



**McGowan Park PAC
Minutes December 1, 2015
McGowan Park Elementary Library**

Call to Order @ 6:40

In Attendance: Nadine Hamilton, Gitte Nessman, Joanne Vorpahl, Nichole Rae, Lisa Kronebusch, Teresa Sczebel, Cori Wickes, Amber Piva

Adoption of Previous Minutes: Nadine motioned, Gitte seconded

Special Guest: Mr Staginnus gave us a presentation about Chrome books, we were all able to try out a chrome book and see the amazing things that can be done. There was a discussion regarding possible future chrome book presentation/lessons for parents.

Correspondence of note: nothing at this time

Chairperson Report: nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Nichole Rae

The PAC General account has a current balance of \$4,895 as of November 30, with outstanding commitments of \$4,285 approved by the PAC. A further cost of \$500 is anticipated for the upcoming hot lunch. General funds may be used for any expense approved by the PAC.

The Gaming account balance remains at \$7,361, with outstanding commitments of \$850 approved by the PAC. Gaming funds must be used to enhance student extracurricular opportunities.

Nichole motioned to commit funding for primary gymnastics (\$1,500) and intermediate field trips (\$1,200) out of Gaming funds; Joanne V seconded. Lego Robotics and Cups Games have been removed from the list of funding considerations, as alternative funding sources have been found. Cookie bake has also been removed as PAC is not able to cover it at this time (not eligible for Gaming funds) and an alternative funding source is available. As the PAC is not in a position to commit further funds from the General account at this time, a decision around funding for classroom discretionary was again deferred.

DPAC Report: Lisa Kronebusch -November 2015

- DPAC will be setting up a scholarship account possibly for 2016
- Stuart Wood Elementary
-confirmation that the school's breakfast program is being funded through The Boys and Girls Club

- if we still wish to help out, make sure there is communication between the principals at each school
- Day of Coding (teaching kids how to code) **Cori confirmed McGowan Park will not be participating.**
 - contact person is Tracy Poelzer from Henry Grube, for those schools that wish to participate.
- Askable Adult Presentation
 - waiting for dates
- Jesse Miller
 - checking on availability
 - complimentary workshops for parents on the misuse of social media.
- District Report from Superintendent
 - there will be a new superintendent starting in August 2016.
 - extra pro-d days have been added to the 2015/2016 school year (Jan. 22 & April 4th)
 - school calendars for 2017 & 2018 will be handed out in January which will include one extra pro-d day for both years.
 - BC Education Plan: There will not be much change within the learning outcomes. The main focus will be how things are taught.

next DPAC meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 7pm

Principal's Report to the PAC

November events included a busy volleyball season and finals, Remembrance Day assembly, many skating trips, spirit club activity, popcorn day and a month end assembly hosted by our Individual Achievement class.

School communication is increasing and at McGowan Park we have our school website, our facebook page and newsletters from the office as well as daily classroom communication through student agendas and teacher blogs. Please check in regularly to one of these sites to find out what's happening at McGowan!

Two additional Professional Development days have been added to the calendar this year in order to help teachers plan and prepare for the implementation of the new BC Curriculum. These two days are January 22 and April 4. The new curriculum is mandatory in September 2016.

Report cards will have a new look! With the implementation of the new student information system this year, report cards have changed. Parents will notice the new style and format that will (hopefully) clarify what your child can do and what he/she needs further work on. Attached to the report cards will be an overview of what students have been working on this term. Please ensure to contact your child's teacher whenever you have questions or concerns.

Funding Updates & Fieldtrips:

Thank you for all of the funding support for Battle of the Books, Art Club, parloff ribbons, & Eureka. We have purchased 15 new chromebooks from funds committed for the library – they are now all ready for student users!

We have purchased a Lego Robotics kit and are splitting the kit and cost with Pac Way from Innovation Grant funds received. This activity will be facilitated by Denise Underwood along with a teacher from Pac Way and a physics teacher from Sahali Secondary beginning in January.

We have ordered stacking cups – this activity to be facilitated by Kim Hindle. Approximate cost of materials is \$500 which will be covered under Learning Resources.

Primary gymnastics – 2 bookings per class = approx. \$1584 for 198 students plus bus costs of an additional \$480. Classes booking more than 2 classes are charging for the cost of lessons (\$4 per student) plus a minimal amount for the bus (\$2) We appreciate the PAC contribution of \$1500 for gymnastics which covers a big chunk of the cost.

Skating – the cost for school skating for bussing is approximately \$800 – the city covers rink rental but the school has to pay for bussing. Older classes use parent drivers but that may be burdensome to parents who always seem to be doing the volunteer driving.

Bussing costs – the cost of the bus plus the number of hours that a bus driver has to wait is charged. Example approximate costs are: 2 hrs @ TCC is \$68, BLSC is \$85, Mac Island is \$80, Sagebrush is \$85.

We are considering sending out a questionnaire for feedback about school extra curricular fieldtrips. While field trips are valuable learning experiences, we realize that paying for field trips may sometimes be a burden to parents and would like some feedback about this

Important upcoming activities:

- WCT Performance of Mary Poppins for primary students – December 1
- ProD Day – December 7
- Primary Christmas Concert – December 16 @ 6:30
- New MyEdBC report cards go home – December 18
- Additional ProD day – January 22, 2016
- Schoolwide Assembly – Jan. 25 @ 8:45
- Hot Dog Day – Jan. 29

C Wickes, Principal

Ongoing Business:

Winter Carnival Committee – Theresa presented us with a sample volunteer form to be used to round up new volunteers for the carnival and is hoping to have a volunteer committee meeting before Christmas. Winter carnival will be February 18, 2016

There was a discussion surrounding establishing a PAC blog. We will need to establish how to set this up and who will be responsible for updates.

New Business

Watch for movie night! – We are looking at hosting a family movie night. The annual licence fee is \$375 per year or .75 per student whichever is less, plus a movie rental cost of \$135.00 for a newer release. No dates have been selected as of yet.

- There is a possibility of having a few upcoming family concerts with Paisley Groove set to perform in January and Dave Coalmine band in March.
- Spring flower basket sales – Gitte will head up the flower fund raiser with delivery before Mother's Day
- Pie sales – Joanne V will head up pie fund raiser with target delivery before spring break

Next Meeting: January 19, 2016 6:30 in library