



Minutes for September 18, 2019

Attendance: Christina Apa, Tuire Tammilehto, Alanna Wish, Julena Lovegrove, Val Koutougas, Claire Manhas, Sharon Rai, Caren Morris, Wendy Eckardt, Vanessa Lloyd, Juliana Moore, Ashley Riddett, Lois Bender, Jacob Buurma, Ufuk Akkus, Breena Blazkow, Jasmine Haere, Teresa Bubela, Leann Trenchard.

Call to Order at 7pm pm by Jacob

Adoption of meeting agenda by Jacob and seconded by Christina

Adoption of meeting minutes from previous PAC meeting (AGM): previously adopted and circulated by email.

Standing Items

Jacob begins by describing what the PAC is/does and the role it plays within the school (fundraising, community building, communication between parents and administrators, getting together to brainstorm things we can do as a school in the future.

Communications Update

Caren Morris has taken on a communications role with the PAC for 2019/2020.

- PAC Reps – new this year, formerly Class Rep. Key roles are relaying information to parents on behalf of the PAC and helping source volunteers from each class. Some liaising between teachers and parents as needed by the teachers. Sign-up sheets have gone out, we have some classes with multiple volunteers and some with none.
- New PAC website: torquaypac.ca
Jacob had previously identified a need for the PAC to have an independent way to communicate to parents that will also link back to the Torquay website and vice versa. A central place any parent can go to for all things PAC related! Please spread the word about this. And a huge thank you to Jacob for the time and effort put into it.
- Facebook – the PAC Facebook page will be mimicking the communication already being sent out in other formats. More of a “second reminder” of things, to supplement the website and school communications.

Events Update

- Halloween Howl
This is the school dance and game night. There is a treats table and the kids dress up and have a blast. We do need volunteers but no one is obligated/pressured to step up unless they can. Julena asked about selling tickets in advance, to avoid long lineups. Something to organize through PAC reps? Pre-sales vs door sales discussion. Jasmine would like to pass on the coordination to another parent, or co-coordinate. Juliana and Sharon offered to assist. Use the PAC reps to pass on the info and rally troops. Sign-up sheets were missed last year.
ACTION: create a Google Doc for online signup. Caren to direct PAC reps to pass on info to each class. Christina to investigate possible use of Fun Lunch website for ticket pre-sales. Sharon to contact DJs (possible connection).
Date: Thursday October 24th or Friday October 25th as possible options. May depend on DJ.
- Play at the Park Meetups – an opportunity for new families to have more points of connection with the school. New parents can meet up with other Torquay families. Saturdays could be busy, looking at a weekday afternoon, Pro-D day (complications with that)? Majestic Park and Mount Doug park were also suggested (washrooms). **October 5** first date.
- Spring Fair: Classic elementary school “fun fair.” A few months away still but important to start thinking of it now. Getting ahead of things like silent auction items will help a lot. Lots of stations and fun things to do. PAC reps will help organize Division “themed” gift baskets again this year. Online auctions may have requirements/hoops that we might want to look into but that has been suggested.

Treasurer’s Report

- Thrifty Foods and Fairway Market cards: An easy and convenient fundraiser for the school. They are available to anyone at the school office. Request for Save-On cards.

ACTION: look into Save-On cards or Country Grocer

- Fun Lunch: pizza, sushi or Subway options. This Friday a note will come home to parents that orders are open for each Wednesday of the month. Tuire will be helping Christina with the emails and answering questions.

Financials: \$21,705.39 in general account and \$8,530.69 in gaming account as of August 31st. Tiffanie is absent so Jacob reports.

Administration Report

Lois thanks all families for the lovely welcome. We have a wonderful school!

- There are 15 divisions, all classroom spaces are being utilized. One new .5 inclusive learning contract has just been hired. It's also posting time so things could change but we are solid for the moment. It's a time of great organization.
- Safety things: getting kids used to boundaries.
- Allergy awareness: a letter has gone home regarding this and all parents are asked to be mindful.
- Screening meetings with the teachers and classes are underway including possible supports.
- Carol Walton is our school psychologist, Courtney Dorman is the speech pathologist. Constable Lisa Bouchetta (sp?) has arranged Halloween safety talks and lock-down drills.
- Literacy and numeracy assessments also underway.
- Next pro-D day will involve where Torquay hopes to go in terms of literacy and learning (resource funding). Any suggestions should be sent to Lois before Monday.
- Orange Shirt Day is coming up, all parents are welcome to come to the assembly, 1:15 September 30th. That week is also parent-teacher interviews and on Friday, Tour de Rock comes through the school. All parents are encouraged to support this. There will be a Spin-a-Thon fundraiser for this as well (by class, a Toonie buys a spin on the bikes) next Thursday. T-shirts and hats for sale in the office. A parent asks about a possible head-shaving fundraiser.

Town Hall:

- Tetherballs: they haven't been set up yet but it requires more brawn/tools than we have at present. No action on this.
- Jasmine: the changes to the music program could be revisited. Printouts are circulated supporting the importance of music at this age level. Jasmine points out that other schools' music programs (Campus View etc) do not seem to have been similarly affected by curriculum changes. Middle school kids are expected to know an instrument upon entry so our students may be behind. A Stage 2 grievance was filed by the teachers regarding the changes. Christina Apa points out that not all teachers would be comfortable teaching the technology components that Mr. Koning does. Lois Bender joins the discussion and emphasizes her strong advocacy for musical education. She has been impressed with the music offerings she's observed so far at Torquay and feels there are many ways we can take it further as a group. It's mainly a "prep time" issue for Torquay and a school decision and Lois is looking to see how it unfolds and how we can complement and support what is already here.
- Gym time question: all classes have two blocks of gym a week.
- Try to avoid overlap with GHM meetings in future (not an issue, different days of the month moving forward).

Meeting adjourned: at 8:05 pm by Jacob

New Business:

Spirit wear: new designs in the future (Julena). For next meeting perhaps?

Actions Requiring Follow Up:

- create a Google Doc for online signup for Halloween Howl
- Caren to direct PAC reps to pass on HH info to each class
- Christina to investigate possible use of Fun Lunch website for HH ticket pre-sales
- Sharon to contact HH DJs (possible connection)
- look into Save-On cards or Country Grocer (Tiffanie)