

MINUTES

Aberdeen Elementary School PAC

September 19, 2017 |

Item

Presenter

Welcome

Erika

Old business and approval of last meeting's minutes, agenda

Erika

Motion by Tamara Vukusic, seconded by Patricia Cameron

Principal's Report

Mark McVittie

1. Mark McVittie introduced himself as our new vice-principal. He has a background in high school math but has been a vice principal at a few different schools in our division for the past few years. He spent 3 years at Haldane Elementary and also a year in Parkcrest and Dallas. We are so happy to have him at Aberdeen!

2. The school is expanding. We officially have 412 students and 18 divisions! The school thanks parents and students for their patience as there has been some juggling

3. Sports update. Tripleball is starting up soon. We are hoping to have teams in all 3 tiers but that means we also need coaches. If you are willing to be a tripleball coach please reach out to Mr. McVittie.

4. FSA's are starting soon. This will take on a different format than previous years as they have been moved to the fall. This will allow more time for teachers to incorporate the information gleaned from the FSAs. The FSAs are open to grade 4 and 7 students.

They also have a new collaborative, non graded activity this year and it is based on the new curriculum. Teachers will help guide students and parents so stay tuned for further information.

5. There is a new change in how the school will be welcoming parents and visitors into the school. All visitors must both sign in and also check in with the office upon arrival. This is being done as a measure of safety. Also please note that depending on what is happening in the school, office staff may request that they deliver your items to your child or get your child for you instead of parents travelling through the halls. This is being done to minimize traffic and noise in the hallways which can be very disruptive to students.

In addition, there will be lock down drills again practiced this year. Lock down drills are designed to minimize anxiety and stress for students, especially in case a real

lock down needed to occur. As well, there may be days in which the school is not on lock down, but the children will not be allowed to leave to play outside, for example if a bear was present, etc.

6. Water quality issue. A question was raised from PAC member regarding the status of the water at Aberdeen. Last spring a memo was sent home explaining that the water at the school, and many schools, had been testing positive for high levels of lead. Much testing was conducted and it was found that the cause was due to lead soldering in the pipes which leaches into the water when the water sits in the pipes for a period of time. The solution for this was to run the tap for at least 60 seconds first thing in the morning and since the taps are used a lot all day long, the water should be safe for the rest of the day.

The PAC asked Mr. McVittie to provide a bit more clarity regarding the status of this testing as the last tests were done in June and no tests were done to look at levels for kids nor at how long does a tap have to sit before the levels are a concern again. The initial concerns had been brought up by teachers via workplace Health and Safety and hence WBC is the prime investigator. However, Interior Health has been involved in this process and their job is to ensure that the tap water does not exceed the maximum allowable concentrations per Health Canada standards.

The press release from SD73 is listed on the school website dated June 13 and does contain contacts for further questions.

Amendment added Sept 22 by Mr. McVittie: After checking with Sally Zryd and our district Health and Safety Manager Melissa McGarry, I now understand that I provided incorrect information at the PAC meeting. I misunderstood the origin of the water testing, which actually came as a directive from the Ministry of Education, in response to concerns raised in various areas of the province. WorkSafe BC was not involved.

The Ministry of Education has implemented provincial requirements when it comes to water quality, and School District 73 works with the Interior Health Authority to ensure that we are able to offer safe drinking water to our students and staff.

I notice the minutes imply that I said that " no tests were done to look at levels for kids nor at how long does a tap have to sit before the levels are a concern again". In fact I indicated that I did not know the answer to that question and I would have to investigate further and get back to PAC. I can now confirm that Aberdeen does meet the provincial requirements as laid out by the BC Ministry of Education.

Board Election

- President – Erika Feely was nominated and voted in unanimously
- Treasurer – Patricia Cameron will mentor Justine Rinaldi and Cathy

Bouchard, nominated and voted in unanimously

- Secretary – Mandy Kennedy was nominated and voted in unanimously
- Hot Lunches Website Manager – Danalee Baker was nominated and voted in unanimously, if hotlunches.net is going to proceed
- Communications Manager – Amanda Straker was nominated and voted in unanimously
- DPAC rep - will be deferred to next month's meeting. It may work for a few people to rotate since this is not a job that requires 1 standard person.
- Volunteer Manager – deferred due to time

Treasurer's report

Patricia

Current balances:

Paypal account: \$ 2970.38

Gaming account: \$ 31730.18

General account: \$ 5029.95

Total \$ 39 730.51

However, there are still expenses for the new playground equipment of estimated \$25000 (bill from school district pending) and the Ollek bill was never paid as just received this week for \$3300 which leaves an estimated \$11000 currently in the accounts. Paypal accounts are also not completely paid in full which will provide another approx. \$1000.

The budget was not proposed due to too many variables not decided prior to tonight's meeting. Those include issues such as whether or not there would be a PAC executive and also if there were any fundraisers that volunteers were willing to run. PAC likes to leave approx. \$12000 in the accounts for next year's student allotments, if possible. However at this point, all of the funds in the account would be required to allow for this year's student allotments.

Of note, if there is no PAC executive consisting of at least 3 parents, the school district would take over the accounts and no funds could be dispensed by parents.

Now that a PAC executive has been formed, PAC can apply for a gaming grant which provides approx. \$7500 and also begin to draft a budget with consideration and estimation of the fundraisers that have been discussed to date. Any further fundraisers would be a bonus to the budget.

Updates for events

- Hot lunches – requires a team of 5-10 parents to coordinate with vendors and distribute food on the day of the event. Hot Lunch committee is looking for volunteers. You would not be required to participate in all events. Historically Aberdeen has tried to host 2 hot lunches per month. If you would like to talk to someone about the possibility of you attending this team meeting, please contact Erika Feely at efeely@denninghealth.ca

- Milk program - has hit a speed bump due to the burning down of Blackwell Dairy. Currently the milk program volunteers are working out a solution to provide interim milk until Blackwell can resume this service. Stay tuned and thank you to our milk team!
- Playground - purchased a large spinning structure which was installed over the summer thanks to the school district maintenance crew! The kids love it! At this time there are no plans for additional pieces of equipment.
- Poinsettias – Patricia Cameron has agreed to chair this event. Patricia will require a couple of volunteers on delivery date so stay tuned
- Art Cards – A very fun fundraiser held each year which balances a parent’s ability to show off their child’s art with a successful fundraiser to help our PAC. Amanda Straker has agreed to run this event this year. Dates TBD
- Family and intermediate dance – Tamara has kindly offered to run again this year. This community event is well loved by everyone
- Teacher’s Luncheon - deferred
- Primary Fun Day Concession - deferred
- Intermediate Track and Field - deferred
- Breakfast with Santa - deferred
- Shuswap Pies – Sarah Cuzzetto has agreed to chair this committee. Pies will be available for purchase in the new year and will be sure to bring joy to everyone!
- Anything else??!! Every parent is a member of PAC and we want you to join in with any event that you would like to participate with. Please know that PAC will support you but does not complete the event for you. If you are interested, come to a PAC meeting or talk to the executive.

*** PAC Meeting dates were discussed and changed to the **First Tuesday each month.**

Please be advised that the budget will be voted upon at the next meeting.

The next meeting is **October 3** and will run **6:30 – 8:00 pm** which is a longer than usual and is due to the need to discuss the proposed budget in length.
