

Walter Moberly PAC meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Commenced 9:00 am in Moberly Library

Parent Attendees: Charlene Doss, Marlene Tam, Paul Thandi (co-chair/Treasurer), Diane Blue (co-chair) Secretary: vacant

Principal Patti Plottel & Vice Principal Henry Au

1. Welcome (Patti Plottel)

Thanks for parents braving the rain today and happy that parents take the time to come.

2. PAC Chair's Report (Diane Blue)

None prepared for this meeting as no activity; will prepare another for next PAC meeting.

3. Old Business (Patti Plottel)

Playground update: The wooden playground at back of the school was slated for removal sometime this year as it was deemed not safe. School Board will not repair old treated-wood playgrounds nor pay for a replacement. It is up to the school to fundraise as no money comes from Ministry for playgrounds. It will cost \$46,000 to \$50,000 to install a new playground. This is a large sum and will require years to raise through active fundraising. The PAC has reviewed several playground designs from two different vendors and finalized 2 designs to bring forward for the students to vote. The hope is that the students will be excited and involved in the decision making process of the playground so they will actively participate in the fundraising for their new playground.

Recap on designs- the Red Playground (option 1) has more options for play and the blue playground with the domed-net is exciting but the rest of the equipment is "boring."

Fundraising ideas from the previous PAC meeting included a Moberly Float at the Vancouver Vasaikhi Parade where charitable groups can collect donations along parade route (Sat April 12 or Sat April 19). No updates yet from the 3 parents involved. Ms. Badh would possibly be able to help because of radio station relationship. Other suggestions - bottle drives.

How to increase PAC meeting awareness? One parent said she was unaware and only found out about the PAC meeting from the reminder form (on the backside of the newsletter). Patti informed that PAC meeting schedule is posted on the website; and there is a banner in the school to remind parents about evening meetings. **Action Items:** Diane

to email Patti to distribute to parents about signing up for the Moberly PAC email Diane to follow up with Kindergarten co-PAC classroom reps and ask them to contact the classrooms. It was noted by a parent that parents were not happy when called via phone. Emails seem to be more convenient; distribution of flyers/newsletters for parents without email. **Action:** Diane to look into gift-card fundraiser (grade 7 grad, monthly, or annual for pre-Christmas)

Update on afterschool movie event – “Frozen” (pre-DVD release) with popcorn and water (package deal). The event will run 3:30 to 5pm. Suggested charge is \$3 for admission and \$1 for popcorn, and \$1 for bottled water for a total cost of about \$5. It will be a community event. This will help encourage students in contributing to fundraising.

2014-2015 school calendar is posted on the VSB website. Go to “Calendars” (then go to “draft calendars”). The Ministry has required 180 instructional days, and individual districts to determine how to distribute the 180 days. VSB will have 2 x 4 day weekends - one in Nov 2014 and in Feb 2016. You can find out when spring and winter breaks are for the upcoming two academic years of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/draft-school-calendar-2014-15-and-key-dates-2015-16>

4. Principal/VP’s Report (Patti Plottel & Henry Au)

Good resource is the Moberly website. Patti navigated the different tabs and sections of website using the Smart Board. There are updated staff changes/directory, newsletters, etc. School plan, contacts, the student tab which has student council and clubs are also on the school website.

Please note the change in date for Sports Day (Friday June 6 to 13)

Feb 16th is next student council event – week long event of compliments and candy kisses. Building self-esteem and learning to give compliments.

Mar 13th family pancake breakfast (family rate!) – fundraiser event, \$5 for breakfast for pancake and coffee.

Resources for library. It’s all about reading and visit from “books for me”; and John Oliver giving 150 free books to be integrated with books for me. It was reported that recent data collected indicated that students are making significant gains from Moberly’s reading program.

February’s Pro-D day will focus on inquiry-based learning which is the newest wave of instructional practice. It was explained that there is still importance on covering topics but making sure lessons are meaningful and connects with students that they are learning. Henry explained that memorizing facts is not what will make students successful – “they need to learn

to be curious and apply the knowledge and figure out and reflect on what they are learning.” There will be small steps in staff member’s method of practice. “I let students ask questions”, rather than teachers dictating. Moberly staff is excited about this new instructional practice and the parents will start to notice that it looks different - less textbooks home and more computers. Parents may notice that their children will be asking more questions at home. There will also be different ways of assessing – learning the process of learning. This new style will make students excited because they will be more engaged. “I learned something because I am interested and I was inquiring about.”

Next PAC meeting – Tuesday, April 15 2014 at 9 am in the school library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am