

Minutes

Sidney Elementary School

Parent Advisory Council

January 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Hari Jacquot (President), Meghan Lint (Vice-President), Morgan Shaw (Co-Treasurer), Caitlin Campbell (COPACS), Mary Lynn Heron (Principal), Andreas Clesle (Vice Principal), Jennifer Woppenkamp

1. Welcome/Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

- 1st – Meghan, 2nd – Caitlin

3. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2024

- 1st – Meghan, 2nd – Caitlin

4. Reports and Updates

a) Administration

- Jura, the wellness visit dog from PATS, is at the school on Tuesdays for one hour with handlers until further notice.
- Michael Bartolotto is scheduled to visit on February 26 to deliver presentations on kindness and resiliency.
- Students have several activity options, including Chess Club (Grades 3 to 5), Basketball for intermediate students, and Dance Club.
- School bells are being switched to manual operation while repairs are underway to fix the system.
- A group of Grade 4 and 5 students will attend the Climate Change Makers event at SJ Willis on January 21.
- Reminders will be sent out to reinforce safe practices and procedures in the parking lot.
- The school remains focused on literacy and is excited to implement an enhanced approach to numeracy in 2025, supported by ongoing professional development throughout the year.
- New staff members Shawn MacDonald and Stephanie Gorgachuk (Grade 3) are filling in for staff currently on maternity leave.
- A call-out will be made for simple board games in the Board Game Cafe during lunch breaks, providing an indoor option for 40-minute blocks when the field is wet, or the weather is poor. Jennifer will create a social media post to request donations.

b) President & Vice President

- There are no additional updates at this time.

c) COPACS

- A Parent Engagement Evening with PAC Executives, Principals, and Counsellors is scheduled for January 29, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Bayside Middle School. Three seats will be secured for members of Sidney Elementary School.

d) Treasurer

- The General Account has a balance of \$20,997.17, and the Gaming Account holds \$11,446.86. There are no additional updates at this time.

5. New Business

a) Camp Thunderbird

- Camp Thunderbird for students in Grades 4 and 5 is scheduled this year from 10 am to 5 pm, aligning with improved transportation options. The cost per child is estimated at \$70. To help offset these costs, a separate fundraising initiative will be considered, with Grade 4/5 parents invited to participate if they wish. The PAC anticipates contributing a similar amount as they did last school year.

b) Earthquake Preparedness

- The earthquake kits require replacement every five years, with the next replacement costing \$5,000 and scheduled for Q2 2025. To ensure long-term sustainability, it is suggested that a dedicated fund be established by adding \$5 per student annually to cover future replacement costs. Additionally, parents could have the option to contribute extra funds when paying annual school fees. This proposal will be brought forward for discussion at the AGM.

c) Fundraising for Next Year

- The PAC is considering a "Trash and Treasures" or Junk Drive as an alternative to the traditional bottle drive. Hari will explore this option and report to the PAC with a proposed plan and date, potentially in April. The idea of incorporating a "treasure" component as a Grades 4 and 5 fundraising opportunity for Camp Thunderbird will also be explored.

d) Movie Night

- A tentative date of Thursday, February 21, has been set for "Snuggly Nuggy Night." The event will utilize funds provided by Thrifty Foods to purchase chicken nuggets.

e) Survey for Parents

- The parent survey will be discussed at the Communications Meeting on February 3. The focus will be on identifying the goals for the PAC and gathering input from families.

f) Repainting of the Gym (including art)

- The topic of painting the gym will be discussed on February 3. Mary Lynn will follow up on the quote, which is expected to arrive soon.

g) Christmas Fair

- Meghan will send a message to express appreciation, ensuring everyone feels valued for attending and sharing our excitement for next year's event.

6. Next PAC meeting – Tuesday, February 11, 2025

7. Adjournment – 7:28 p.m.