

## **PAC General Meeting September 18, 2008**

Lisa Bjornson opened meeting.

**In attendance:** Lisa Bjornson, Wanda Pierson, Heather Marcotte, Tony Wong, Helen Ismirnioglou, Colleen O'Brien, Frances Hasings, Mary Jo Hunt, Trish Alsop, Deborah Percival, Kirk Rockwell, Steve Meighan, Andrew Fox, Micheline Kamber, Lisa Hall, Tammy Van Hinte, Suzanne Brunet (teacher), Jennifer Marriott (teacher), Sandy Lew, Carole Chan, Claudette Angers, Susan Todd, Bettina Charpentier, Dena Domijan (head teacher), Sonya Yanko

**Regrets:** Dora Van der Minne

**Volunteer Form:** Heather Marcotte created a volunteer request form. The form was passed around for comments and suggestions.

**Teachers Wishlist:** In the June 2008 PAC meeting, Suzanne Brunet and Geneen Lazar presented the teacher's wishlist. The first priority would be to complete the library with the following:

- South wall shelving unit including 2 bulletin boards
- PA needs to be moved
- Ceiling beams painted in each of 5 colours
- Remove screen on ceiling when smart board arrives
- Install ventilation in small work space off main library
- Order smart board and installation with in-focus projector
- New printer
- New computer for teacher librarian with greater capacity to accommodate a library of 22000 books
- 4 new computers to create a working station for students
- Tables and 4 task chairs
- Small computer table for computer catalogue

Second, the teachers would appreciate an increase in the consumable budget. The consumables are items that the teachers purchase to run their classrooms. Some examples are, stickers, Mother's Day and Father's Day craft items, borders for bulletin boards, etc. The teachers currently receive \$50.00 from PAC each year and \$25.00 from the school. This amount is insufficient and teachers spend their own money to make up the difference.

Third, the teachers are interested in creating an outdoor classroom. This classroom would be located near the playground equipment, under the large trees. It would be an outdoor space with tables that the students could work at during in class time. Students could also enjoy the space during recess. Suzanne and Geneen showed a slideshow of outdoor classrooms at other schools. It could also be a green space with garden areas. At the June presentation, the teachers were waiting for price quotes for the tables.

Today, Jennifer Mariott and Suzanne Brunet brought the quotes for the tables. It would be 2437.00 for 46-inch metal circular table. Cement picnic tables offer more workspace and cost \$1300.00-\$1600.00 per table. This cost will cover installation and the School Board will address any damage due to vandalism. Five or 6 tables would be needed to provide room for all students in a class.

**Principal's Report:** Claudette Angers spoke about the process used to place students in their classrooms during the first week of school. Claudette explained that a lot of thought and consideration goes into placing students in the best learning environment. Attempts are made to balance classes in girls and boys, academic skills, leadership skills, special needs, etc. The school district confirms the classes before they are final. There are always some parents that are unhappy with the final placement. It seems that it may be helpful for parents to have more information at the end of the school year about the process. Providing information to parents about the student placement process is the agenda for May.

Overall, opening week went smoothly. The students worked in family groupings. The children were in their classes after the assembly on Friday at 11:00am.

The Fruit and Veggie program is happening at Sperling this year. Thank you to Micheline Kamber for organizing the program. Children will receive fruit and vegetables in their classes on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Claudette spoke about the Ministry of Education Healthy Schools initiative. The Act Now BC physical fitness component requires all schools to offer 30 minutes of phys-ed each school day. Last year, students were receiving 90 minutes of phys-ed each week. To meet the requirements, one more hour was needed in this year's curriculum. Sperling is now implementing the Healthy Schools initiative. From 1-1:15 the entire school population is doing exercises over the P.A. The children do the exercises at their desk. Teachers are also doing 15 minutes of activity with their classes on the days that the children do not have gym. Anyone wanting to know more about this initiative can visit: [http://www.actnowbc.ca/EN/actnow\\_bc\\_for\\_students/actnow\\_bc\\_for\\_students/](http://www.actnowbc.ca/EN/actnow_bc_for_students/actnow_bc_for_students/)

**Booster Seats:** If a child is 9 years old, they do not need a booster seat even if they are under 4'9". If the child is under 9 and over 4'9" the child does not need a booster seat.

The first Pro D day is coming up on September 26. The teachers will attend a presentation by Sheila Herman, a Special Needs Consultant, who will speak to the learning environment of the gifted/learning disabled/emotionally fragile student.

**The Budget:** Some of the PAC executive met during summer and came up with a proposed budget. At year end we had \$36000.00 the proposed budget is conservative and money cannot be spent until it actually comes into the PAC. There is one extra classroom this year so costs for that class were factored into the budget.

In the proposed budget,  
YES was decreased to 0 because the money was never used in the past.  
\$500.00 was allocated to the music room for replacement instruments.  
\$100.00 was allocated to the traffic safety program for new equipment.  
Library upgrade items were budgeted \$8500.00.  
\$100.00 was allocated to the Open Gym Program for supplies.  
\$8000.00 was allocated to the playground upgrade.

**Lisa Bjornson moved that we increase the teacher's consumables from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Heather Marcotte Seconded. Motion passed.**

**Wanda moved that we decrease Library Automation supplies from \$350 to \$70.00. Heather Marcotte seconded. Motion passed.**

**Sonya Yanko moved to upgrade the playground for \$8000.00. Frances seconded. Motion passed.**

**Frances Hastings moved to allocate \$10 000 to the outdoor classroom. Heather Marcotte seconded. Motion passed**

**Frances Hastings moved to accept the proposed budget. Mary Jo Hunt seconded. Motion passed.**

**Lunch Hour proposal:** Frances Hastings explained the concept of “recess before lunch” where children play first and eat lunch second. Frances explained the pros and cons of this structure. The issue was tabled until the next meeting for more discussion.

**Childcare Survey:** Mary Jo Hunt and Frances Hastings are looking at the possibility of starting a childcare society for Sperling students. Tony created an online survey to see if parents considered there to be a need for childcare for their children. As well, some paper surveys were handed out in the kindergarten classrooms. 51 surveys were completed. The response was positive. Most people wanted an on site facility, however offsite would also be welcomed. The intention was that the survey would be available to all Sperling parents. The survey will be sent to parents who have not yet received one as soon as possible.

**Open Discussion:** Kirk Rockwell announced that the first PAC newsletter went out. The deadline is Thursday Sept 24 if you would like to add anything to the next newsletter.