



Lord Tennyson PAC

Lord Tennyson Elementary School
PAC General Meeting
December 4, 2023

- Call to order 7:08pm by Sunita Sinha, PAC Co-Chair

- Welcome and land acknowledgements

- Approval of agenda and new business requests (Orla and Sunita)

- Approval of October meeting minutes (Sunita and Orla)

- Principal's report: Diane Martinson
 - 1) We are continuing to work on our **School goals of literacy** and connecting and building the activities that we do around it, in keeping with the District Plan.
 - 2) **Events/Field Trips Since last meeting:**
 - **In-class** - "Bats", "High Touch/High Tech," Northern Birthday Box Project, celebrating each others' cultures (Diwali, El Dia De Los Muertos,)
 - **Field Trips** – David Thomson Farm Project, Space Centre, Art Gallery
 - **Clubs** – Chess Club (Primary and Intermediate), Choir, SOGIE, Diversity and Inclusion, Sustainability
 - **Extra-Curricular Sports** Volleyball – Two senior and two junior teams were entered in the inter-school league this year – thanks to Mme Adrienne for coaching, Mme Christine and Mme Simone for sponsoring and our parents for coaching. The Juniors had a great practice season and both Senior teams entered in the District Tournament.
 - 3) **Upcoming Activities**
Winter Concert – Tues. Dec. 19 th – 1:30-2:15 – variety of classes participating

Holiday Activities – Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Solstice
January after school activities – through the Community Schools team –
Primary art course - Possible Minecraft – successful at Gordon – may not
be available until the Spring

4) Pending items / Wish List Updates

- Framed photographs are up in the hallway
 - Outdoor sports equipment has been ordered and we should have after the holidays
 - Found a stationary bike that is the correct size for our students and meetings the VSB safety standards – to be ordered this week through the VSB
 - Gardening Project – the boxes have been made at the workshop - we are still waiting for them to be delivered and positioned in our pre-set location
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- **Introduction to SOGIE (Mme Kerri and Mr Marc)**
 - Kerri Smith - school counsellor at Lord Tennyson
 - Mr. Marc - Teacher with Diversity Club and SOGIE club
 - Mme Devon (all three are SOGIE leads)
 - Goal to make all people feel safe, included
 - Diversity and inclusion is inherent in curriculum and links with the Human Rights Code
 - Separate from physical health education
 - At Tennyson the club is for grades 4-7 every other thursday Mme Devon and Kerri - can come when and if they want
 - Take the lead of students and developmentally appropriate
 - Kids in group want to give a voice and awareness of diverse communities in 2SLGBTQIA , learning about figures who supported human rights, and they choose a theme for every month, themes of kindness and caring for everyone in their community
 - Alternate weeks between SOGIE and Diversity Clubs
 - PAC offered any support that is needed to ask
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- **Finances**
 - Treasurer's report
 - No formal report this time but open to any questions as the group continues to onboard treasurer role
 - Teacher's fund
 - Cheque was handed over to Veronica this week by Malcom
 - Gardening budget: M. Carrier wants batteries, Mme Martinson said the school will pay for it

- Update on wish list spending
- The Spreadsheet of the current status of the wishlist has been uploaded by Sunita on the Google drive. The current process is that Mme Martinson makes the orders and the PAC reimburse the school. This spreadsheet will be shared at each PAC meeting.

TENNYSON WISH LIST FOR PAC - 2023-2024

Item	Grade Level(s)	Approximate Costing	Update as of Nov 28
4 - Fine Arts performances	K-7	Approx. \$4,000	1 booked, 3 tentative
Individual microphones (10)	K-7	\$150-200 each - \$1,500-\$2,000	Not ordered yet - company is coming out to see what mics should fit the system before holidays
Yoga mats (class set)	K-7	Approx. \$35 each - \$1,100 for 30	Not ordered yet - teachers still deciding on what is required
First Aid Kit for sports teams 25 instant ice-packs	K-7	\$65.95	Ordered
30 Mac laptop computers (lease)	Gr. 6-7 pod	\$10,890.03 per yr (3 yr lease)	Ordered Oct 23rd No ETA <i>The Gr. 5-7 pod have 30 loaners from the District that I ordered and we'll have them for 2 months minimum.</i>
iPads - 5 for Gr. 3-5 pod	Gr. 3-5	\$620 +20 case x5 = \$3,200	Not yet ordered
30 wireless keyboards	Gr. 3-5	\$165 x 30 = \$4,950	Not yet ordered

