

**Walter Moberly Elementary**  
**Parent Advisory Committee MEETING 2014/15**  
**November 18, 2014**  
**at Library, 7:00 p.m**

Parents in attendance: Simrat Singh, Krishan Sri, Avene Ossman, Diane Blue, and 2 parents.  
Regrets Paul Thandi  
Principal: Patti Plottel and Vice Principal: Mr. Graham  
Youth Worker: Mr. Baker (p/t youth worker)

1. Welcome (Patti Plottel)

Welcome to all parents and to Mr. Baker, part-time youth worker at Moberly. His role is to help make students kids feel safe at school, some of his responsibilities include – small group work and classroom visits. He is involved with involved Roots of Empathy program; Friendship programs; safety programs (eg boundaries of physical space) and has offered to “babysit” at PAC to engage children in organized activities. He is at Moberly M/W/Fri and at Henderson Elementary T/Th.

Reminder of the importance of checking Moberly website frequently for updates; website is best way for parents to stay connected with what is happening at school. Patti reviewed how to navigate the Moberly site. Patti having difficulty sending parents the email reminders of PAC this month because there are technical issues with the email distribution and school board is aware and troubleshooting.

Coyote letter and Yellow Alert posted on the website: The Stanley Park Ecology Society, who handles urban coyote issues, was contacted due to aggressive coyote on school ground. It is extremely uncommon to have such a large coyote that shows aggression towards humans. It is likely the coyote was accustomed to sleeping on school grounds during the summer and had easy access to resources (food, water) in the neighbourhood. Patti and Mr. Graham did their best to force the coyote off school grounds but ultimately the animal was destroyed after it exhibited uncharacteristic aggression toward a small child at the nearby Cultural Centre.

2. PAC Chair’s Report Paul Thandi (regrets)

Diane reports no updates at this time.

3. Treasurer’s Report Diane Blue

The treasurer’s report was reviewed with a note about the first gift card fundraiser transaction with Progressive Fundraising. Mr. Graham explained the process of gift card fundraiser - different retail stores offer a rebate on gift cards, parents pay the face value of gift cards (lots of available and various vendors) with a small % of sales staying with the school. Gift card

fundraiser is meant for ongoing household purchases where some pre-planning/budgeting by parents – many stores are where parents/teachers currently shop. Vendors/retailers include Superstore 2%, various gasoline companies, clothing stores, restaurants, etc

#### 4. Old Business

- Playground update / plans / fundraising – PAC will continue to support the gaming grant towards the multiphase plan to build an intermediate playground where the wooden playground was taken away.
- Ladies' Dance, no updates. Ms. Surjeet Purewal (regrets)

#### 5. New Business

- Moberly Garage Sale notification is in the green newsletter; staff members have been donating items towards the Garage Sale which will run during the parent interview days of Dec 16 & 17. Students will be encouraged to participate by bringing an item to school for donation to be sold at the Garage Sale. Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Badh has taken the lead in organizing this event. There will also be a coffee and bake sale at the parent night and 3 parents in attendance have expressed interest in leading the bake sale.
- Movie tickets fundraiser. Mrs. Badh is coordinating movie ticket sales for her child's high school grad fundraiser and offered to allow Moberly to "piggyback" off the fundraiser. A conservative 200 tickets were purchased at \$8.60 each and being sold at the \$10 fundraising price (goal of fundraising \$200). 82 tickets sold to date so we need to sell the remaining soon.

#### 6. Principal / Vice Principal's Report

Patti Plottel & Karl Graham

Safety Drills at school: Code Red drill will happen this Friday – red is the most serious drill, it is used in situations such as a dangerous person in school. The more drill practices, the safer everyone will be. There will be earthquake & red drill in fall and in spring. Code yellow drill has already been done. Practicing the drills help bring out the good and the bad with procedures and allows teachers to discuss how to improve the process. Will be practicing the Earthquake drill this fall and in the spring they will do a full student release drill (K-7) (please note in the event of a real incident that all students will be released as per VSB protocol). Release drill involves gathering at the tennis court instead of field (hard to track kids who are picked up when gathered at open field); unpacking the earthquake bins and search and rescue bins – rescue people trapped in school. Priority for teachers is the student's safety.

- Arrival / pick up times

#### 7. Other updates – Karl Graham

Due to strike, the report card dates were changed this year, it's closer to Christmas because of late start year.

Grade 7 girls have formed 2 volleyball teams and are doing well and having fun (undefeated so far). Several fieldtrips are coming up. Student council has formed and there are 2 student reps from each division 1-8 and an elected student president. They are currently planning the school year's events with the first student even to be held by end of November. There are plans to run a canned food drive for December and one event per month until end of school year. Student council helps build school spirit and helps students learn to organize themselves and develop leadership, learning to work in teams and find consensus. Mr. Graham is very happy and encouraged that student ideas are huge and reports many amazing things develop as a result of these initiatives.

#### Parent Questions:

Concerns about lunch time for students who stay at school for lunch.

Q: Could there be more benches added to the lunch room?

A: There was a reorganize the family lunch room (separate from main lunch room) started because there was policy that no parents allowed after Sept to help students get established with the lunch routine. Suggestion of a classroom to be used as family lunch room – in particular for the younger Kindergarten age students. There was an unintended consequence that the family lunch room has been more successful than intended, so now there's not enough room. Patti noted that it is difficult to balance between asking parents to not come but wanting to accommodate parents who desire to be with their children. More discussion on extra lunch table for lunch room and more tables; and a point raised that parents need to respect the rules to not sit on top of desk or tables. This is not just a Sept/Oct issue but year round issue; it was noted that Strong Start parents reserving tables well in advance of lunch dismissal. Other suggestions included assigned student seats by tables by division(s).

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm