

PAC Executive Meeting
February 7, 2008
6:30-8:30pm

Attendance: Dora Van Der Minne, Josie Young, Sonya Scaglione, Micheline Kamber, Bettina Charpentier, Trish Alsop, Lisa Bjornson , Claudette Angers, Tony Wong, Tammy Van Hinte

Announcements: Regarding the Family Open Gym, Heather Marcotte has been invited to one at a different school to see how it works. Once she has done this, she'll let us know how it went. Maureen Mah has been in touch with Mike from Smart Packs/Teaching things regarding school supplies. As of February 1st, the teachers should have had their supply lists completed. The forms will go home after Spring Break and have to be returned to Teaching Things no later than the end of April in order to ensure delivery by the end of June.

There has been a lot of info coming into the PAC box regarding healthy lunch programs. If you're interested in looking at the info, see Sonya.

Traffic and Safety: Discussion: The City of Burnaby has responded to our letter regarding snow removal on Adair Street, by saying they can't assign a higher priority to Adair Street for snow removal. Is there a way for PAC to help deal with this? Salting? Sanding? Concern was raised about possible liability if we started to address the snow on our own.

One of the traffic helpers was wondering if we could approach the City about making Hycrest a one-way street during peak school hours by putting a DO NOT ENTER sign at the Hycrest/Sperling corner. Hycrest is continuing to be a hazard for any and all pedestrians during drop-off and pick-up times, with lots of illegal and dangerous driving taking place. Claudette Angers will phone the City of Burnaby to inquire about Hycrest becoming a one way.

Is there a way to funnel pedestrians who cross Adair, to all cross at the same spot – a makeshift crosswalk – instead of darting out between traffic all over? Consensus was that chances are high that pedestrians would continue to cross where they park. No solution was reached.

There is a strong need for more volunteers.

Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon: Trish Alsop is organizing the teacher's appreciation luncheon this year. PAC discussed possible dates and May 9, 2008 was tentatively set. Confirmation of the luncheon date to follow in a future meeting.

Library Update: We are still waiting for the multicoloured tables and chairs for the library. Other items that are to come are the end pieces for the stacking shelves, the electrical outlets to the computers, and the billboards. Please stop into the library and see the renovations that have been completed.

Budget: Bettina Charpentier reviewed the budget. There is still \$10 076 that will come out of the budget for the library shelving. \$4000 will come out of the gaming fund for the tables and chairs. The January Christmas Skating party costs went through. We are under budget for the library renovations and it may be possible to look at reallocating that money. One possibility mentioned was to put some money back into the transportation costs for field trips. This will be considered in more detail in the spring when all of the library costs have been paid.

Funfair Equipment: Westridge Elementary School has requested use of the funfair games. Are we going to lend the games to other schools? How to we do so when they are in the garages of Sperling

funfair volunteers? If we lend the games, how will we deal with future storage? Trish Alsop expressed a desire to share with other schools. Some games may not be in good condition anymore and may require repair by the school requesting it's use. A decision about storage was not reached.

Pub Night: Lora Skedeler has volunteered to co-ordinate the Spring/Summer school event this year. It will be held on June 1, 2008 beginning at 4pm. It will be a pub night for adults. June 1 is a Sunday and Monday June 2 is a ProD day. It was decided that this event will be "just for fun". It will not be hosted as a fundraiser. If there happens to be extra money from this event, that money will go to PAC, but this is not the purpose of the Pub Night. There will be a set fee per ticket which will include dinner. The dinner will consist of a burger and fries and one drink. The drink may be alcoholic or nonalcoholic. There will also be a 50/50 draw.

School District link to the PAC Website: Assistant Superintendent Claudio Morelli was unable to make the PAC meeting this evening. Tony Wong explained the history of the PAC website. A parent initially approached the Burnaby School District(SD) in 2004 about hosting some parent oriented pages on the School District website. At that time, parents learned that a teacher (or a SD employee) would have to be the conduit for providing information to the SD web master. It could not be a parent. The SD web master indicated that the turn around time would be 5-10 days for posting information. Parents felt this was too slow, hence parents opted to host their own website. Tony created the prototype. The District requested that there be no affiliation between the PAC website and the SD. They asked that all logos of the school and District be removed. This request was fulfilled before information was posted on the PAC website. As time past, a parent requested that the link to the PAC website appear on the SD website and the link was created. Now parents are requesting that this link be removed. The parent concern is around safety and security of the children and parent information on the PAC site. Tony always reviews information to ensure children's privacy. Photos are from far away so children are not identifiable. Closer photos are made fuzzy to protect privacy. Student names are removed. Tony has ensured that search engines, such as google and yahoo will not bring up the site as it is intended for the school community and not the general public. This concern about security increased after Dora was approached by email from a school supply vendor who tracked her information down by following the SD link to the PAC site. Tony requested that the PAC link be removed from the SD website, but the SD responded that they could not remove the link at this time.

Dora Van der Minne expressed an interest in ensuring that parents have freedom of expression, privacy, independence, and that information is secure. Claudette Angers spoke of the interdependence between the PAC, the school and the SD. Claudette stated that the SD does not have a policy on internet safety for schools and that this parent concern regarding the link is bringing the need for such a policy to light. The SD will be looking at guidelines for websites and the rules and regulations that they create will need to be applicable to all schools. Claudette pointed out that the Sperlign PAC website is more fully developed than many other schools and that this issue may be arising here at Sperlign because of the advanced nature of our site.

The possibility of arranging a daytime meeting with the SD, Claudette Angers, Dora Van der minne, and Tony Wong was suggested.

Principal's Report: Claudette Angers spoke of how difficult the recent snow days have been. There were over 100 students missing on one of the snow days last month. The school received over 200 calls inquiring if the school was open. This is a high number of calls for the office staff to take. Claudette requested that parents go to the School District website to identify if school is open or closed during poor weather conditions. If the school is open and children are unable to attend, the school still appreciates receiving a phone call to inform of your child's absence. Otherwise the school will need to phone home after attendance is taken and it is identified that your child is not in class.

Claudette Angers spoke of the District review. This review involves the Ministry of Education ensuring that the School District is fulfilling the goals they formed in the accountability plan. The District then is responsible for ensuring that the schools are meeting their outlined school plans. The Ministry, SD, and School plans must be aligned. There was a revision that resulted from the district review. It is an emerging reading goal. Sperling will be tracking the Read Well program which is a reading program for children with special needs.

The French Day of Music will be coming up in April.

The Celebration of Learning Assembly is usually at 11:00am on the last day of each month. This month it will be at 1:00pm instead. It will be on Friday February 29/08 at 1:00pm.

The teachers are very busy with extracurricular activities such as the ski trips and are currently needing to be protective of their time.

Parent satisfaction surveys will be going to parents in April who have children who completed the FSA testing. An electronic version will be available online in March.

There have not been any more nails found on Sperling since late December. The media release was helpful regarding this issue. Tony Wong will remove the posting from the PAC website.

April 25, 2008 will be the Millennium March.