Outdoor Sports Equipment for classes and bins	K-7	Approx. \$1,500	Ordered ETA beginning of January
		Approx. \$27,700	

- Funding request
 - Grade 7 parents want to start fundraising for Grad day budget to augment \$500 in the budget
 - VOTE Orla proposed and Kate seconded it no opposition

- **DPAC Rep update**
 - SLO program now being rolled out for Elementary Schools
 - We have a liaison officer now connected with Kitsilano Secondary and will come by the school by request or invitation of the principal
 - There are some families who have concerns about this at DPAC and a group with DPAC is partnering with the BC Civil Liberties association putting together a pamphlet for kids about their rights if you are stopped by the police.

- **PAC Key updates**
 - Past:
 - great success for building community spirit
 - Halloween Howl - made about \$210 in the end and it was a great success. Mr. Marc gave thanks to all the volunteers for such a nice night with families and the community
 - Spirit Wear - 2 rounds of orders; ended up making \$1200 despite it not being a fundraiser due to high volume
 - Want to use this money for new pinnies, new tech shirts, keep for future printing fees
 - Julia presented a motion to request that the extra hoodie funds be used to be used to cover future printing costs such as for School Pinnies that are needed (reversible and to fill in the numbers that are missing) for sports teams and orange tech shirts at a reduced cost
 - Orla seconded and no opposition
 - Ongoing:
 - Chess - very popular and growing
 - Volleyball - great success

- New:
 - Holiday singalong - Diane talking to the teachers
 - Holiday hampers - emails have gone out to class parents and teachers, Mr. Marc will be in classrooms and will work to engage the kids to be involved
 - Need drivers for Dec 15
 - Dec 18 deadline for monetary contributions
 - Non-enrolling staff gifts - Shana is helping Trish deadline is Dec 18
 - Plan for Parent Speakers - not discussed
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- **Addressing challenges regarding limited student support (Diane Martinson)**
 - Resource Teacher at Tennyson:
 - Mme Stephanie - full time
 - Mme Feller – 3 days a week
 - Open position for 2.5 days – Mme Martinson confirmed that this was just filled
 - SSA positions at Tennyson
 - Mme Mayriam ½ time
 - Mme Malka ½ time
 - Mme Lynette full time
 - A position was removed in September
 - Concerns were raised from PAC that parents and teachers are sharing with the PAC that this is not enough as students are being left with no supports
 - Diane update on this:
 - Mme Kat left last year and a VP position was dropped due to our numbers
 - 70% of her job was Resource Teacher
 - Position was posted and they could not fill this and this is apparently a trend across VSP for resource roles
 - Posting since June 2023
 - Mme Caitlin will be full time in January
 - Mme Saphi will be picking up another ½ day prep and ½ day resource
 - Currently Mme Lichimo is filling in 2 days a week
 - Mme Saphi has also been filling in
 - General discussion around concerns that parents are hearing from teachers about the diversity of needs being met in the classroom including behavioural and diverse learning needs

- Mr. Marc suggestion is for parents to contact Ministry of Education / federal government about advocating for more resources for SSA and Resource Teaching positions due to lack of funding
 - A parent mentioned a letter is being circulated about advocating for SSA resources in the school if parents want to connect around advocating for these resources
 - A parent brought up need to hear what VSB is doing to advocated for increases in Resource Teacher and SSA and not just on Parents
 - There is a DPAC working group on this - Trish will circulate this information as DPAC Rep
 - Diane said the group at VSB who is in charge of funding for this area are advocating
 - Mr. Marc said teachers are advocating and their Union is working on advocacy as well
 - Mr. Marc said union meeting and teachers are open to having parent support and have parents come in to provide classroom support. Mme. Martinson said this is supported by Admin. PAC will follow up in the New year.
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- “Quebec Futures?” update - **please review the proposed website updates** <http://www.lordtennyson.ca/quebec-trips.html>
 - Suzanne who is on the committee updated that the website was updated. Good discussion on what happened in the past, impacts of COVID and VSB policies, committee is working on a survey that will go out to the school community for ideas for the money as we now know what we can/cannot do with the funds.
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- Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm