

PAC Meeting Minutes

Walter Moberly Elementary

November 20, 2012, 7pm

9 Attendees: Mandeep Sidhu, Jagdeep Nagra, Surinder Mahay, Terry Phuong, Sharon Bagri, Kulbinder Thandi (co-chair), Mylene Navaez, and Diane Blue (co-chair), and Patti Plottel.

Guest speakers: Farrell Segall and Gwen Ingham

1. Welcome:

Patti Plottel welcomes all in attendance. Reviews agenda. Navigates on smartboard, how to find PAC minutes on the Moberly website (Under Parents Tab, Walter Moberly Elementary School PAC, PAC Minutes pdf files link at bottom of page). Brief review of previous meetings minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Diane Blue reviews items on Treasurer's Report for the November 2012 PAC Gaming account. Notes that there is a cash balance of \$27,561.00 as of October 31, 2012. Total outstanding cheques written and invoices in the amount of \$22,402.74 and 2012-2013 commitments in the amount of \$3,900, for a net total funds available of \$1,258.26.

Motion to accept the November 2012 Treasurer's Report by Patti Plottel, second by Sharon Bagri.

Motion Passed

3. Farrell Segall (PAC Chair, John Oliver Secondary School)

Mr. Segall gave a brief presentation and brief community history of John Oliver Secondary School (JO). He invited all to attend the SACY program (a collaboration between JO and VSB) called "Capacity Café" which are seminars which help parents and community members to understand what it is like to be a youth these days. Volunteer youths will share what the stresses and pressures youth face, what works (or doesn't) to support teens, and what real youth thinks and feels. Mr. Segall invited all to participate in this program which is free of charge but RSVP required as dinner and refreshments are served. To RSVP to December 6, 2012 "Capacity Café" hosted at John Oliver's Staffroom, follow the link at the John Oliver High School website at: <http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca>

Mr. Segall also shared that JO is reported to be one of the lowest rated schools according to the Fraser Institute. To help increase literacy, JO has created a program called "Library Houses" that he hopes will help increase literacy by allowing easy and convenient access to books. The goal is to have 10,000 books to stock these Library Houses, which are small carts that look like

miniature Victorian houses which are filled with books that anyone can borrow and return. These "Library Houses" will be stationed in the community, at local shopping malls, and at a few Vancity Credit Unions. The project will include involving children and youth to participate in reading projects and to decorate these Houses. Mr. Segall mentions two private homes with Library Gardens on St. George and Charles Streets where anyone can come and borrow and return books. It was initially assumed that many books would not be returned but in fact the collection has grown beyond the initial number of books stocked in these Library Gardens. Mr. Segall recommends PAC attendees should go to the John Oliver website to learn more about JO's involvement in the community and to learn more about the programs John Oliver has to offer.

4. Book Fair

Gwen Ingham informed that VSB has decreased Moberly's library fund because district funds are based on student enrolment. The annual Moberly Library Book Fair helps fund much needed library materials. The Fair was formerly run by the PAC and Ms. Ingham would like to and this fundraising effort back to Parents to coordinate future Book Fairs.

Ms. Ingham is calling for parent volunteers for this year's Book Fair, an event which is enjoyed by the students at Moberly. For every book sold, money goes to the Moberly Library. The price of Book Fair materials are more expensive but it is a fundraiser. Book Fair is Dec 3-6, 2012 which is the same week of parent teacher interview. The fair will be held in the Library and open at lunch and afterschool.

Parent interview goes until 8pm on the Wed but Ms. Ingham can only stay until 5pm so parent volunteers are needed to keep the library open during the Book Fair. A volunteer's sign-up schedule has been prepared by Ms. Ingham for the 4 days of the Fair – parents and students are encouraged to volunteer for respective stations. Books make great gifts and the Fair is a good time to buy books. Ms. Ingham notes that the Fair makes about \$400 cash dollars or double if Scholastic items are purchased. Biggest need in the library and school are sets of books designed for students who are not reading at their grade level. Ms. Ingham stresses there is a desperate need of obtaining these book titles.

Patti Plottel adds that attendees need to help spread the word on the Book Fair and ask friends to come sign up to help at the Book Fair (30 minute time slots). Studies show a positive influence on students when parents are involved in supporting the school in these types of efforts.

Ms. Ingham will prepare a poster to go home with the report cards about Book Fair. She stresses that volunteers do not have to be a Moberly parent but another adult or friend may come and help. Ms. Ingham concludes that with the Book Fair 'kids are excited, and it's a good cause and it's a rewarding experience'.

5. Principal's Report

Parent teacher conference is in two weeks for Divisions 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12 (all other Divisions chose Goal-Setting back in October). Parents are expected to receive a request for parent/teacher interview. All students will be dismissed at 2pm on the Wednesday. Interviews are from 2 – 8pm and 3 - 6pm on Thursday. Ms. Plottel advises parents to inform the teacher if they cannot make those times, as teachers are obligated to work around parent's schedule.

Ms. Plottel informed that 'some kids did fantastic, and some didn't do as well as they hoped' at today's Spellathon. Please help support in collecting the funds. Samples of Spell-a-thon prizes are in the showcase by the Office (eg Canucks Jersey, Nintendo 3D-S, marbles, remote control helicopters). For every \$10 in collected pledges the student receives 1 ticket to be entered into the draw for prizes. Other window is filled with prizes based on a point system (eg \$10-\$19 = 1 point and \$20-39 = 2 points, etc). Students can choose how to "spend" their points based on the different prizes that are worth different point values. Supplies on these prizes are limited so the sooner the pledges are collected, the fewer disappointments as prizes may not be exactly as shown in the display case. Primary class and Intermediate class with the most collected pledges will receive a pizza lunch.

Ms. Plottel informed that based on a random draw, Divisions 2 and 3 will be going on a field trip to the Aquarium on December 3, 2012. The charter bus and admission to the Aquarium for these two classes will be completely funded by the "Adopt a School" program through the Vancouver Sun. The program helps fund things for schools who are in need of financial support.

Ms. Plottel made an application for support for literacy program, which is a \$3,000 kit for Kindergarten classes. She notes that the grade one students have benefitted from last year. A second application is for other needs of the school, such as the Sensory Room on third floor. She will report on the status of these applications in future meetings.

November 2012 Moberly newsletter is available on the Moberly website and a brief overview of was provided. Noted that Division 1 did a great job with Diwali on Nov 13th and Omni TV was present to report on the event. Student council has their own section listed on the website. Council has one monthly event planned for 2012-2013 (listed on Moberly website under Student Council). "Clever Cherries" – a Japanese folk tale performance this Friday (for grades K to 7) and this play was paid for by student fees that were collected at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Plottel opens up floor for questions – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Minutes by D. Blue (PAC co-chair)