

Kootenay Orchards Elementary School Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes
Monday January 11, 2021

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Agenda: no additions

Attendees: Jo, Kim, Amanda, Paula, Nicole, Jess, Cathy, Judi Poole (Principal), Wendy Turner (Trustee), Carol Potter (Teacher)

Approval of November 2nd minutes: 1st Kim, 2nd Paula Approved

President Report:

- PAC has a zero tolerance towards harassment of our parent volunteers
- School newsletters are being received well. Parents have expressed how much the newsletters are keeping them connected with the school
- T-shirt order will be going in the end of January/beginning of February
- Kindergarten registration has moved to an online registry this year with packages available for parents at the end of January. Info on the KO website

Treasurer Report: *see attached*

Principal Report:

- Four teachers hosted student teachers last term and it was a pleasure to know that these four student teachers from the UVIC teacher education program were in excellent hands and received sound and best practice pedagogy from them as well. Thank you to Mrs. Carol Potter, Mrs. Halldorson, Mrs. Lindardic and Ms. Cross for having opened their classroom doors to student teachers.
- We will continue to host other UVIC students in the next practicum round.
- As mentioned in the January school newsletter, the Christmas concert was a success!
- We received a healthy Restart Budget – Federal grant – which was allocated to each school to help to manage costs with regards to how teaching and learning has needed to adjust to a pandemic way of doing business. Our first purchase from this subsidy, was buying bins for sleds for outside. As a staff, we plan on examining further other ways to use this subsidy so as to help our teachers and staff and students manage and deliver and receive instruction as seamlessly as possible.
- DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program for our Gr. 5 students will be starting soon – we still need to firm up some dates
- We are looking at the possibility of skiing and making it as safe as possible, following COVID protocols – more information is forthcoming on that
- Thanks to Mrs. Stella Sam, our interim Aboriginal Education worker, we were able to install our 'sitting rocks' in a timely fashion. Don Sam, and our kindergarten classes and their teachers were a part of the 'blessing of the rocks'. It was an honour to be a part of this ceremony.
- Our Kindergarten registration begins on February 1 We are busy organizing information for parents so that they have what they need so as to make the registration process run smoothly.
- We are still needing a noon hour supervisor. The posting closes on Wednesday, January 13 and we are hoping to have candidates to interview for this.
- A modified version of basketball will be offered. As soon as we hire a noon hour supervisor, Mrs. Poole will be coaching the Gr. 5s and 6s (boys one day and girls another) Stay tuned for more information.
- We have Floor hockey Fridays thanks to Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Halldorson for leading this!

- The Foundational Skills assessments for the Gr. 4s has been postponed until February.
- The Satisfaction survey will go ahead for the Gr. 4 students and parents also have the opportunity to complete this survey until:

Teachers Report:

- Grade 5's will be participating in DARE again this year
- We are waiting to see how the ski program goes for Pinewood before we try to plan anything for the intermediate students

Trustee Report:

- Committee meetings are not scheduled for the month of December. As a result, only general motions were carried at January's public board meeting.
- That the Board ratify the FSA letter of January 7, 2021 to Minister Whiteside, as it was the consensus of the Board to send the letter as soon as possible.
- That the Board submit a presentation to the City Council re: the public hearing for a homeless shelter across from Mount Baker Secondary School, following a thorough review of information.
- That the Board engage Berry Architects & Associates to provide a building replacement/renovation proposal for Mount Baker Secondary School.

New Business:

- Pink Shirt Day Fundraiser had some hiccups. We will look into seeing if Connie at Anywear would do this for future Pink Shirt Day Fundraisers
- Cathy will look into the School Cash Online to see if PAC can use it for hot lunches and fundraisers instead of continuing with Munchalunch
- Mabel's Labels is an ongoing fundraiser that parents can order any time throughout the year
- Currently we have a food credit with Boston Pizza for \$138
- We raised over \$2,000 with the Purdy's fundraiser
- Domino's has a new fundraiser that PAC is looking into
- Hot Lunches have been approved and will start in February with some restrictions:
 - No parents are allowed in the school
 - Teachers and staff will help sort and hand out food to students
 - All food must be prepackaged by the restaurant and delivered by the restaurant to the front doors of the school

Next PAC meeting: February 1, 2021

Meeting adjourned: 7:15pm