

Sherwood Park PAC Minutes
Meeting date: September 27, 2017

In Attendance: Sanjeet Johal, Anne Lawson, Meredith Briden, Lesley Bales, Caterina Reid, Jenny Breckon, Julie Mayor, Joshana McMahon, Katrina Podmore, Robin Norris, Cheryl Atchison, Katie Rodgers, Philippe Whyte, Lisa Ogilvie, Kate Walker, Niki Schulz, Jen Read, MJ Dionne, Christine Chatelain, Beth Rossiter, Marina Hartvik, Peyman Hassani, Julia Iriarte, Crystal Smith, Natalie Lai, Meghna Haldar, Nahal Nassiri, Anthony Lyons, Gina Madeo, Fiona Rouillard, Sharon Boglari

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Motion to approve the May 30, 2017 and June 13, 2017 minutes made by Katrina Podmore and seconded by Katie Rodgers

Principal's Report – Sanjeet Johal

Enrollment at Sherwood Park is up to approximately 430 students, the highest it has been in a while. There are 21 enrolling divisions, 20 classrooms (the two French Immersion K classes are sharing a classroom), with 9 split classes and 12 straight classes. 14 of the 50 staff are new, and one teacher still needs to be hired. It has been difficult finding high-calibre teachers wanting to work on the north shore due to the commute and cost of living. Four previously non-enrolling rooms were converted to classrooms over the summer.

There will be 5 staff collaboration days this year, on the last Wednesday of September, November, January, February and May. At today's collaboration day, representatives from the Tsleil Waututh nation introduced staff to some online resources designed to help with adding indigenous content to the curriculum.

Athletics:

- 45 children from grade 4-7 are participating in cross country this year, with four teachers and two parents supporting.
- We have one grade 7 boys basketball team and options are being explored to enable interested girls to participate (5-6 students are required in order for a team to be formed).

Academics:

- Between Sept 26 and October 6, staff will be holding parent-teacher interviews or curriculum nights.

Upcoming events:

- Terry Fox run on Sept 29
- October 2 is Orange Shirt Day
- October 31 - Halloween parade and Haunted House
- November 1 - School-based Pro-D Day
- November 11 - Remembrance Day. Parents are welcome to join the assembly around 11 am.
- November 29 - Staff collaboration Day

A parent noted that there has been a large turnover of teaching and support staff at Sherwood Park and asked how we can encourage a sense of community and connectedness between staff and parents. Sanjeet noted that the staff community is very engaged and do activities together (eg hiking Quarry Rock), and he is looking forward to community events such as Trivia Night, Pancake Breakfast, and Bingo.

Another parent commented that because class email lists are not circulated, it is often difficult to get to know parents within a class. Sanjeet explained that email lists may not be shared due to privacy concerns, but that Class Reps can ask parents for permission to share their contact details. Some classes also organize social gatherings to get to know parents in their class (eg coffee, pub night). A parent in attendance offered to look into publishing a School Directory (the last one was published by the PAC in 2015).

Class Reps:

The class rep is an important liaison between teachers and parents as well as the PAC and parents. All PAC communication will go through the class rep in the future and it is therefore important that we have a rep for every class. Currently we only have about 9 reps signed up. If you are interested in being the class rep for your class, please contact your teacher or the PAC.

Protocol for bringing items to the PAC:

If you have ideas for new programs, please bring your research (including costs and proposals for funding) to a PAC meeting or email the PAC directly at sherwoodparkpac@gmail.com. The budget for 2017/18 was approved in May 2017; any new programs that the parent community would like to implement will be considered for 2018/19, unless additional fundraising is undertaken to cover costs.

Volunteer opportunities:

Volunteers are the heart of our school community and make it possible to conduct programs and events that benefit our children, families, and community. There are numerous opportunities for volunteering, ranging from helping behind-the-scenes to organize an event to helping out on the day for an hour or two.

Some of the volunteer opportunities available within the next 3 months, include:

- Hot lunch - helping out at the school on hot lunch days (1 hour)
- Trivia night (Nov 17)
- Pancake breakfast (Dec 22) - helping as part of the organizing committee, or helping on the day

Longer-term, we are looking for volunteers for:

- Hot lunch co-ordinator
- Carnival

In addition, the Principal has requested a parent to act as Community Programs Co-ordinator (work with the administration to co-ordinate after-school and lunch-time programs).

We will be posting a list of volunteer opportunities on the PAC noticeboard (hallway outside the staffroom) as well as on our website. If you are able to help, please let us know (sherwoodparkpac@gmail.com). Thank you to those parents who signed up at the meeting -- we will be in touch to discuss how you can help!

Swing update:

An additional bank of swings that has handicap accessibility was approved in May 2017 as part of the 2017/18 budget (up to \$10,000 from retained earnings). Chris Ricard is working with administration to investigate options and get quotes. The budget needs to cover equipment, installation, ground surfacing and taxes.

Budget review:

As of July 23, 2017, the PAC has \$39,408 in our bank account. We are expecting this year's gaming grant to be paid soon. The Seycove auction has been a good source of income in previous years, but it is uncertain if it will go ahead this year, so we have not budgeted any income from this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: November 15 @ 7pm

Contact us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodparkpac>

sherwoodparkpac@gmail.com

<http://sherwoodparkpac.weebly.com/>