



Lord Tennyson PAC

**Lord Tennyson Elementary School
PAC general Meeting
October 16th, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm by Sunita Sinha, Pac Co-chair.

Report Cards – presented by M. Martinson at the start of PAC meeting

- Sharing info on the K-7 Student reporting. Practices are aligned with the Provincial curriculum and proficiency scale from K-9. Competencies and goal setting are done for each grade. Grade 10-12 Graduation format will still be letter based grades.
- Why are there changes? To get student report cards aligned with curriculum. The curriculum is aligned with student strengths and to acknowledge that learning is ongoing. Focus in on the child rather than comparing to other students.
- The Goal is proficiency. 'Extending' means that the student shows a deep understanding of the content. 'Developing' shows that some things still being worked on, 'Emerging' means that the student is just beginning to understand the subject.
- Goal setting conferences will be on 25/26th October. 1st report card will be December 1st. (3 report cards year)
- More information will be sent out in the next Principal's newsletter.

Questions from the PAC

Are the teachers trained on this? The only change is where they are on the spectrum of the report card. Goal of the teachers and school is to know your child. They will share a narrative as well as identifying their strengths. Work habits are not taken into the mark that is given but feedback will be given on these work habits.

Land acknowledgement was given and introductions from the PAC Executive Committee.

Agenda Approved by Juanita and Orla Sturgess

Previous meeting minutes (June 12th, 2023) approved by Sunita Sinha and Suzanne Enderton

Number of people in attendance: 20

New business to add to the agenda

- Bike Walk
- Holiday Hamper
- Non enrolling staff
- Gardening item



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- Update on fresh fruit - \$648.90

Principal's Report - was done at the start due to timings.

- We have 400 students at Lord Tennyson this year. (425 is the cut off to qualify for a Vice Principal)
- 40 new students to Kindergarten, 19 new grade 1s from other schools.
- The Grass field is open from 8.30 to 4.30pm so that after school programs can use it as well. They will start to winterise it to keep it in good shape for the winter. M.Martinson will let us know where we can report people on the field outside of these hours as this is happening every weekend.
- Events coming up – Hub Cycle, Art Gallery, Writers Festival, David Thompson farm project, truth & Reconciliation Day projects in class, The Mural is now up from the Broadway Skytrain project on a theme of kindness. This is at 8th and Arbutus.
- Extra curricular events– Cross Country is ongoing and they have a meet at Trout Lake on Thursday. Volleyball: we have 1 junior and 2 senior teams have been put together
- Key dates: 3rd Nov will be the first day for off ground privileges for grade 7. Camp Sasamat was delayed to May 27th due to bus issues. More details to follow from M. Martinson.
- Volleyball nets should be arriving any day now. M.Martinson to update with updates as they come in.
- A question was asked about planning out the whole year for sports. We have missed the soccer deadline but there is interest in Ultimate (this is in the spring). A teacher would have to be a sponsor for any sport. Question was also asked whether parent's expertise could be harnessed to assist teachers, which is possible but the teacher sponsor needs to be present at most of the practices and all of the games. You also need expertise on the administrative side of things such as registering for the league, registration, minimum numbers etc. Most organised team sports are focused on Grades 6 and 7s.
- Question was raised about a Ski Club. There used to be one but the insurance is prohibitive. It was suggested that families can get together on Pro-D days at the local ski mountain.
- Question was raised about a Pro-D day sports program through VSB. M.Martinson said that there is talk of a potential contact at VSB that could give us feedback on that. She will share this info.
- Vice Principal Discussion. A school needs 425 children to qualify for a VP so Tennyson is slightly under that. Madame Kateryna was 70% resource teacher and 30% VP but this year we do not qualify for a VP so she will not be replaced. We are still actively looking for a resource teacher as we do not currently have one.

Finance & Budget

- The original \$76,000 total in the budget, it has now been increased to \$129,000 due to some changes.



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- The PAC Executive met last week and added several lines items from a discussion with M. Martinson for the teachers wish-list.
- The biggest item is \$41,000 for school equipment. This includes 30 Macs that are leased over 3 years, 5 ipads (\$640 each) and 30 wireless keyboards (\$165 each) as well as a cart to house them. The largest element of this is \$33,000 for the 30 Macs on the 3 year lease, which is the preference of the VSB. The full amount of the 3 year lease has been included. M. Martinson added that the intermediate pod has been working with Dell laptops that are very slow. Tennyson got a loaner from the District to test them out to see whether they would be used and would support the childrens' learning. They are much faster than the previous equipment. Grade 4s and 5s are working on ipads but they also want to support the use of keyboards and developing keyboarding skills. We have previously bought iPads, so the 5 are to top up the total.
- Sports equipment \$2700 – yoga mats and first aid kits from the teacher wish-list
- Grade 7 trip to Sasamat \$10,000 has also been added. This was delayed but there were no cancellation fees to move the date out to May.
- Adding these items should leave us with about \$10,000 in the account at the end of the year.
- Orla Sturgess added that we have added more money for multiple line items - events, sports equipment and finally the arts & sciences line item has gone up by \$1,000 from a request by the teachers.
- Question – For Munchalunch why is there \$10,000 in the budget? This rolls over and covers us to make sure we have cash flow to pay the vendors, although it does not cost the PAC any additional funds.
- Question - Does the cost of the computers and ipads include the insurance? Yes, this is all included as part of the lease.
- Question about whether we have enough money for the budget. There will not be a requirement to fundraise this year based on this budget. The suggestion was made to share this information with our school community. Normal school budgets are around \$50-60k and so this is exceptional for our school.

Motion was put forward to approve the budget, without changes, by Andrew Lavigne and seconded by Juanita. Approved unanimously.

