Dominique will research how other schools handle class contact lists and then provide an update.
- Concert: Concert plans are still being finalized; potential ticket system to manage attendance.
- Playground Equipment Purchased: Hula Hoops, Soccer Balls, Soccer Nets - Smaller portable ones (previously used) - New larger ones (10 feet by 5 feet), Footballs, Playground Balls, Scoops and Balls, Soft Frisbees, Ball Hops (Skip-Its), Jump Ropes, Sidewalk Chalk
- Use of "Far Park" (city park at the end of ESWO school): classes are going to Far Park once per 6-day cycle (all recesses on that day).

Farm to School Fundraiser Update (Lauren)

- Farm to School Veggie Fundraiser: Orders due by September 29th, delivery on October 10th.
- Volunteers may be needed for sorting and distribution. Older students often help with this process. Dominique will email parents if volunteers are needed.

Lunch Program Fees and Volunteering

- Volunteering to offset lunch fees: Two days per month volunteering will cover half a year of lunch program fees, once per week of volunteering covers a full year of lunch program fees.

Playground and Outdoor Activities Discussion (Caitlin, Avery, teachers and parents present at the meeting, and emailed concerns from parents unable to attend)

- Themes shared by parents:
 - Frustration with Delays: Frustration felt by some parents because they had known that the play structure would be gone for two school years, they would have pushed harder to put something in place at the start of the construction.
 - Lack of Diverse Activities: Some parents report that the lack of a play structure has caused their children distress (including crying at home). They feel that this is due to a lack of diverse activities at recess.
 - Increase in negative student interactions at recess resulting in unhappy play: While it may appear that children are playing nicely together, some parents reported that it is not always consensual or happy play. Some children are experiencing negative interactions that are not being adequately addressed and parents feel that this is in part due to the lack of play structure and other recess activities.
 - Smaller children not having activities: Parents report that some younger children are uncomfortable playing soccer with the older kids and because there has only been one soccer pitch, they do not get to play soccer at recess.
 - Process to address recess concerns: Questions were raised regarding how recess concerns should be addressed. A clear process needs to be outlined to parents and students.
 - Lack of understanding regarding how projects are funded and approved: Request for a clear process for pitching projects.
 - Request for updated landscape plan to be shared with parents: Dominique indicated that she would pursue same.

- Themes shared by teachers present at meeting:
 - Benefits of inter-age play: The absence of the play structure has led to younger students playing with peers and siblings from different grades, fostering a stronger school community. While, initially, some of the younger students may have been surprised by the lack of play structure, the increased inter-age play has been particularly beneficial for them. The first-grade students, who are new to recess, are feeling more connected to the entire student community.
 - Increased Use of Entire Greenspace: Instead of just using the play structure and surrounding greenspace, the students are using the full greenspace far more than before, including the outdoor classroom, berms, and trees at the far end of the field.
 - Increased Creativity in Student Play: Teachers have observed a new creativity in the students play (e.g. students using the new ball scoopers

as baseball gloves to play baseball). Group games like Man Hunt and soccer have encouraged large groups of students to get involved.

- New Four Square Popular: The painting of an additional Four Square on the hardtop was a great idea as it is very well used. Two new hopscotches were painted as well.
- Ideas/solutions to enhance recess experience while construction continues:
 - Additional soccer nets have been purchased and there are now two areas for students to play soccer so that children can join a game that feels more comfortable to them.
 - New four-square has been painted and is highly used
 - Gaga ball pit
 - Buddy benches and picnic tables: these are in storage, but Dominique will ask if they can be brought out and placed in the current playground space.
 - Having older students act as leaders to give younger students structured activities at recess. Challenge is that we need volunteers to facilitate this type of activity.
 - Going to the Far Park more often

Process to have PAC funded building projects completed

- There are many steps to getting a building project approved and we need parent volunteers who are willing to do the behind the scenes work to make this happen.
- Process to have an idea funded by PAC and built on school grounds will be laid out in a communication to parents. Basic steps include the idea, formal quotes from approved WSD companies, consultation with landscape architects to ensure a place within the landscape plan, and WSD approval.

Financial Overview for Playground Enhancements (Avery and Caitlin)

- Avery put together a financial summary that shows funding (received and spent) on Phase One of the greenspace project and the start of Phase Two
- Phase One: Completed with outdoor classroom and berms.
- Phase Two: Planned for spring: new play area (sticks and stones). PAC received a Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) \$15,000 grant that needs to be spent by March 31, 2025. The Division has agreed to write a letter to the province explaining that the delay in spending the grant has been due to construction delays on the Divisions part. We will ask for some flexibility in the grant requirements (e.g. can we buy the equipment and store it for a couple of months until it can be installed).
- PAC Account Cash: Currently, there is \$17,580.16 in the PAC account. As discussed, \$15,000 of that must be retained for use on our Phase Two play area

project. Thus, there is approximately \$2500 left that can be used by PAC this year for typical activities like teacher appreciation lunches, patrol and leadership group appreciation, picnic activities etc.

- Playground Account Fund: There is ~\$6,000 that can be used this year on any interim or added playground enhancements. We need the remainder (in combination with the \$15,000 BSC grant) to build the Phase 2 play area in the spring.
- Fundraising Expectations: Aim to raise around \$8,000 this year (based on average over the last two years of our fundraising).
- Based on the review, PAC can spend a maximum of ~\$14,000 this school year without undermining the Phase 2 project (assuming we fundraise similarly to the previous two school years).

Decisions on Interim Playground Solutions:

- By Friday, September 20, 2024, Dominique will send out an email with the project process that was discussed tonight, updated landscape plans, and steps to resolve conflicts at recess.
- Encourage any parent with an idea to follow the steps in the process and bring them to the next PAC meeting so that voting can take place.
- Ideas are welcome after the next meeting as well, however given parents' concerns about timelines, PAC – with an understanding of the financial situation - will vote on ideas at the October meeting and then on an ongoing basis as they are presented to council.
- If a project is pitched, the person or group pitching the project needs to have the people power to carry it through to completion. PAC exec will be supportive but is stretched thin across their current responsibilities so cannot lead projects.

Closing Remarks (Caitlin)

- Acknowledgments: Thanks to all attendees including teachers and parents for their contributions and willingness to voice concerns and possible solutions. Added appreciation for staying so long. PAC meetings do not typically run this long, and we anticipate that future meetings will be closer to a 7:00pm end time.
- Motion for Adjournment at 8:30pm: Moved by Avery. Seconded by Amy.