

Frances Kelsey Secondary School Parent Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

In Attendance: Tanya Friese (President), Krista Derksen (Treasurer), Jennifer Parkinson, Evren, Injung, Cheryl Elzinga, Christine Heal (Secretary).

Non-voting: Jeff Rowan (Principal), Julie Parker (Vice Principal).

1. **Call to order** 7:05 p.m.

Welcome and introductions.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:** MOTION to adopt agenda moved by Jennifer; seconded by Christine. Carried.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** MOTION to approve minutes from June 21, 2017 meeting moved by Krista; seconded by Jennifer. Carried.

4. **President/Vice President Report** – nothing to report

5. **Secretary's Correspondence Report:**

Mail received:

A lovely handmade card thanking PAC and our phenomenal baker Jennifer for the homemade muffins provided for the breakfast program.

Three thank you letters and proof of post-secondary enrollment from PAC bursary recipients.

Packet of fitness and playground equipment brochures from Habitat Landscape Structures.

Fundraising brochure from SPUD. Since we don't do fundraising, it was given to Jeff to pass onto a group/club who could use it.

Information about the British Columbia Teacher's Federation's (BCTF's) presentations for parents.

"Presentations are offered free of charge by qualified teachers who volunteer their time, after school and in the evening, to present these sessions to parents. Presentations can be booked for Oct. and Nov. 2017 and Jan.-May 2018."

Brochures can be found here:

<http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Parents/HomeAndSchoolComm/PresentationsForParents.pdf>

<http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Parents/HomeAndSchoolComm/AbEdPresentationForParents.pdf>

The letter also invited parents to visit the website www.bctf.ca/parents.aspx

6. Treasurer's Report:

- Discretionary (regular) account: \$11,035
- Gaming account: \$15,124 less \$4,770 allocated for rugby
- Unclaimed bursaries: \$6,900
- Still have \$2021 allocated for Grad 2018 students from the former Bonner Middle School PAC: there are currently 208 students including 32 international students. Not enough funds to cover the banquet tickets (~\$75/student) but could be used for a grad skate (usually ~\$2). The \$25 textbook fee paid at the beginning of the school year is usually used to offset gown rental (~\$29).
- We had previously allocated \$3500 for the Community Path, but there currently isn't enough money in our budget for that amount.

7. Principal's and Vice Principal's Report:

Start-up is an exciting time since we have changes due to Bill 28 (class size and composition) and a new provincial government. Nine brand new (to our school) teachers and most temporary teachers have been hired as permanent. Greg Launder (former Band teacher) is here from Bonner. A couple of teachers are just two years out of training. Good energy among teaching staff. Projected enrollment was 960; we have ~1,000 including 87 international students.

Head Secretary Deb Melnyk retired after 23 years. New secretary starts on Monday.

Q Block

- Gr. 8 & 9: Health & Career Education
- Gr. 10: Planning 10
- Gr. 11: Leadership – All students have to choose something. For example, some Grade 11s participate in Reading Buddies with students at Bonner Elementary, some will do gardening.
- Gr. 12: Grad transitions – are starting earlier this year with scholarship applications, resumes, etc. This is the third year using MyBlueprint.ca which has a lot of great resources.

We have a great dual credit program where students can do college and high school at the same time.

Many class sizes are smaller this year. e.g.: 25 students in Gr. 8 classes; 23 students in Gr. exploratories.

“Meet the Advisor” night Thurs., Sept. 28 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Followed by Jesse Miller of Mediated Reality presentation on social media safety 6:45-8 p.m. in the theatre. He has a very different approach than Darren Laur (The White Hatter). Jesse explains the positives and negatives of what you are doing online; Darren uses shock.

RCMP pay for Jesse so there is no cost to schools. <https://www.mediatedreality.com>

A large metal blue bin has been installed in lower parking lot for depositable bottles and cans. 50% goes to owner/company and 50% to school. The Special Ed kids are still doing recycling within the school.

“Youth Placemaking” – CVRD is looking for a voice from youth: taking action in our own communities. e.g.: What are things they would like to see in parks, pathways, school.

Julie Parker took eleven keen kids to the Cowichan Exhibition Grounds for a meeting with about ten CVRD staff and other students from schools from all over the district to talk/brainstorm. If CVRD staff/engineers like their ideas they may be implemented.
Will include the Q block leadership students.

Three ideas:

#1. Community trail to Mill Bay

- safety and accessibility
- inclusion for everyone including wheelchairs
- railing and traction on bridge
- plateau stones
- solar lighting
- recycling bins
- brightly coloured garbage cans – kids were concerned about litter
- dog bag dispensary
- if you show you care about a place there will be less carelessness

#2. Greenhouse-type dome for growing food

3. Birdhouses on trees

Funding requests:

PAC pays for fruit – usually apples and bananas – which is put out in the dome for students in the mornings.

MOTION: FKPAC give \$300 to the Fruit Program. Moved by Jennifer; seconded by Krista. Carried.
This is in addition to the BC Agriculture in the Classroom: every two weeks The BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program provides fresh fruit and vegetable snacks which are given out, usually in advisory. e.g.: cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, carrots, kiwi.

FKSS has an ongoing breakfast program available to all students.

MOTION: FKPAC give \$300 to the breakfast program. Moved by Krista; seconded by Evren. Carried.

ORCA program, now run by Norma Wheeler which, in part, “awards” students with tickets for a free pizza slice from the cafeteria on Fridays. May be for something they have done, may be for behavioural support, or may be for a child who simply needs something positive.

MOTION: FKPAC give \$600 to the ORCA program. Moved by Krista; seconded by Evren. Carried.

Denis Huet requested PAC's assistance to set up the first-aid room. A treatment chair is available through Columbia Fire and Safety Ltd. for \$279.12. Two trauma bags, \$54 each, are \$115.29 incl. tax. A parent has offered to donate a chair but it may be too large for the first aid room; Jeff will arrange to see if the chair would be suitable and would fit.

MOTION: FKPAC give Denis Huet up to \$450 for first-aid supplies. Moved by Christine; seconded by Krista. Carried.

8. Old Business:

Next4FKSS: Last school year a group of parents from other schools started the Next4FKSS group to help direct FKSS and encourage connections between the community and the school. It was felt that the group should be part of FKPAC.

FKSS Community Survey will be launched on Sept. 28. Jeff showed the PAC the draft copy of the survey questions and asked for feedback.

9. New Business:

PAC should acknowledge Deb Melnyk's many years of service to FKSS.

MOTION: FKPAC spend \$150 to purchase flowers and/or a gift for Deb Melnyk. Moved by Krista; seconded by Evren. Carried.

How to get more attendance at PAC meetings.

Ideas:

- Posters on school doors as a reminder (even if only a couple of parents see them, or kids tell their parents)
- Facebook: both FKSS and PAC pages
- E-mail a reminder the Monday before the meeting
- Guest speakers, themes such as "Meet the Principal" or "Cookie Night," school tours, shop/art room tours
- "What is it that parents want to know that they could find out at a PAC meeting?"
- Reasons why parents attend PAC meetings: small way to give back to the school, decisions we make and input we give affect the school, very casual meetings, no fundraising (as clubs, dry grad and sports teams do their own).
- Offer child care for parents whose high school student(s) may not be able to care for younger siblings
- Food at meetings: never has been a big draw, but people like goodies

10. Next meeting: AGM followed by regular meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the library. Will be "Meet the Principal" night (wording to be decided).

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by Krista.

Submitted by Christine Heal, FKPAC Secretary