

Beaconsfield PAC MINUTES

Tuesday September 10, 2024

The purpose of the Council is to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and well being of students at Lord Beaconsfield Elementary School.

The Beaconsfield community humbly acknowledges that the land on which we live and learn is the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Attendees: Tony R., Laura R., Giulia V., Jesse A., Stephen C., Kathy T., Tim B., Aaron N., Meena N., Rylie G., Melissa B., Jen W., Meagan C., Tracy C., Anne A., Farjana A.J., Cristina B., Lisa J., Meagan C., Nilushika F., Vicky D., Parry D., Rose N., Suneil K..

Minutes by Rylie G.

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement

- June Minutes posted online
- Motion to approve June minutes - approved

2. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Mr. Tony Romano

- We have approximately 235 students this year. Students are now in their homeroom classes. In May staff devised tentative classes for Sept. with the goal to have positive learning environments for all students.
- The following criteria was used to build this years classes:
 - Learning styles and strengths
 - Friendships (at least one friend)
 - Class size regulations (stipulated by the Ministry of Education)
 - A balance of social, emotional and behavioural needs
 - A range of learning needs with a balance of students requiring learning assistance or special education services in each class
 - A child's physical and social maturity (especially in combined classes)
- In September VSB gave us a revised organisation which included many split/blended classes as our previous plan did not meet requirements, mainly class size composition. (teachers are only required to have so many designated students in one classroom).
- Blended/split classrooms arise for various reasons; small student enrollment, class size regulations (stipulated by the Ministry of Education), or intentional educational design. Teachers in this type of classroom meet the education needs of their students by:
 - Differentiated Instruction: Adopting differentiated instruction; tailoring lessons to fit individual needs, abilities, and learning styles. This benefits both grades, as students can work at their own pace. Higher-achieving students are challenged with advanced material, while struggling students receive additional support.
 - Collaborative Learning: Students from different grades can engage in peer teaching or collaborative learning. Older/more advanced students may help explain concepts to younger/less experienced students, reinforcing their own understanding. This cross-grade interaction enhances communication, leadership, and teamwork skills.
 - Curriculum Integration: Focusing on integrated learning; subjects are taught in themes that apply to both grade levels. For example, a social studies lesson might explore a broad topic like ancient civilizations, with younger students focusing on foundational ideas and older students diving into more complex aspects. This helps align lessons across grades while ensuring that each student is challenged appropriately.
 - Development of Independence and Responsibility: Split classrooms often require students to become more independent and self-directed in their learning. Teachers may be focusing on one grade level at times, students in the other

grade will learn to work independently on assignments or projects. This fosters time management, responsibility, and self-motivation.

- Flexibility in Pacing: Split classes allow for greater flexibility in terms of pacing. Some students excel in certain subjects, moving ahead of their grade level, while others need more time to grasp the material. Teachers can group students by ability rather than by grade, providing more customized learning experiences.
 - Positive Social and Emotional Development: Split classrooms often create a unique community where students of different ages develop meaningful relationships. Older students may take on mentorship roles, while younger students learn from their peers. This mixed-age environment can foster a supportive, inclusive atmosphere, promoting empathy and social growth.
- Challenges and Solutions:
 - While split classrooms offer many benefits, they do come with challenges; balancing the needs of different grade levels and ensuring that each group receives adequate attention. Teachers often address these challenges by using strategies such as rotating groups, station-based learning, or project-based learning to ensure that all students receive the appropriate level of instruction.
 - Athletics
 - Boys grade 6/7 soccer team has been formed
 - Girls Volleyball drop in for grade 5/6& 7 Tuesday at lunch and Friday morning
 - Cross country info coming soon, grade 3 students may be able to join this year
 - Choir information went out late last week, still waiting to see what our numbers are. Intermediate will rehearse Thursday after school.
 - Bike Hub – bike safety with intermediate students is next week (4 sessions)
 - Hip Hop booked for December performance
 - Paul Mayers is working with the YMCA to organize after school clubs
 - Meet the Teacher/Open House scheduled for Thursday, September 19th 5-6pm (PAC organizing concession - possible soccer game - 3-6p)
 - Babysitting course for our grade 6/7 students - this course will be sponsored by the YMCA at Gladstone

3. BUDGET REPORT - Rose/Farjana

- Last years fundraising results:
 - Freezie Friday \$200 (approx. \$200 in safe yet to be deposited)
 - Meet the Teacher \$315
 - Spring Fair \$3636
 - Hot lunch \$1500
 - GIC \$427
 - Movie nights \$1000
 - Spiritwear \$748.12
 - Winter Wonderland \$1400
- Rose submitted gaming grant application

4. EXECUTIVE POSITIONS - to be confirmed/voted on at AGM (info below as per June)

- Co-Chair positions:
 - Tracy interested in co-chairing
 - Kathy available to co-chair again
 - Tim happy to step down if position to be filled
- Secretary - Rylie offered
- Treasurer - Farjana (Rose will teach/help as needed) - Jesse or Anne also assist?

- Communications - Melissa can continue but would like to job share
- All positions to be confirmed by vote at the AGM next month

5. FUNDRAISING COMMITMENTS (per June discussion)

- Apple Sun-Oka Fruit Farms - Carey - up and running - ends October 9th
- Meet & Greet - Sept 19th - Concession 3-6p - Rylie, Anne, Tracy
- Freezie Fridays - weather permitting - Rylie, Anne, Tracy, Melissa
- Movie Nights - starting in October (monthly?) - Rylie, Anne, Tracy, Melissa
 - Movie license is required - Tim will apply for it - school will split the cost
- Spirit Wear - fall run - new items to come - Cristina now preparing to start soon
- Hot lunch - consider alternatives as quality has decreased - considering MunchaLunch - Rylie gathering more info - Continue with C'EstMonCafe for now
- Purdy's Chocolates (Xmas and Easter) - return requested
- WestCoast Seeds (Jan/Feb) - Jen will oversee
- Poinsettias - consider replacing with Fundscrip gift cards - to be reconsidered
- Winter Cafe (Dec) - cafe will run again with the Hip Hop show
- Spring Fair (June) - Tracy, Anne, Rylie
- Kona Ice - Tracy gathering details

6. MISCELLANEOUS from last meeting in June

- Purchasing a deep freeze or fridge/freezer - Tony discussed with engineer and found a place for it - PAC to decide on what model - upright freezer preferred by Tony
- Replacement of pinnies - Tony gathering sources and will order
- Purchase of a popcorn machine - not discussed - Rylie will update at next meeting
- Sponsorships - fall project - not discussed (info from June meeting)
 - PAC website - list donors - Cristina can help build the website (will need a line item on budget next year for web-hosting fees)
 - Anne-Marie can help with a new Facebook page
- Constant Contact - weekly PAC email instead of communication through school staff
 - Melissa unable to take this on right now - anyone else?
 - Must offer an option to opt in or out

Meeting Adjourned 20:03