

**Brock Corydon PAC Meeting
October 10, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Monica Chochinov, Jon Waldman, Amanda Paul, Tamara Weltman, Amy Swirsky, Cindy Chodirker, Cindee Gorowski, Leah Madrid, Melissa Vickar, Andrea Fragomeni, Kim Kilfoyle, Chrissy Hasse, Kaitlin Davey, Mallory Calof, Tammie Adolfson, Beth Jacob, Allison Cribbs, Lindsay Drummond, Mal Magoel Fridson, Joanne McMillan, Lars Sigurdson, Richard Hechter

1. **Call meeting to order @ 6:30pm** moved by Amanda Paul and seconded by Allison Cribbs
2. **PAC Executive introductions made:** 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. **Acknowledgement of attacks in Israel.** This is a difficult day. Committee will try to expedite the meeting tonight for those who would like to attend the Support for Israel rally at Rady JCC.
4. **Approve minutes from last year:** Minutes provided for those in attendance to review – approved by Tamara Weltman, seconded by Monica Chochinov
5. **Principal/Vice-Principal's message:**
 - Welcome to Dr. Rich – new Vice Principal and a great addition to our school leadership team
 - Acknowledgement of the conflict in Israel and the support available to students
 - Really good start to the year this year. Smaller leadership group with four focussed pockets of work taking place: English/Language Arts, Math, Hebrew, Indigenous Perspectives/Nature Based Learning, including prioritized professional development in these areas.
 - Professional Development Day on Oct 3 – Literacy committee presented to the school and did a fantastic job. Lots of practical takeaways for teachers
 - Jessica Patrician – Early Years Mentor Coach (new title, same position) is continuing to support our nature based learning programs and the integration of this work into classrooms school-wide
 - Outdoor learning spaces got a later start than expected, but are complete now and are receiving lots of positive response from the students and teachers. School will look to continue to expand our outdoor learning offerings, including consideration of feedback received from parents and school community last year.
 - The climbing wall that was announced last year did not come to fruition over the summer as planned due to issues with the initial company contracted for the work. Administration has contracted with another local company to complete the work and anticipate this will be done in the near future. This project is funded through a grant and school funds.

- The school library renovation is not done yet, but is well on its way. It is a beautiful space for children's learning. Ms. Joelle has taken over work in the library and is doing an excellent job.
- Parent-teacher conferences are coming Nov 15-17th – mark your calendars. More information will come out to the school. Same set up as last year for booking.
- New audio/visual equipment for the gym is being still being explored. We are in the process of getting updated quotes. PAC is hoping to support this endeavour through fundraising.
- Schmooze and mingle plans for this December are in the works. We can no longer use places of worship for these gatherings so options for an out-of-school venue are limited. Leadership is exploring Tech Voc as an option, but it is a whole process when we have to travel to another space with the students for rehearsals, etc., and incur the costs associated with transportation, space rental, equipment rentals, etc. There is an acknowledgement that not all will be pleased with the ultimate decision as some have really enjoyed the in-school event the last couple of years, while others prefer an outside venue like the past. Leadership will do their best to make it an enjoyable night for all.
- Challah fundraiser is still to come. Head clerk has been on leave so there has been a slight delay in being able to get up and running this year, but rest assured it is in the works and will be coming soon.
- Picture day: October 18, 2023!

6. Lunch Program Update- Tammie Adolfson:

- Yearend financials for last year provided.
- Further exploration of staffing/supervision options took place; however, the school division requires one person per room – had explored option of sharing staff between two rooms, but not possible
- PAC covered \$4200 of lunch program deficit last year. Increases to minimum wage continue to impact cost of running the program, as does lack of available multi-purpose space in the school. If children are grouped in the gym, then intermural activities cannot take place and the school would have to incur the cost of purchasing tables and chairs, and decide where to store them. The school received complaints last year when classes needed to be combined at lunch for supervision and students were made to eat on the floor.
- PASCAL program reintroduced for this year. 26-27 of the 40 available spaces have been filled by parents.
- Emergency lunches for celiac and kosher are available (costs are a little greater). The program keeps items on hand for when students need – parents are then contacted and charged for the emergency provision.
- Question from parent re: funds for Staff Appreciation/Staff Meetings budget line – Tammie provided response that our lunch staff get one staff appreciation day in June as they do not get included in school appreciation days or receive appreciation gifts

from parents. Tammie funds her own appreciation for the staff in December. She also provides hot chocolate from time to time in cold winter months. She noted that the staff are typically making minimum wage and these small gestures go a long way.

- Question from parent: Was the Small Business Minimum Wage Adjustment Grant explored. Tammie indicated it was explored.
- Question from parent re: rate of payment by families – when will this start being chased? Tammie advised we are now at 22% of families still unpaid at this time, which is ahead of this time last year. Last year total \$2500 was the total amount unrecovered from families. Tammie continues her efforts to recover funds throughout the summer months. Mr. Sigurdson indicated the school is covering fees for families who are in need this year.
- Question from parent about what other schools are doing to lower their fees. Response: multi-class eating spaces to lessen staffing, some have no microwaves.
- Offer for parents to strike a sub-committee to review options – names collected
- Request by parent to review this year's budget and rework the budget as necessary: Motion called by Chrissy Hasse and seconded by Kaitlin Davey. Tammie agrees to meet and discuss questions about the budget.
- Parent comment: Our catchment is entire city, so students cannot go home. English side is struggling already and this will further deter parents from coming to our school.
- Parent comment: Lunch staff is difficult to work with. Mr. Sigurdson noted that any questions/comments regarding the conduct of staff in the school can and should be directed to him as principal for follow-up.
- Parent comment: 26% wage increase has been cited as reason for increased fees, but fees went up 30.3%. Lunch staff replied that other items such as gloves, disposable cutlery, and emergency food items have also increased in cost this year, impacting that amount.

7. Treasurer's report:

- Reviewed by all present.
- We are a registered charity and need to submit charity report to CRA. Parent accountant has been submitting for free the last few years, but we will need to look at hiring an accountant in the years going forward as they will age out of the school next year.

8. New Business:

- Halloween dance – used to be annual event, but has not been held in several years (mostly impacted by COVID).
- Parent raised concern that dance would be inappropriate given the conflict in Israel. Decision made to postpone the dance to Spring

9. Fun Lunch:

- Call for orders was extremely well received (213 orders total)
- Ordering in three month blocks appears to be working well for families

- First fun lunch will take place this week – volunteers are always welcome. Parent volunteered to help this week. Tamara Weltman advised she can be contacted at any time if parents are free to volunteer.

10. Chair's report:

- Upcoming Fundraisers:
 - October – Show & Save – Allison Cribbs is the lead of this one
 - November – Perogy fundraiser – Mallory Calof offered to lead – Amanda Paul to provide info
 - January - movie night
 - March - Rumor's (adult night out) – parent Drew Mindell is lead
 - May – Glenlea Flowers
 - June - Fun Fair
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- Virtual/hybrid meetings:
 - Some have asked if we can accommodate hybrid meetings (in-person/online)
 - Folks are in support, but note that there can be challenges
 - School does not have a professional Zoom account – parent offered to use hers to send out link. (Link provided to school in advance to be sent out)
 - Will need a moderator to watch the chat box during the meeting
 - Will trial this for next meeting.
- Discussion re: using PAC funds to offset costs of events (e.g. movie night or dance night where there would normally be a nominal cost for families to attend). Folks were in support of PAC doing this if PAC budget allows. Fundraising dollars otherwise go to the larger request items for the school as advertised.
- PAC Meeting Minutes will now be posted on the school website under PAC tab.
<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/brockcorydon/page/2801/parent-advisory-council>

Meeting adjourned: 8:02pm

Next Pac Meeting: November 14 at 7:00pm