

Walter Moberly School PAC Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Commenced 7:00pm, Moberly Library

Parent Attendees: Ms. Surjeet Purewal, Sunjit Purewal, Sodhi & Sharon Bagri, Mitch Magureanu, Paul Thandi (co-chair), Diane Blue (co-chair)

Patti Plottel, Principal & Henry Au, Vice Principal

Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. PAC Chair's Report & Treasury Report (Diane Blue)
 3. Election of Executive for 2014/15
 4. Old Business
 - a. Playground update/plans
 5. New Business
 - a. Ladies' Dance Surjeet Purewal
 6. Principal/PV's Report (Patti & Henry)
 - a. Review of school website
 - b. Teacher Job Action
 - c. Student Council projects
 - d. School plan
 - e. School Calendar
 - f. Class Placements
 - g. Sports Day
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1. Welcome (Patti Plottel)
 2. Treasury report was briefly reviewed. PAC would like to earmark 2014-2015 gaming grant for playground cost as previously discussed. These gaming grant monies will help push the current total funds raised to approximately half of the total playground cost of \$55,000.
 3. Election of PAC Executive for 2014-15 - there is only a small core group of parents who are consistently involved with PAC. Discussion to continue current executive of 2 co-chairs & member at large of Paul Thandi, Sharon Bagri and Diane Blue. Suggestion of Paul Thandi as Chair, Diane as Secretary/Treasurer, however Sharon Bagri gives her regrets as Member-At-Large. In need of parents to commit to executive positions so there will be a need to continue to recruit in the Fall 2014. Discussion on how to increase parents' participation (in general and as well as exec) – suggestions included sending out a letter out in September with all the PAC dates. Ideas are needed but also man-power from parents who will follow through on the action. It has been a challenge

and it is often difficult to count on parents to follow through on school related events and fundraising.

4. Old Business/Playground updates

The fundraising advertisement in the school newsletter brought in \$250 for the fundraiser (early May) thus far.

Review of Vaisaki Parade fundraiser - although \$1500 was raised from the 9 hour Vaisaki Parade the general consensus from the dedicated but few volunteers was disappointing – it was extremely taxing on the handful of committed parent and teacher volunteers. There was a huge need for more parents to participate and to have training for parents and students on how to be proactive and ask for strangers to donate money/collect money during parade. There were English and Punjabi banners made for the Parade and are now being used in school hallway.

Other ideas include fundraising at Christmas concert and talks/speech from Principal at these types of “good turnout functions” about the PAC. There was a suggestion of charging admission (by donation) to concert. The following ideas were also suggested: Gift card fundraiser, Christmas wrapping paper fundraiser, Cookie dough/pies fundraiser, etc. There was an urge for parents to get creative with fundraising.

5. New Business:

Surjeet presented an idea for fundraiser: a ladies’ dinner and dance night. It will be a dry event (no alcohol will be served) of dinner and dance. Surjeet’s daughter is involved in Banghra and Cultural dance and performances and can help at this fundraiser; possibly a talent show component can be included. Advertisements can possibly be done during the radio night time talk show and the radio host may be a possible MC for the event. Entrance to the event will be by ticket sales where funds will be raised to also cover the cost of the event, such as Hall rental. Surjeet has had prior experience fundraising. Further details such as making the tickets and ticket sale logistics were discussed. There was a suggestion to start small, use a smaller venue such as Moberly Gym. However, the Hall is set up to cater these types of functions as they have currently charge \$12/plate. The question of breakeven cost was raised – possibly ticket price of \$20 might give a small margin of profit. There was a suggestion of a mixed culture event, eg Chinese & Punjabi communities. There was a suggest to book the Hall, make the tickets, plan for the date to be in the Fall and promote the event at “Meet the teacher night” (Sept 2014) to take advantage to promote when there will be a larger turn out of parents. Patti can contact the multicultural worker (Chinese, Philipino, etc groups). Possible date will be towards of the of September.

6.

a) Review of Moberly’s website navigation was discussed earlier in meeting.

b) Patti provided an update on the Teacher Job Action as there was a letter from superintendent that was distributed today. Rotating strikes will begin this Monday for the VSB unless there is a deal struck this weekend. Teachers are in legal position to strike and there will be no school buses for students who use this service. What is a rotating strike? Different school districts throughout the province will walk off the job on different days each week, with Vancouver teachers taking their turn on Monday. Patti noted that teachers hate being on strike and it is financially difficult for everyone. Review of the Phases of teacher job action: Phase 2 of job action (job action). Phase 1 of job action – teachers no longer supervise playgrounds before and after school, which leaves Patti and Henry covering these duties. Teachers can hold as many meetings they choose but teachers cannot attend if school administrators (Patti and Henry) are present at the meetings – however, teachers can talk informally with Patti and Henry. The strike is a real hardship for teachers because they want to give quality to the classroom. Student placement/safety goes ahead as usual however everything else on hold in terms of staff development.

There was concern of whether grade 7 grad (Tue, June 24) will go ahead because it is during school hour. Patti assured that there will be a grad even if teachers are on rotating strike because she will organize it for the grade 7s. The exact details are not known or whether grade 7 teachers will be helping organize the grad but there will be need for parents to volunteer and to cook the potluck. The plan is for the Luncheon to start at 11:30am followed by the Ceremony at 1pm, where the volunteers will be helping clean up the luncheon during the ceremony.

Next week is “Welcome to Kindergarten” program – the kindergarten teachers will continue organizing this as usual.

c) Updates on Student Council projects by Henry: Thursday at lunch “free frisbee (free freezie) fun day”. Held at the upper field - toss the frisbee and if it lands in hula hoop (or if they get the target), it's a free freezie (limit 1 freezie per student but unlimited tosses). Meet every Tuesday all year round.

d) School plan day was affected by job action. A draft school plan was submitted by Patti and will be reviewed and revised in the Fall.

e) School Calendar will be finalized before end of May for next year. Notable is the 2 week spring break next year and an extra day off in November (Nov 10). However, it should be noted that there will still be the exact same number of hours in instruction even with the extra day off.

f) Class placement article was included in the school newsletter and in principal's report (posted on the Moberly website) regarding request. Not all schools offer this opportunity to request class placement but Patti feels this is important.

g) Sports Day 2nd Friday in June 13th and will go ahead as planned. The teachers are meeting to plan for Sports Day for the kids.

Other updates: Volunteer Tea will be tomorrow and Moberly Idol this Friday from 1-3pm as well as the Police constable and water safety presentation for K-grade 7. Meeting adjourned 7:50pm