Motion was put forward to approve funding for the Technology purchase by Christine Bergeron. Seconded by Lisa Yeates and approved unanimously.

- Bubble Machine – This was put forward from a parent to use at multiple school events. The total cost is \$300 and would be spent out of discretionary funds. This was moved to the next PAC meeting due to more information being requested.

Gardening items - \$201 for the bulbs for M. Carrier.

Motion was put forward by Orla Sturgess and seconded by Andrew Lavigne to fund the \$201 and this was passed by unanimous vote.

DPAC



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The school street program was presented on September 28th – the program is through Translink. Trish Mahoney, our DPAC chair, will circulate this through the newsletter. Topics include projects such as Traffic calming and eliminating car traffic on school days.

The DPAC has a facilities working group. There has been an issue where VSB planning had not been informed by city planning for school related issues. DPAC tried to bring this to the VSB to change this. VSB had passed their own motion to revisit this. DPAC is monitoring.

Next meeting is October 26th – There will be a presentation from Dyslexia BC at the beginning of the meeting. Anyone can go to www.vancouverdpac.org and register for the event. DPAC is the District PAC and can advocate for issues from multiple schools and can be a louder voice for important issues.

Events

Welcome back BBQ – PAC spent \$1752 and made back \$835 in refreshment sales, which netted a \$633 cost to the event. The remainder of the juice will be sold at the Hallowe'en Howl. Next year, we could ask for the hotdogs at the event to be by donation to ensure this is a net \$0 event.

Grade 7 Fireside camp – This was not a PAC or school supported event. Everyone that attended had lots of fun. The PAC provided a bursary for kids that needed financial support - 2 bursaries were claimed for this trip. The bursary was for kids that had not already registered for the trip and this was raised as an issue for some parents at the meeting. Sunita Sinha (co-Chair) added that parent-led initiatives need to come to the PAC with enough time to review the proposals at the executive meeting and coordinate with the school before coming to the PAC general meeting to request funds. Question was raised about whether we could have a bursary available for other programs. There is \$750 in the PAC budget for this bursary and there are also other school bursaries available. The PAC will put together a Bursary e-blast to share information on how families can get bursaries for a variety of events and needs.

Hot lunch

We have some great coordinators and volunteers for this program. M.Martinson gave feedback that it has gone very smoothly. Feedback was given by one of the coordinators about the amount of time they have to wait to put the bins away. M.Martinson will work with the team to resolve this. In previous years, the vendors sorted the food and brought it ready to go and this needs to be addressed with the vendor.

There is feedback from multiple parents that the children don't have enough time to eat their lunch. M.Martinson was asked to share this with teachers to see what can be done to encourage children to eat. It was suggested to let the children play first and then eat and this is being done in some classes.

Halloween Howl



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Tickets go on sale on Thursday 19th October at 7pm. There will be a total of 750 tickets. Please prioritise buying tickets for your children and immediate caregivers at this time (Children that attend Tennyson, their parents and siblings). Please don't buy tickets for extended family and friends until after the initial sale period.

Spirit Wear

This was launched on October 16th. There is a size chart to ensure that you can get the right sizing for your children. The orders go direct to the printer and won't be coordinated through the school. Samples will be requested and would potentially be available in the office. More to come on that. An order will be put through for track and field-shirts in January.

Parent Speakers

We no longer have a coordinator for parent speakers at the PAC meeting. Would anyone like to volunteer?? There was interest in a speaker on technology & kids, as well as Stranger Danger. Stranger Danger is discussed with kids during school as well.

Holiday Hampers

It was put forward to do this with our twin, Mount Pleasant school as they have a lot of families with high needs. We have fundraised in the past to fund this project. M.Martinson will contact the coordinator of the program to get more details for this year. We can support this with either a parent or teacher going into each class to explain it to the children to raise awareness. We do need someone to volunteer as the coordinator. This will also be shared in the PAC corner and e-blast.

Quebec Futures

A summary was given about what the Quebec Futures Committee is and the history of Quebec trips at Lord Tennyson.

- The Quebec Trip have been ongoing for many years at Tennyson and this is an exchange program with a school in Quebec. The children get a twin student and each spend a week at each others school, staying with local families.
- Over many years, surplus funding from fundraising has been added to the Quebec Futures bank account to support future funding to ensure that all students are able to attend the exchange. In the past, the school was able to receive outside funding from the Province and the fund was put together to support in the event we could not get this funding. No additional funding has been added since 2019.
- The Quebec program was paused during Covid, and since then the VSB has decided to discontinue the support for trips that require billeting. This would then put the onus on teachers to be looking after students 24/7, which is not tenable.
- The Quebec Futures Committee would like to change the unofficial name of the committee to 'Quebec Futures?' which allows for the committee to garner ideas



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about the future of extra-curricula French based programs for students. (Primarily for the grade 7 students, but not exclusively)

- Suzanne Enderton is the co-chair of this committee and shared that she joined the committee to discuss the future of French based learning experiences for the school and also to manage the remaining funds under the committee's jurisdiction - \$87,000.
- If you would like to join the committee to add your views, please connect with Suzanne at Suzanne.enderton@gmail.com

Question from the floor – will the VSB decision ever change? Likely not due to some past experiences, insurance etc. This decision was made after much deliberation at the VSB. This was not solely due to covid, but additional reasons afterwards such as insurance etc. There is also a grade 9 funded program for an exchange at High School.

Grant for the Bike/Walk to school week.

The question was raised whether anyone is applying for the mini grant and support for bike decorating and prizes for the kids. This event is in the spring with a deadline to register for the grant. School is interested in supporting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9.12pm.