

Nov 13, 2024 | 📅 PAC MEETING (5:30p)

## Meeting Notes: MTP PAC Meeting

**Date:** November 13, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 - 8:10 PM

**Location:** Google Meet

**Attendees:** Approx. 22 voting members, additional non-voting attendees

### 1. Call to Order, President's Remarks, Welcome, Google Orientation

- **Speaker:** Megan Livingston
  - Acknowledgement of traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples.
  - She introduced first-time use of Google Meet.
- **Overview by Dorian LeVere** on meeting tools and layout, explaining how to navigate and engage with polls and chat functions.
  - **Reminders by Miranda Wiley** to mute when joining.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- **Speaker:** Gillian Book
- **Current Financials:**
  - Regular Account: \$13,453.89
  - Gaming Account: \$5,100
  - Total Funds: \$18,786.07
  - Revenue from recent movie night: ~\$1,000

### 3. Funding Requests and Approvals

- **Holiday Hampers**
  - **Presented by:** Marisa Dikeakos
  - **Purpose:** Supporting 29 local families during the holiday season. The number includes families not already covered by other local community organizations like the community center and the Boys and Girls Club.
  - **Details:** Explanation of the history and logistics of the hampers.
    - Mount Pleasant collaborates with its sister school, Lord Tennyson, which contributes the bulk of the hamper donations. The hampers include a mix of cash and gift card donations, along with dried goods and gifts.
    - **Returning to Pre-COVID Practices:** During COVID-19, the PAC avoided accepting physical items due to health concerns and opted for cash donations. This year, they plan to return to a more traditional model that includes gifts, allowing for greater involvement from Tennyson families and making the process more interactive and meaningful for children.

- **Contents:** Each hamper contains items based on the family's specific needs, including:
    - Gift cards for groceries (typically \$50 per person in the household).
    - Dried goods are arranged in a designated room in the school where parents can pick up items.
  - **Donation Process:** In the past, MTP PAC contributions included a \$2,500 donation, which was used to supplement the Hampers with necessary items.
    - Feedback on the Hampers has been positive, with families appreciating the gesture. However, some feedback indicated that certain gifts were not desired or needed, leading to adjustments. Now, Marisa and Monique review the incoming donations to ensure they match the recipients' requests and needs.
  - **PAC Discussion**
    - Members discussed whether to approve the same amount as last year or adjust it based on the number of families and other support available.
    - There was agreement among members to maintain or match the previous donation, emphasizing that the funds were available in the budget.
  - **Motioned by:** Ariella Assouline to approve \$2500 donation
  - **Seconded by:** Lisa Charlston
  - **Outcome:** Approved via a poll; unanimous support.
- **Reading Link Challenge**
  - **Presented by:** Annabelle Pendry, School Librarian (see link for details: [RLC Budget Proposal PAC 24 25 Pendry.pdf.pdf](#))
  - **Participation Interest:** There is increased interest this year, with about 45 students wanting to join, including a few grade 6 students who wish to participate again.
  - **Accessibility:** The PAC-funded Daisy Reader device and CELA account allow students with print disabilities to access audiobooks, ensuring inclusivity in the competition.
  - **Event Features:** Annabelle emphasized making the event engaging by adding elements like music and special effects to create a fun, competitive atmosphere akin to a sporting event.
  - **Proposal:** \$475 for books, prizes, and miscellaneous event costs (\$350 for books [to cover sets for the teams] and \$125 for miscellaneous costs like prizes and certificates).
  - **Motioned by:** Miranda Wiley
  - **Seconded by:** Lisa Charlston
  - **Outcome:** Approved; strong support shown through voting.
- **Funding for Library and Resource Teachers**

