

Sherwood Park PAC Minutes

Meeting date: Oct 25, 2016

In Attendance: Joe Campbell, Kamryn Turner, Carolyn McEachern, Meredith Briden, Michelle Soltys, Danae McKay, Julie Polukoshko, Sonal Parbhu, Laura Palmer, Fiona Rouillard, Kate Walker, Katie Rodgers, Jana Ogdenova, Nahal Nassiri, Olga Laren, Arnat Brettshneider, Beth Rossier, Amber Fraser, Gina Madeo, Katrina Podmore.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Motion to adopt the May 25th meeting minutes postponed until November 22, 2016 meeting.

Joe introduced the first of two guest speakers for the evening.

Table Matters (Scott Rowe and Rubina Jamal)

This organization that promotes food rescue from local North Shore businesses has been running a breakfast club at Sherwood since the spring of 2016. The program was initially 2 days per week but has moved to 3 days per week as of this fall. The club runs from 8:15am to 8:50am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and is open to all Sherwood students including those who may not have had breakfast before school, need a little more food to be able to start the day or wanting to socialize before school. The word has spread as the program has grown and now serves breakfast to 50-60 students. The majority of the food is prepared in the kitchen at the Tsleil Waututh Nation Community Centre.

The food is procured from local businesses and is food that would otherwise be tossed and includes fruits and vegetables and close dated dairy items. 20-30% of the food is purchased for the program. Items served include yogurt parfaits, breakfast wraps & egg McMuffins.

Joe noted that it is estimated that 30-40% of students do not always have breakfast daily before school. He also noted that Sherwood has several other food programs including Food Access program where snacks are made available in the classroom, the fruit & veggie program and the Hot Lunch program.

Table Matters is providing a service to address a small portion of the food waste we see globally due to commodity prices and surplus.

Treasurer's Report:

Proposed budget for 2016/2017 was reviewed line by line with meeting participants at the May 25, 2016 meeting. Budget acceptance was motioned by Gina Madeo and seconded by Katrina Podmore

Highlights for 2016/2017 include:

- The Student Funding request to offset the need to continually fundraise is lower than last year however there is still time to contribute. The suggested amount is \$50 per student and cheques can be made payable to Sherwood Park PAC.
- Business Partnership (local businesses that support our school) may be down slightly this year as the fall fundraiser event that the Dollarton Village did last October did not run this year.
- The card program that we have run the last several years in the fall will be run in the spring to allow for less seasonal artwork to be used.
- Gaming Funds is \$200 per student which is lower than last year at the moment until the 2016/2017 attendance numbers are confirmed and the allotment is reassessed.
- Computer fund – we are currently in year 2 of the 3 year plan to re-outfit the school with its updated tech requirements.
- PAC pays for all grade 6 student to attend first aid training.
- Secondary scholarship - \$500 each awarded to a Seycove and Windsor Secondary French Immersion student who is a Sherwood Alumni.
- PAC funded fitness program is tennis this year and will be made available to all K-7 students.

- Teacher's discretionary fund is \$200 per teacher to allow them to purchase needed items or supplies for their classrooms.
- The current bank balance in the Gaming Account is approximately \$10,000; the approximate balance of the PAC account is \$50, 000.

North Shore Safe Roads Advocates (Carol Sartor)

Carol Sartor is the Community Outreach Coordinator for North Shore Safe Routes Advocacy and came to speak with the PAC about the options and possibilities for improving the traffic safety issues we face on Dollar Road. North Shore Safe Routes Advocates (North Shore SRA on Facebook) or (programs/workshop tab on <http://hastebc.org/>) was established in 2014 by a group of schools in the Handsworth area. Their aim is to build strong communities through active transportation.

North Shore SRA came together to make streets safer for children and students to get around in their community and around their school. Carol came to speak with the PAC in the spring last year and was invited back so that we can focus on the ever present traffic issue at the front of the school especially at drop off and pick up times so that our students are safe. Carol and the North Shore SRA's approach is on fun activities and events to get the traffic safety message across and increase the numbers of students and families who walk to school each day.

Carol suggested distributing letters to our school neighbors letting them know if some of the actions we plan to take and inviting questions.

Some of the activities that the NS SRA have done at their schools include:

- Bike Week with t-shirts for all participants and bike tune ups done by a local bike shop.
- Scan tags to track walk/ride programs
- Freedom Fridays with Drive to 5 locations and fun activities and a DJ and coffee for parents when they arrive from their walk to school
- School Block Party events
- Students created traffic safety videos
- Social media blitzes before school starts and after school breaks

Carol noted that it was important to take away the "Dont's" from the messing and focus on the "Do's" and said that after a year of fun events the participation increased to 93%. She said that it is important to create a culture of safeness, closeness and communication to be successful.

