

PAC MEETING
Moberly Elementary @ Library
2013 October 15
Commenced 7:10 pm

Attendees

Parents (5): Sharon Bagri, Paul Thandi, Mr. Lalli, Mrs. Hyunh, & Diane Blue

Principal: Patti Plottel & VP: Henry Au

1. Welcome Henry Au

Introductions and welcome to all to the first PAC meeting of 2013-2014 year. Introductions were made among the 5 parent attendees and a brief message to parents about how and why parents should get involved with PAC. Questions were asked about the process of PAC executive positions. PAC executive nominations are held in May for the PAC following academic year. Current executive members are Paul Thandi and Diane Blue are co-chairs and Sharon Bagri and Mrs. Mandeep Mali as members-at-large.

Suggestions on increasing parent participation with PAC were discussed. Patti Plottel's suggestion of issuing \$1 tickets as an incentive for parents to attend PAC meetings. A caveat of a limit of 1 ticket per parent per meeting attended (and not \$1 per child for parents with multiple children attending Moberly). Tickets are meant to be redeemed at face value towards individual student cost of school field trip(s). The tickets would be presented to the child in their classrooms. Redeemed tickets will be reimbursed from PAC Gaming Grant Funds. No expiry date. There was agreement among all attendees that this was a good idea and worth trying.

The other suggestions include:

- use of word of mouth between parents to chat and bring a "friend." And to encourage PAC exec visibility and promoting PAC presence at key events and promoting PAC visibility such as "PAC" buttons to be worn by parents.
- Patti suggested increasing visibility of PAC members on Moberly website
- Phone call/email reminders 2 weeks before PAC meeting with school newsletters which include PAC meeting reminds which typically go out 1 week before PAC meetings.

2. Treasurer's Report Diane Blue

There were many transactions during the summer, many movements to Vancity account from the Scotia account. In May 2013, two Vancity low cost community bank accounts

were opened (Gaming Grant separate from General PAC funds). The Scotia bank account was closed September 30, 2013 to allow time for 2012-2013 issued cheques to clear.

The preliminary commitments for 2013-2014 are based on the historical PAC commitment to our teachers and PAC's commitment to the multiphase playground upgrade and any technology upgrade that is allowed under the Gaming Grant.

As there were not as many parents in attendance it was agreed to defer the decision to vote on the 2013-2014 commitments at the next PAC meeting to give parents time to review the figures.

Update from Patti regarding the old playground at the back of the school: The wooden playground structure was supposed to be removed in summer 2013 by the VSB but it still stands and has not been removed as of the date of this meeting. The \$18,000 earmarked in the commitment is a good idea. Half of front playground was paid by government grant and other half from PAC. Many parents in attendance did not realize that playgrounds are not paid by the school board.

Motion to accept the September 2013 Treasurer's Report by Diane Blue, seconded by Sharon Bagri
Motion Carried

3. PAC Chair's Report Diane Blue

Suggestion was brought up in the past to look at organizing PAC representatives (reps) for each classroom.

Patti Plottel suggests that outline of the duties of PAC classroom reps would help. These reps would act as liaisons and pass on information to the Executive (eg ripple effect from classroom PAC reps to the Executive regarding class information).

A letter of appeal will be drafted by Diane with duties/responsibilities for review by November 2013 PAC meeting. The aim is to distribute the letter in December.

Another suggestion is to start with just 3 reps: a Kindergarten rep, primary rep (grades 1-3) and a intermediate rep (gr 4-7) as this would be more realistic than having 20+ reps (eg one for each classroom). Patti notes that effective communication and the ability to support this is key/vital for success.

4. Principal / Vice Principal's Report Patti Plottel & Henry Au

Review of school website: Henry demonstrated how to navigate the Moberly website.

Front landing page has school events and publications/newsletters etc. There is a Parent's tab across the top. PAC meetings are listed: Oct 15 evening, Nov 19 morning, Jan 21 evening, Feb 18 morning, Apr 15 morning, and May 20 afternoon.

Patti Plottel gave a brief update on staff changes: Ms. Woron hopefully will be staying; Ms. Skabar is temporary therefore no seniority; Ms. Lopetrone is new; Ms. Harper in Resource teacher; Ms. Skarsgard is a temporary Resource teacher; Ms. Narain is Hindi speaking and able to speak Punjabi; Ms. Mann Johal replaced Mr. Morrison. Ms. Rodrigues has moved on (our former custodian) due to a promotion and the school is waiting for her replacement. Leah Samanchik has moved on to another school. The updated staff list is posted on the website.

Fundraising Updates by Henry Au:

Walkathon (Kids for Cancer): Moberly alternate fundraising years between Terry Fox Run and Kids for Cancer foundation (Ms. Gibson and Mr. Baker part of Board of Kids of Cancer Foundation). This year it was for Kids for Cancer and money was raised through popcorn sales over 2 recesses, with over 150 bags of popcorn sold in a very short period of time. Students really embraced this cause and \$5350 was raised through popcorn sales and donations. The fundraiser help teach students about social responsibility and to think beyond ourselves and how do we help others and to send the message that Moberly is a giving community.

A suggestion of a monthly after-school movie event in the school gym for students was presented. The school has a license to show movies that are not in theatre but not yet on DVD. The community and students can enjoy and share this event together. There is a desire to start this monthly movie fundraiser/community building event soon and there is a question of whether it is prudent to invest in a popcorn machine or not. Pre-popped popcorn in large bags can be purchased from a company in Annicis Island but the concern is "what is the rate of return on purchasing a machine?" The popcorn machine can be used at other events such as one day carnival events. Suggested price of \$1 for small bag of popcorn, \$1 water, and \$2 for movie (which will run from 3-5pm). The approximate cost of \$3-4 per child each child. In the past the annual fundraising spell-a-thon would make \$5000 but it is labour intensive. At 100 children x \$4 charge per child, we would have to do this 20 of these movie nights to reap the equivalent of an annual spell-a-thon.

Another suggestion is an annual event one-time request for donations or a `Direct Drive`. The hope or goal is for each family to commit \$25 (tax receipt issued) to Moberly Elementary rather than `nickel and dime` parents throughout the year. To be discussed further at November's PAC meeting.

A final suggestion relates to popcorn sales, bake sales were proposed. However, the VSB has strict food health guidelines on what is acceptable for students. For instance, chocolate sales are ok as long as the sale is not directed at children. The example of the

freezie sales was brought up. The VSB made it clear to our school that selling jumbo freezies to students goes against the health guide but the smaller size freezie would be acceptable. Consideration has to be made on the serving size and whether the food item would be acceptable to VSB guidelines. Ms. Sandhu did a ran a sale that went well.

Volunteers: An ongoing issue; the school is always needing more volunteers to help.

Playground Plans (at the back of school) by Patti Plottel:

Habitat Playground company's quote came back at \$39,000 plus \$3600 in add-ons AND \$18,000 in 5 additional smaller play structures to be added to the front primary playground designed for shorter kids or kids in seats/wheelchairs.

Henderson equipment came back with two quotes, \$32,000 and \$46,000

Quotes come from two local companies with the plan for PAC to review the proposals.

The process will include shortlisting 2 plans and having the students vote based on the posters prepared by the vendors. The PAC will finalize the students' decisions. There will be a sign to help show everyone how we raise the money.

Background information: The front playground cost was \$27,000. Phase 1 cost was \$16,000 and it was returned back through the VSB. Phase 2 (Henderson) was \$27,000 and it involved a community install. VSB union rules required the preparation of the space in the front of the school to be completed by VSB, the parents would build the playground on the prepared space, with the final inspection by VSB. For the Phase 2 community install, the majority of the volunteers were not Moberly parent volunteers but community members mainly from the local church and the Air Cadets. The Phase 1 and 2 costs were on the low side because the community install was a major cost savings.

Update on Mosquito Buzzers by Patti Plottel:

School yard signs/displays were posted at the beginning of summer 2013. But due to VSB budget issues the buzzers have not been installed yet. There is still ongoing concern by staff as they continue to politely ask marijuana smoking individuals (usually 4:30pm onward) to leave school grounds. Complaints from the community is usually regarding late night partying on weekends. There was a question raised about "How often are the kids/loiterers out there?" Patti and Henry comment that the covered area below the administration offices at the back of the school is attracts community members especially during the rain. It is with some sadness that they report that some of the loiterers are former Moberly students.

Discussion on graffiti – if graffiti is found on school grounds, the custodian removes it as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourn at 8:15pm.

Minutes taken by D. Blue