- **Proposal:** Include these teachers in the \$200 allocation per division for resources.
  - PAC discussed an adjustment to the approved funding allocations; initially, it did not include the library or resource teachers.
    - **Role of Resource Teachers:** Three staff members provide resource support, though their schedules vary, equating to approximately two full-time positions across K-3 and intermediate grades.
    - **Proposal for Separate Funds:** Some PAC members proposed that resource teachers be divided into primary and intermediate categories for funding allocation due to the volume of students served.
    - **Clarification on Funding Use:** PAC clarified that the additional \$200 would be distributed following the same policy as classroom divisions, requiring teachers to submit receipts for reimbursement.
  - PAC members suggested adding an additional \$400 to cover these two groups, with library and resource teachers sharing a pool of funds.
- **Motioned by:** Dorian LeVere
- **Seconded by:** Miranda Wiley
- **Outcome:** Approved. PAC approved a total increase of \$600, ensuring equitable funding for library and resource teachers. This amount will cover both groups without any additional PAC vote, and funds can be accessed as needs arise throughout the year.
- **PAC Printer Purchase**
  - **Presented by:** Ariella Assouline
  - **Purpose:** Facilitate in-house printing for PAC activities like meeting posters, flyers, and other PAC communications. In the past, PAC members used personal printers or found alternate printing resources. A specific printer model with ink tanks rather than cartridges was proposed, chosen for its cost-effectiveness and low ink consumption.
    - **Printer Selection:** The proposed printer uses refillable ink tanks, which PAC believes will be economical over time, reducing costs associated with cartridge replacement.
    - **Placement and Use:** The printer will be stored in the PAC closet and be accessible for printing essential PAC materials. Network connectivity for remote printing was discussed, with limitations noted due to the VSB network's restrictions. The printer will therefore operate with a direct connection to a laptop for ease of use within the school.
  - **Budget Request:** Up to \$250.
  - **Motioned by:** Dorian LeVere
  - **Seconded by:** Miranda Wiley
  - **Outcome:** Approved.

#### 4. Event Recaps and Planning

- **Movie Night Report**
  - **Summary:** Event raised about \$1,000; issues with sound volume noted.
  - **Feedback by attendees** focused on addressing sound system improvements (subtitles, volume) and managing children's behavior.
    - **James Brittain** pointed out that the sound was perceived as too low, which made it difficult for attendees to hear the movie clearly.
    - **Miranda Wiley** suggested using subtitles during the movie, which would benefit adults who may struggle to hear over the noise and help older children stay engaged, while younger children who cannot read would not be impacted negatively.
    - **G Landreth** explained safety measures such as placing mats at the front of the gym were discussed as precautions to prevent injury due to tripping over cords in the dark.
    - **Dorian LeVere** raised concerns about some older children leaving the premises during the movie, suggesting that in-and-out privileges should be reconsidered to ensure safety and supervision.
- **Upcoming Craft Fair**
  - **Update by:** Lisa Charlston
  - **Details:** Scheduled for Saturday with most tables sold; expected revenue of \$2,000.
- **Enrichment Programs - Salema Noon Body Science Program**
  - **Summary by:** Miranda Wiley
    - **Miranda Wiley** noted that this initiative could complement other school efforts to ensure that students receive balanced and well-rounded education on body science and health topics.
    - The PAC was encouraged to move forward swiftly due to the limited availability and the benefits of early scheduling for the upcoming sessions in January.
  - PAC Outcomes:
    - The PAC expects that this program will fill in gaps in the existing curriculum and provide a more structured and comprehensive approach to body science education.
    - It is believed that having an external, specialized educator can enhance student engagement and understanding and provide a safe space for students to learn and ask questions.
  - **Budget Request:** \$1,450 for comprehensive sex and body education sessions.
  - **Motioned by:** Emily (last name not specified)
  - **Seconded by:** Dorian LeVere
  - **Outcome:** Approved.
- **Pancake Breakfast Budget**
  - **Proposed by:** Gillian Book - fun, end-of-year event that brings together the school community and offers a way for PAC to give back to families without expecting anything in return.

- **Budget:** Up to \$850 for event expenses like rental of griddles and coffee equipment.
  - Gillian mentioned reaching out to the community center to inquire about the availability of their griddles but had not yet received a response.
  - Renting coffee equipment had been a significant cost in the past, and considerations were being made to potentially avoid this expense by sourcing equipment differently.
- **Donation Consideration:**
  - **Lisa Charlston** suggested the idea of setting up a donation box at the event for families who might wish to contribute food bank items or make cash donations. The goal was to provide an opportunity for those who wanted to give back while still maintaining the event's spirit as a free and fun gathering.
  - **Miranda Wiley** added that accepting cash donations through a payment method like Square could be beneficial for those who might prefer to donate money rather than bringing canned goods, as monetary donations often provide more buying power for food banks.
  - There was a discussion around the importance of ensuring that the Pancake Breakfast maintains its role as a community event that doesn't obligate families to contribute.
    - It was agreed that any notes about potential donations would be delicately worded, emphasizing that contributions were optional and not a requirement for attendance.
    - PAC members supported the idea of balancing the event as a community celebration while also offering a means for attendees to help those in need during the holiday season.
- **Motioned by:** Miranda Wiley
- **Seconded by:** Gillian Book
- **Outcome:** Approved.
- **Teacher Appreciation Gift**
  - **Discussion led by:** Ariella Assouline and Megan Livingston
  - **Budget Proposal:** \$700 for a staff holiday dinner contribution.
  - **Motioned by:** Lisa Charlston
  - **Seconded by:** Dorian LeVere
  - **Outcome:** Approved after a brief debate on increasing the amount due to inflation.

## 5. Subcommittee Updates

- **Fundraising -**
  - **Craft Fair Update by Lisa Charlston**
    - **Date and Time:** Scheduled for Saturday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
    - **Table Sales:**
      - Almost all tables have been sold, with only about three tables remaining, designated as part of the "kids' zone."

- A mix of community crafters and students are participating.
  - **Revenue:** Approximately \$2,100 net from table sales, indicating a strong turnout and successful pre-event fundraising.
- **Food and Concession:**
  - Pizza will be provided for crafters to ensure they have food available, as opposed to a traditional outdoor barbecue, due to feedback about cold weather.
  - Concession items from previous events will be utilized, including hot drinks and snacks. A **Keurig machine** will be used to prepare hot chocolate and coffee on-demand.
  - Lisa mentioned possibly bringing a popcorn machine, responding to feedback from children who enjoyed having popcorn at events.
- **Setup and Logistics:**
  - Tables and chairs will be provided and set up on Friday evening, allowing ample time for preparation.
  - Volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the event, with Lisa requesting attendees to sign up for specific time slots if available.
- **Promotion:**
  - Attendees and community members were encouraged to share the event details on social media and promote the craft fair to increase attendance.
- **Volunteers are necessary** please email Lisa at [fundraiser@mtp-pac.ca](mailto:fundraiser@mtp-pac.ca)
- **Purdy's Winter Fundraiser - Megan Livingston**
  - **Status:** The Purdy's chocolate fundraiser was noted to be underperforming, with lower-than-expected sales.
  - **Order Deadline:** December 1st.
  - **Promotion Strategy:**
    - Megan urged attendees to share the fundraiser link with friends, family, and colleagues to boost participation.
    - Social media shares were encouraged as an effective way to reach a larger audience. The event details are already posted on the MTP Facebook page for easy sharing.
  - **Additional Promotion Ideas:**
    - Printing posters to place in communal areas was suggested to further publicize the event and encourage community participation.
- **Tree Chipping Update - Miranda Wiley**
  - **Date:** Scheduled for Sunday, January 5th, to be held in the **upper parking lot of Kingsgate Mall**.
  - **Preparations and Logistics:**
    - Miranda coordinated with **Lauren**, the previous organizer, who provided detailed notes on how to manage the event, including setting up meetings with the business association and community policing, and even bringing a box of donuts as a gesture.
    - Kingsgate Mall's involvement and support have been confirmed.

- **Community Coordination:**
  - The Vancouver Community Policing will be involved in assisting with the event, and ensuring traffic and safety coordination.
  - The event may include baked goods provided by local businesses or volunteers as snacks.
- **Volunteer Needs:**
  - Miranda emphasized the importance of securing volunteers to manage shifts effectively and ensure smooth operations, especially given the cold weather in January.
- **Budget and Supply Notes:**
  - Budget needs were minimal, but Miranda noted the potential cost of high-visibility vests for volunteers, especially kids, to ensure safety during the event. She suggested sourcing these vests from families within the community if possible.
  - Additional baked goods or supplies may be purchased if needed but are expected to remain under the \$200 budget.
- **Fundraising Insights**
  - The success of these fundraising events is vital to supporting school activities and maintaining a strong sense of community involvement.
  - **Cross-promotion** and effective communication (e.g., social media, posters, and word of mouth) were highlighted as essential for maximizing participation and revenue from these fundraisers.
- **DPAC - Ariella**
  - **Overview:** Highlighted that DPAC is increasing its communication and resource accessibility through its new website: VancouverDPAC.org. This platform is intended to support parents and guardians of students in VSB (Vancouver School Board) schools by offering comprehensive information.
  - **Key Points of Interest:**
    1. **New Website Features:**
      - The updated DPAC website includes sections such as communication channels, meeting minutes, calendars, newsletters, and other resources beneficial to parents. The website aims to enhance transparency and involvement among the parent community.
    2. **Executive Positions:**
      - Two executive positions within DPAC were recently voted on. While the results of the vote were not confirmed during the meeting, Ariella mentioned that the likelihood of approval was high.
      - There are still open positions for executives-at-large and certain officer roles, including a secretary and potentially a treasurer. Parents or community members interested in these roles are encouraged to reach out and get involved.
    3. **DPAC Chair Visits:**

