

James Thomson Elementary School
6388 Sutherland Avenue Powell River, BC, V8A 4W4
604-483-3191 jamesthompsonpac@gmail.ca

Minutes of Parents Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting September 26, 2022

In attendance: Caroline Brennan, Joy Brunelle, Christal Hueston, Megan Kaukas, Jessica Koop, Ashley Nordman, Maxime Paquette, Kayla Paterson, Bill Rounis, Siona Rounis, Sarah Tyrrell

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Aim of PAC

- involved, caring parents; link to school

3. Principal's Report

- Start up : "Off to a Good Start." New orientation model this fall. Total of 245 students with small Kindergarten cohort. 5 divisions in English stream; 7 divisions in French Immersion.
- Welcome to Caroline Brennan as Vice-Principal and Mrs. Karen Stedman as Office Manager
- Making learning visible on social media
- Reminder to sign up for Bus Z-Pass and School Messenger app for reporting absences
- Grade 1-4 assessments (Dibels) started to target interventions and supports. CHEQ assessment for Kindergarten already done.
- Positive energy appreciated at school, during Terry Fox Run, Open House, etc.
- Recommendations for one-time grant from Ministry of Education solicited by School Board on how to spend the grant (amount unknown) for such things as *food programs, school supplies, any additional fees* (activities, field trips)
 - Top priorities
 - sponsor JT families in need (clothes, gift cards, box of food for weekend for those in need (take-home meals); school food programs)
 - commercial kitchen appliances and supplies
 - rain gear for primary grades that stays in classes
 - Other ideas
 - field trips
 - outdoor classroom and equipment (other funds could cover this)
 - community luncheon
 - music (instrument rentals) or ask DPAC for this district program
 - family game night

- Parent share-out about back-to-school: kids happy to show classroom to parents in this post-Covid era; more excited about school; happy to be invited into the school compared to last year when new families couldn't be here and connect; looking forward to activities like the Forest at Hallowe'en; hopeful; excited to help in the parent role; excited to have new parents join the PAC and the community-building potential; drama about twins being split but with a happy outcome
- Reminder of some historical contributions of PAC: Breakfast program; paper bag lunch in fridge for those in need; bowls of fruit out; used to have Christmas dinner (with 30-50 volunteers); hot lunch fundraisers; Salmon BBQ

4. President's Report

- Open House feedback – will email Bill directly
- Executive decided in June.
 - President: Ashley Hull
 - Vice-President: Amanda Zaikow
 - Treasurer: Jason Gow
 - Secretary: Megan Kaukas

5. Treasurer's Report

- Jason absent. Report will be shared next month.

6. Info/planning needs

- Planning: Hallowe'en Carnival with Forest Activity sub-committee based on email and parent volunteers. Friday October 28th. Maxime will present write-up.

Next PAC meeting is in October 24, 2022 at 6pm.

Child care and snacks provided.