

South Meridian Elementary School – PAC Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

- Present: Marloes Holland, Co-chair; Courtney Peluso, co-VP; Wendy Bloye, Treasurer; Marilyn Fransen, Secretary; Kayla McKinlay, co-VP; Andrea LaPointe, Principal; two other parents
- Absent: Rhian Walker, Co-chair

Motion to Approve the Last PAC Meeting's Minutes (Jan. 29)

- The minutes were distributed with the notice of this meeting.
- Wendy motioned they be approved.
- Courtney seconded.
- Vote: Approved

Principal's report – Andrea LaPointe, Acting Principal

- **Activities**
 - **Resilient Rhythms** presentation was today. The kids were quite excited. It was teaching kids about music around the world and on the theme of being resilient. In the morning, all the school participated, then afternoon sessions were divisions 5 through 15 due to a maximum number of participants. The older intermediate classes were omitted because lower grades are generally the most engaged in this and also because the older grades will be participating in the **Get Real event next week**.
- **AV Project**
 - **The new system is installed!** It took three days and Andrea is very happy with it. Everything is wireless. All elements have been tested; a couple of elements were purchased refurbished including an amplifier. The installers were not happy with how one amplifier was functioning so they have taken it to their shop to work on it and it will be installed by next Tuesday.
- **Potential New School Mascot.** Andrea wants to get the PAC's input on this. This came out of a staff-driven initiative and a staff committee contributed to it over bi-weekly meetings over the last several months. They determined some criteria (culturally relevant, culturally respectful, unique, a positive representation, and encompassing), and compiled options, then narrowed it down to three options. Then all staff voted and the leading mascot is the **South Meridian Sockeye**. It is resilient, connected to the Fraser River watershed and our ecosystem, culturally significant in the local community, and would be a good sports mascot connection due to its strength and endurance. They are also considering motto ideas as well as having "house" teams, e.g., four team names that every student in the school would belong to over the course of a year, for sporting events and other activities (creating connections and a sense of pride which will also become more important as we grow the size of our school community in the coming years). Have also discussed new logo.
 - Wendy reminded that we will have to consider the cost of new jerseys.
 - PAC discussed and is in favour of this new mascot.

- The exterior of the school is to be repainted this year and Andrea will ask that the existing dolphin mural be painted over. Commissioning an artist to do a new mural will be something for a “phase 2”, not until next year.
- **Renovation/addition**
 - **Timeline still on track for moving in after spring break.**
 - **Paving** for the area around back, basketball court is happening **this week.**

Questions: The PAC has heard concerns there won't be **washrooms** for both students and teachers in the new addition. Yes there are: three on one floor and two on the other, and there will be some able to be used by both students and staff.
- **Question: Band program** – We have heard the district is considering cutting band. Andrea's understanding is this is just one program that is being looked at for cuts and nothing has been decided yet. This is because elementary band is not in the curriculum and they are looking for cost savings as well as the ability to move teachers into the classroom. For context, almost 80 classrooms in the district don't have teachers.

Treasurer's Report – Wendy Bloye

- **Accounts**
 - **\$4K in general account currently**
 - **\$19k+ in playground account** – this account has two signatories now, as discussed last meeting.
 - **\$8,400 is currently in the gaming account**
 - General account includes \$3,700K in hot lunch and other liabilities
- **Fundraising overview from Jan/Feb**
 - Valentine's bake sale – made \$812
 - Thank you to Marloes for leading this initiative.
 - **West Coast Seeds** finished, sold \$700 but our portion is unknown so far.

Fundraising Events upcoming or for consideration

- **Movie night April 4.** Yes we will go ahead with this date. PAC will contact Andrea to discuss movie options.
- **Neufeld Farms** – scheduled to run April 7-20th with pickup at the school.
- **Cobs Hot Cross Buns fundraiser** \$9.75 for 6-pack. Discussed and decided against participating in this for this year.
- **Mable's Labels** – we have done in past. Wendy will wait until we have a new logo to include before promoting again via newsletters or Facebook.
- **Grade 7 fundraisers**
 - **Donut fundraiser with Krispy Kreme** is Thursday March 13, with preorders being run through the hot lunch site (and individual donuts for purchase during lunch and after school that day).
 - **Hot dog fundraiser – coming up April 14** and another one will be in May.

- **Pedalheads** – A passive fundraiser in which we help promote their classes (biking, swimming, soccer, and combinations of activities in one class). We will get \$25 for each signup. **YES this one is now active.**
- **Idea:** Chalk day. Will discuss in future.

New Business

- **Parent/teacher meetings**
 - The PAC asked about the apparent reduction in parent-teacher interviews this year. Andrea explained that the guidance is that teachers must have at least two “informal” communications with parents each year, in addition to the report cards. These can include phone calls or interim reports so they have chosen to go with interim reports this year, and the first one was in term 1. She agrees that it is a long time period between reports, and she will advocate for at least one in-person meeting next year, e.g., student-led conferences that have occurred in past years.
- **Health Communication and Protocol**
 - The PAC asked for confirmation about protocols surrounding cleaning and reporting of illnesses, given a large number of students out sick lately. Andrea confirmed there is a formula based on the number of absences compared to new absences, at which time extra cleaning can be requested by janitorial staff after hours. If a child gets sick in the classroom there is also extra cleaning initiated. The PAC asked that a high number of illnesses occurring be reported to parents and that parents be called if a student appears ill at school.
- **Sea can break-in:** the sea can [shipping container] kept on site in the parking lot was recently broken into. It was reported to the RCMP. Some PAC items have traditionally been kept in there so we discussed if we could remember or determine what had been in there. Courtney recalls there was shelving, some hand-made items for gaming, and the emergency water supply. Some of last year’s PAC members were consulted (Miranda) or will take a look (Sarah). It sounds like the majority of the PAC supplies are in the storage room near the gym.
- **Parent engagement day.** We discussed hosting a parent engagement day at the school, offering coffee and donuts for example, as a way to talk with parents about what the PAC does and encourage more involvement. We discussed this could occur in April but decided to put it off for now.

Call for Additional Items

- It was pointed out that **bylaw parking enforcement** was present at the school today, which was good to see because some parents have still been stopping on the road in front of the school.
- There has been a **fence around the grassy area** near the school for some time and Andrea was asked when it may be taken down. She said she hopes so soon, but it is to protect the new grass and it is up to the grounds crew based on how well established the grass seems to be.

Date of next meeting; Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Weds. April 16, on Zoom, at 6:30pm.

Meeting Adjourned 7:45 pm