- Melanie Cheng, the current DPAC Chair, has offered to attend PAC meetings at individual schools to engage directly with parents and answer questions. Ariella suggested that the PAC could consider inviting her to a future meeting to foster more direct interaction with DPAC.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - 1. Public Delegation VSB Board Meeting (November 18, 2024):**
    - A student group named Students for ADs (Automated Defibrillators) will be presenting a delegation aimed at advocating for the installation of defibrillators in schools. This initiative follows a tragic incident at a high school and is intended to promote student safety.
  - 2. Provincial Virtual Town Hall (November 18, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 PM):**
    - This meeting will focus on the BC Education Facilities Committee, providing parents and community members with insights into ongoing and future plans for educational **facilities**.
  - 3. Health and Safety Working Group Presentation (November 21, 2024):**
    - This special presentation will cover the topic of clean air requirements in schools, an initiative that has been under focus since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The session will explore strategies and best practices for improving air quality within schools.
  - 4. Next DPAC General Meeting (November 28, 2024):**
    - Scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Zoom, this meeting is open to all parents and guardians interested in district-level updates and discussions.
- **Encouragement for Participation:**
  - Ariella urged parents to explore the new DPAC website for valuable information and to consider attending the upcoming meetings and events. The engagement with DPAC can offer broader insights into policies, resources, and changes impacting students across the district.
  - This detailed DPAC update underscores the council's commitment to transparency, community involvement, and the continual push for improvements in school safety, facilities, and inclusive education.
- **Dog Usage on School Grounds**
  - **Presented by:** Kirk Perris
    - Kirk highlighted that Mount Pleasant's field is frequently used by dog owners, which has resulted in various issues, including:
      - **Dogs rushing onto the field** while students are present, posing potential safety hazards.
      - **Incidents of dogs picking up children's belongings**, treating them as toys.
      - **Dog feces on school grounds**, particularly the basketball court, creating sanitation concerns.



- **Issues Raised:** Safety concerns due to off-leash dogs on the field; child was frightened and physically impacted by dogs on the school grounds.
- **Communication with Other Schools:**
  - Kirk reached out to eight schools mentioned in a **September 12th Vancouver Sun article** that had successfully restricted or banned dogs from their fields.
  - He found that these schools had received support from the VSB (Vancouver School Board) **facilities unit** for installing fences or putting up restrictive signage.
  - Half of the schools contacted responded, confirming that they had indeed worked with the facilities unit for these changes.
- **Attempts to Contact VSB Facilities:**
  - Kirk has made multiple attempts to reach out to **Ronald McDonald**, the director of VSB facilities, but has not received a response.
  - He emphasized that getting the facilities unit involved is crucial for implementing any permanent solutions.
- **Principal Gavin Landreth** asked about past interactions with community members and noted that many dog owners using the field are not part of the school community. He highlighted the importance of following protocols and ensuring any actions taken are aligned with district policies.
- **Proposed Action and Next Steps:**
  - **Seeking Facilities' Engagement:**
    - Kirk emphasized that a formal response or collaboration from VSB facilities is essential for making lasting changes.
    - Gavin committed to reaching out to facilities and pursuing further conversations to understand what steps would be needed to address this issue at Mount Pleasant.
  - **Potential Steps Forward:**
    - Discussing the possibility of polling the school community to gauge overall sentiment and support for changes.
    - Formulating a more defined plan in collaboration with Kirk, Gavin, and potentially the PAC to address the issue and ensure student safety.
  - **Educational and Awareness Initiatives:**
    - The need for a comprehensive approach to communicate with dog owners and enforce current bylaws was discussed.
- **Community Sentiment:**
  - Parents on the call expressed strong support for taking action to ensure student safety and a dog-free environment during school hours and beyond. There was a consensus that the school

community must take more concrete steps, potentially including fences, clearer signage, and stronger enforcement measures.