Let the police and Bylaw officers do the actual 'policing' of the issues (Parents should not police each other)

Gina Madeo who has taken on the Traffic Safety coordinator role at Sherwood advised that a crossing guard program would be starting shortly and that the 20 students who had volunteered have taken the training and we are just waiting for all of the completed permission forms to be returned so that it can start. Upon parental permission, the guards will be controlling the crosswalk in front of the school from 8:20am to 8:50am. We are still in need of parent volunteers to assist the students in their duties and be on site for safety issues. It is great to see the program being brought back!

Principal / Vice Principal Report:

Joe Campbell started by saying that there has been a lot of change on the administrative side for the start of the school year. There is a new curriculum in place, new e-mails system for teachers and new reporting system for grades K-9 this year with the balance the following year.

Joe also noted that the new report card system will mean that there will be no paper report cards this year and that parents/guardians will have to log on to a website to view. Fresh Grade is being used by the Kindergarten classes in the school this year as a pilot project. Feedback has been positive so far from the teachers and will provide real time updates rather than just at reporting time.

Sherwood has seen a lot of great change over all, the last 5 years with the start of after school drama, art and computer programs being offered, first aid training for the grade 6 students, the revival of the crossing guard program and the popular pancake breakfast.

The Future of French – Recruiting Teachers

Currently the district is finding recruitment of French Immersion teachers a challenge as there is only 50 teachers graduating from UBC each year. Recruiting on the North Shore is especially challenging as other areas such as Vancouver or Surrey is more affordable for teachers to live. At Sherwood we were down two French teachers at the start of the school year but were lucky enough to be able to fill the positions within the first few weeks.

Many schools are still without French teachers and even with more and more teachers graduating from the program each year it is difficult to keep up with the demand for French Immersion teachers. Career path for French teachers is very good and they are often hired in advance by school districts until positions become available. For example the Vancouver School Board hired over quota (16 vs 12) just to be able to secure resources. Demand is higher for the elementary level as French enrollment typically drops in the secondary grades.

Recruitment from Québec and France is also being looked at to fill the demand by the District.

New business:

- Trivia night is on Friday November 18th. It is a fun night out for parents and is just a social event to increase the school community spirit and not a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 each or \$60 for a table of 8.
- Seycove Auction is a pyjama party theme this year. Sherwood families are encouraged to participate as the funds we get from the event are a good portion of our operating budget each year.
- Spirit Store ordering is now online and ordering closed on Sunday November 6th, 2016. Spirit wear will be available to order every second year due to the minimum order requirements and so that we do not have to carry stock in house from year to year. Great prices on Sherwood gear featuring our new logo and colours!
- As we have not been able to secure a volunteer to maintain the PAC website, the current site is very out of date. We try to keep all information available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodparkpac>
- Bruce Sled, Sherwood Park music teacher spoke and proposed bringing a folk dance instructor into the school to teach the k-7 students folk dancing. He feels that the dancing is easy and approachable for all ages and the instruction can be provided in both French and English. The program also meets the teachers professional development needs. The program is \$ 2,500 for the week of instruction. These funds will be over and above existing budgeted funds.

Proposal to provide the funding for the program from the 2016/2017 budget was motioned by Katie Rodgers and seconded by Julie Polukoshko. A vote was taken and all were in favour with none opposed.

- Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for December 16, 2016. We are in need of someone to run and organize this year's event. There was some interest but a job description of the duties and requirements of the pancake Breakfast coordinator would be helpful. Last year's event worked really well with the firemen coming in and setting up their huge grills to cook the pancakes. Funds from the pancake breakfast go to the Sherwood Care Fund to assist those within the Sherwood Park community.
- Fiona Rouillard proposed the possibility of bringing the Edible Garden Project into the school and converting some of the gardens around the school into vegetable gardens. It is an interactive educational program which promotes food literacy. An educational coordinator comes into the school

once per month to work with the students. The fee is \$500 per class and is pro-rated based on when the program is started in the school year. The program is usually based within the K – 4 grades. She proposed the possible use of some of the funds from the Beautification Fund as there is no current committee working on any school beautification projects. The program would also need teacher support and volunteers to be successful. Joe Campbell said that he would gauge interest from the teaching staff and Fiona said that she would see if someone from the Edible Garden Project would be available to speak at our next PAC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm