

Brock Corydon PAC Meeting

October 8, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Present: Rachel Wolfenson, Melissa Vickar, Leah Madrid, Amy Swirsky, Cindy Chodirker, Richard Hector, Lars Sigurdson, Malory Calof, Beth Jacob, John Waldman, Cesar Cruz, Tamara Weltman, Cindee Gorowski

1. **Call meeting to order @ 7:03pm.** Moved by Beth Jacob and Amy Swirsky
2. **PAC Executive (standing item):** Cindee Gorowski is Brock Corydon PAC Chair and represents our school on the divisional PAC committee. Tamara Weltman is Vice Chair. Cindy Chodirker and Amy Swirsky are Treasurers. Amanda Paul is Secretary.
3. **Approve minutes from last meeting:** Approved by Cindee Gorowski and Tamara Weltman.
4. **Minutes provided via the link** – PAC Meeting Minutes will be posted on the school website under PAC tab: <https://www.winnipegssd.ca/brockcorydon/page/2801/parent-advisory-council>
5. **Principal/Vice Principal's Updates:**

- a. **Learning support teacher** – this year we have moved to a new model to meet the direction of the division to support inclusion in the classroom – to start off the year we have a six-week model of support in place. Some roles will change over time. Ms. Mandaliti keeps all of her role this year, additionally Ms. T and Rachael Floom have joined the support team. We also have half time Hebrew support with Morah Stav and half time Hebrew support with Morah Sherry. Support workers are there to support teachers to engage their own pedagogy and create engaging lessons in the classroom. Brock, Montrose and Rockwood are sharing information and learning amongst each other in relation to this new model. Administration is working hard to balance long-term goals of the school with the flexibility to be able to respond to emerging needs that come up in the classroom on a daily/weekly basis.
- b. **Lunch supervision and Leaders League** – As we know, this year's lunch program has been taken over by the school without charge to families. Lunch supervision is now staffed with EAs, LSTs, and administrators. The reality of this year is that there is less supervision than there has been in prior years. Everyone is pitching in to ensure safe supervision throughout the school.

The Leaders League is a new way to package a variety of responsibilities throughout the school that senior students can participate in (e.g. patrols, compost crew, reading buddies, and now lunch buddies). Two grade sixes per class each day are provided with a bright vest and games and activities that they can play with kids in the classrooms. In addition to engaging in fun activities, the Leaders help with things like opening thermoses and getting on outdoor gear for younger students, etc. Response has been positive so far withing the school. Thanks to Dr. Rich and Ms. Joelle for spearheading this initiative.

- c. **Cultural Enhancement Fees** – Maintained \$20/student this year. Notice will be going out shortly for payment to be remitted. Three families support donations for grape juice and challah for shabbat celebrations on Fridays, and the cultural enhancement fees cover the additional food costs for celebrations such as the Pesach seder and Purim treats, etc.
- d. **Nutrition program and grant** – The federal nutrition program, supported with provincial funds is now present in the school – we now have a budget to purchase nutritious food items (not including utensils, etc.) which can be provided to children on an as needed basis. All items are vetted by the division. PAC previously purchased a commercial fridge for the milk program years ago and this is being utilized to support this initiative. Apples, hummus and crackers, cheese sticks, etc. are available for students who need a snack throughout the day. This is a very important and needed program in our school as previous years snacks were supported by personal donations from administrators and teachers.
- e. **Sukkah plans** – We are at the end of a three-year grant project to beautify our school yard and expand our outdoor learning spaces. The pergola will now be used as the foundation of our sukkah for the upcoming sukkot celebrations. Each classroom in the school (including the English program) was welcomed to create a panel for the sukkah and every one of the classrooms has eagerly agreed to participate. The panels will be bound together with twine and hung to create the walls of the pergola. Morah Sherry has gone to each of the classrooms to teach a lesson on what a sukkah is and what it means. On the 15th of October, the sukkah will be assembled. Jewish Federation has been welcomed to visit the sukkah. It was noted that last night at the rally for Israel, Brock Corydon was mentioned favourably several times by the Federation.
- f. **Fundraising update** – The previously released article quoting Matt Henderson indicated W1SD should not be fundraising. He has since dialed back his initial statements and is now saying that fundraising should be purposeful and equity among students should be considered.

Discussion occurred re: fun lunch – ideas for increased accessibility for all students, such as offering a free item on the order that all families can opt in or out of (e.g. chocolate milk if purchased with the nutrition grant, or fruit snacks or juice boxes if sponsored by PAC funds). Since fun lunch orders have gone out for this period, options can be explored for the next order period.

Another suggestion made: A pay-what-you-can option for fun lunch orders. Include transparent costs and recommended payment, as well as option to pay what you can. Discussed having a single meal for test run of pay what you can option. Suggestion to have a meal from a kosher location to promote inclusivity. Beth Jacob to source cost of kosher options.

Additional suggestion: to have a way for a class to earn a lunch by doing a mitzvah or good deed. Mr. Sigurdson discussed other options like balloon parties that have been offered to classes as motivation.

Fundraising goals currently determined: Support for school clubs as per last year, and covering costs of PAC community events (e.g. dance, movie night, etc.)

6. Teacher Report (Morah Sophia – Grade 3 & 4):

- a. The Shabbat box - each week one child is chosen to take it home and bring it back with something important to them inside that they want to share during kabbalah shabbat.
- b. The class has been working hard to create their panel for the sukkah wall as a collaborative project. The kids are very excited about it.
- c. Art throughout the classroom unites the learning – lots of layered concepts are used to connect subjects and enhance learning.

7. Treasurer’s Report:

- a. Fun Lunch money has come in and meet n’ mingle costs have gone out.
- b. Balance \$25,345.25 with some expenses from last year to be paid out still.

8. Chair’s Report:

- a. Chair contributed information to the Fundraising conversation under Principal’s report – no further chair’s report.

9. Upcoming Events/Fundraisers:

- a. November – Little Caesar’s
- b. November – movie night
- c. February – Read-a-thon
- d. March - Dance
- e. May – Glenlea Fundraiser
- f. June – Fun Fair

10. New Business:

- a. French has been removed from both Hebrew and English programs – finding a well-qualified half time French teacher has been an ongoing challenge for the school. In the Hebrew program there was more need for additional supports. Some parents have expressed worries about students moving to the late-immersion program at River Heights if they have not received French instruction at Brock. Mr. Sigurdson advised there is no requirement that students have a working background in French to enter the late-immersion program. The previous French offering only allowed the French teacher to see each student a maximum of two times per cycle for half an hour. That model did not allow enough time for meaningful learning to happen among 300 children in the school, so the decision was made to support the strength of the Hebrew program with this available learning time.

Parent suggestion: Having an afterschool program (similar to Mad Science) offering French. Suggests surveying the parents to see if there is interest among the school community.

Another suggestion: Can there be a French offering be run as a lunch club? Do we have a teacher with a background in French willing to run it, or can we get another program similar to Dreambox that can be utilized to support this learning? Administration will look into these options?

- b. Discussion occurred re: the role of the room reps. Melissa Vicker is going to draft an email seeking room rep support.

- c. John Waldman is willing to lead the phonebook compilation this year if someone will do it with him. Tamara Weltman has last year's email ready to go. Amanda Paul can format the book with Tamara.
- d. Suggestion for future events: have a PAC table and room rep sign up at Meet n' Mingle and Parent teacher night
- e. Another suggestion to have a reach out by each teacher via Seesaw requesting participation on PAC committee/with fundraising and events.

11. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:26pm. Motioned by Leah Madrid and Tamara Weltman.

****Next PAC Meeting: November 5 at 7:00pm ****