## 6. Principal's Report by Gavin Landreth

- **Question Topic:** Does the curriculum include lessons on respect, equality, and anti-bullying, considering increased incidents of harassment against women, girls, and marginalized groups? Would PAC-funded sessions for kids and families be feasible?
- **Response Overview:**
  - **Curriculum and Programs:** Respect, equality, and anti-bullying are integral parts of the BC curriculum, especially in the upper intermediate grades. Lessons on sexual orientation, identity, and related topics are also part of health education. The school employs programs such as TAPS for younger grades to promote respectful interactions and social-emotional learning.
  - **Workshops and Presentations:** The school has hosted presentations by the BC Crisis Center focusing on mental health and self-care, which were well-received. The principal is considering more talks on these themes and suggested that Salima Noon's upcoming program could reinforce these conversations.
  - **Potential Speakers and Initiatives:** The principal mentioned having access to a district principal from the equity and anti-oppression department and a speaker named Destiny Lord, who specializes in diversity and inclusion. These resources can be leveraged for further education and discussions within the school community.
- **Parent concerns and feedback:**
  - Ongoing inappropriate behavior among older boys at school, particularly during recess and sports activities.
  - **Genny & Reynor** shared observations that an entrenched "cool jock" culture had developed, where older students exhibited exclusionary or aggressive behaviors towards younger children, echoing dynamics seen in previous years. They pointed out that while respect and kindness are emphasized, intervention by adults is necessary for more ingrained issues that might not be addressed at home. The behavior sometimes involved intimidation or subtle bullying, creating an environment where younger students felt unable to stand up for themselves.
  - **Principal G Landreth** acknowledged the issues, emphasizing ongoing efforts to build a school culture focused on respect and inclusion. He mentioned increased adult presence and plans for class discussions to address the concerns, ensuring that students understand their roles as role models and the importance of respectful interactions.
- **Future PAC Involvement:** PAC-funded initiatives are welcome, and discussions can be made for additional learning sessions for both children and parents to support respect and equality.
- **Additional Points:** The principal emphasized the ongoing need to address school culture and reinforce positive behaviors and respect among students, particularly in interactions during recess and sports. Plans to be more present and engage with older

students about their role as role models were mentioned as ongoing efforts to create a supportive and respectful school environment.

- **General Updates:**
  - **Student Enrollment:** Approximately 245 students are enrolled, with 12 divisions.
  - **Artists in Residence (AIRS) Program:** The program is in full swing and has been well-received, offering engaging activities for students.
  - **School Sports:** The soccer season concluded successfully with staff volunteering their time, and the girls' volleyball team is ongoing, with games hosted at Charles Dickens.
  - **Remembrance Day Assembly:** This event on November 8th was a respectful and well-received performance, led by student MCs with contributions from Ms. Cuglietta and Ms. Sly.
  - **Field Trips and Events:** A recent field trip and goal-setting conferences had positive turnouts. The movie night was also deemed a success.
  - **Professional Development Day:** Scheduled for November 22nd.
  - **Upcoming Blockathon:** Confirmed for support from the staff, with more coordination to be done with Dorian.
  - **Winter Sing-Along:** Marisa proposed organizing a sing-along event in the final week before the winter break.
  - **Winter Concert:** No winter concert will be held this year due to scheduling limitations with the performing arts teacher, who is only available part-time. A spring concert is planned instead.
- **Technology Needs:**
  - **Five-Year Plan Proposal:** Request for funding to purchase iPads and replace outdated equipment. (Please see link for more information:
    - [PAC - Technology Committee Proposal Nov 2024.docx.pdf](#) )
      - **iPads and Technology Plan:** The school currently has about 35 operational iPads, with several broken and in need of repair. A five-year technology renewal plan was proposed, which includes purchasing 20 iPads yearly at approximately \$10,000. The use of Bluetooth keyboards as a cost-effective alternative to laptops was discussed.
      - **Projectors:** The school has projectors but anticipates potential failures. Replacements cost around \$1,300, with interactive models at \$2,200. Installation costs range from \$150 to \$1,000, depending on labor needs.
      - **Apple TVs:** Used in conjunction with iPads to facilitate learning and sharing work.
      - **Security Measures:** Addressed storage and safety of school equipment.

**Motions Passed Summary** - All motions related to funding requests, event approvals, and PAC initiatives were passed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:10 PM

