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Minutes for PAC Meeting, April 14, 2021

****Meeting conducted via Zoom****

Attendance: no in-person attendance. Meeting conducted via Zoom. Moderated by PAC executive members (Teresa Bubela, president, Tiffanie Hanoski, vice-president, Caren Morris, treasurer, Tuire Tammilehto, secretary, Stacey Fraser, communications liaison) 15 participants present.

Call to Order at 7:01pm by Teresa.

Adoption of meeting agenda by Teresa and seconded by Devon.

Adoption of meeting minutes from previous PAC meeting, moved by Teresa and seconded by Tiffanie/Julena.

Opening Remarks:

- Teresa addresses the SD61 proposed budget cuts to middle school music, reading recovery, gifted programs, EA's.
- She asks that if you have any questions or comments to save them until the end as part of "new business".

Standing Items

Communications Update

- **Staff appreciation lunch:** It's an opportunity to recognize all the hard work done by Torquay staff throughout the year. Organized by Caren, staff will have an opportunity to select a meal from our newest fun lunch vendor, Cook and Create.
- Order forms will be sent to Torquay staff shortly and the luncheon will be held on May 7th, 2021.
- **Earthquake Kits:** A very generous donation has been received from *Ryan Vending*. New water bottles will be added to our emergency kiosk to replace expired products. Thank you so much!
- Sarah Elford received an email from the district. In hopes of standardizing emergency kits, an itemized list of essentials was provided to her. While our kits are well stocked, there are **still items missing**.
- The list is categorized and splits items by urgency.
- No funding available from the district at this time.
- District contact, Marketta knows where to source items and has offered to answer any questions.
- Parents voice they would like an opportunity to donate items if needed.
- Sarah to forward the itemized list to PAC executive, with particulars on urgency of each item.
- **Looking towards the AGM:** Currently there is a handful of parents helping support all the activities we know and love (fun lunches, spirit wear, parent education, and fundraising for our Grade 5's).
- We are looking to you to help carry the load! A single task is not extensive. It's when one person takes on multiple, that it becomes a lot.

- If you can help in a particular area of interest to you for one month or simply on a task by task basis please reach out to the PAC at communications@torquaypac.ca. Let's improve the lives of our children collectively!
- A full list of roles with descriptions will be sent out by May 1st. Look for it in your April 29th communication email from the school. Also available on the PAC website, www.torquaypac.ca.
- Our PAC Constitution was last updated in 1996. Speaking to other PACs, it's clear that making updates is a lengthy task. The hope is to have this accomplished next year.

Financial Update

- Chequing Account \$25,218.11 , Gaming Account \$5316.10
- There are bits of income coming in from Spirit Wear, Beeswax wraps, Finn and Izzy, Purdy's, and Fun Lunches.
- Caren states that many of the budgeted expenses for this year have not been happening.
- Due to our numbers still being in flux as the school year concludes, a proposed budget for next year will be made at the first PAC meeting in September.
- Please join us at the **AGM meeting, May 12** to discuss how best to allocated funds next year!
- Thrifty's Smile Cards: We received word that the program is changing. **As of June 15, 2021, any amount loaded onto existing smile cards will NOT produce dividends for Torquay.**
- In the new program, the PAC needs to pre-purchase gift cards to sell to parents. Continuing with this new program is to be discussed at a later date.
- Benjamin Moore Paints- Thank you so much for another cheque! So that all parents are aware: When shopping for your DIY renovation, or decorating needs, mention "Torquay Elementary PAC" at your local Benjamin Moore Pacific Paints dealer. You will **receive 20% off retail** on paint products. And they will give an **extra 10% of total sales to Torquay Elementary PAC!**
- Fun Lunch Update: A new vendor, Cook and Create, is being tried this month. It's a healthy option for Torquay families. Run by a local businesswoman, Andrea, her catering is becoming popular with movie sets. Andrea make all her own sauces in-house and has partnered with us to provide tasty options for lunches.

Fundraiser Update

- The Easter Purdy's and Kernels sales are going well for grade 5's.
- The **next Kernels order deadline is April 27**
- There are funds available for a year end celebration.
- Due to health and safety recommendations, the organizing committee has paused. However Sarah reassures parents that Torquay staff are committed to making this year a memorable one for our grade 5's.

Event Update

Parent Ed Nights

- Sidestepping the Power Struggle with Allison Rees has 140 registered participants. Of those 70 are from Torquay! It's great to see that this presentation is resonating with our parents!
- Sheepdog Self-Protection presentation was scheduled for this spring. However due to the latest health and safety recommendations, it is on hold until the fall.
- Kris, the presenter, feels that a virtual presentation will not be sufficient to communicate her content. She feels that it's vital to connect with the children and this is best done in person.
- Sarah explains that in the newest guidelines, schools are encouraged to keep cohorts separate as much as possible.

Spirit Wear

- With the first round complete, Julena says sizing on one shirt is off. **Be mindful of the small size.** It's more for kindergarteners.
- Samples will be available when not superseded by health and safety recommendations.

-Another round of ordered proposed for May. Remember to get your Orange shirts ahead of September for Orange Shirt Day!

-Julena volunteers to coordinate Spirit Wear next year. Thank you for your continued help!

-In the past, profit from spirit wear has gone to purchasing t-shirts for grade 5's. This year, it was organized by the Grade 5 Celebration Committee and the grade 5's have their wear already!

Administration Report

Lois Bender, principal

- We are continuing our response to the latest Health and Safety Guidelines. The children are joyful and resilience though this time. We will continue to move through this together.
- We are concerned with people hanging around after school. The more we can get the grounds cleared, the better! Please be mindful of encouraging our friends to move along. We would like to limit the children mixing with other cohorts as much as possible.
- We would like to encourage the **one-way traffic on the south side of the building**, by the Torquay Tiger mural. **Please exit on the north side of the school**, closer to the gym and office. Thank you!
- Change to **Photo Day: April 27th**. Let's hope for sun! Edge Imaging will be here, outside, for our group photos.
- A special "Thank You" to our teachers who have offered extra activities to students. Christina App, Mural Scott, Mary Bolton, with Eco Tigers has 10 kids out there planting!
- The Eco tigers is only offered for one cohort this year. Advertising has been in that cohort only.
- Mini Zoom assemblies have been happening at school.
- In February, Robyn Christini put together a news cast on Pink Shirt Day. The children were broadcasters. There were topics such as, Pink is Spreading, Kindness, and the Torquay Challenge. Also in the news cast, the children did a taping of a game of four square. Bystanders at first said nothing to bullying and harsh words being exchanged by a few of the children. The second time the bystanders stood up to say something. The message conveyed was that it's your job to be an assertive bystander! You can be a helpful friend. We do not want to just stand there. This goes along with our Second Step Program that focuses on calming your body and solving your problem through words.

Town Hall/New Business:

-Scott asks about the SD61 proposed budget cuts

-The impact of the budget cuts will be on EA teachers, gifted programs, and students with aspirations in music.

-The meeting implied that principals will be the ones to coordinate parent concerns to the district

-Lois states she is happy to present concerns at meetings and act as our liaison. However this raises questions of how to affectively communicate concerns if there are large numbers of parents contacting Lois.

-The PAC is encouraging parents to educate themselves as much as possible.

-This is certainly a massive issue! If you feel passionately about this topic, please add your voice.

-Join the informative advocacy group on Facebook: "Save SD61 Music Programs"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3028393680776761>

-For updates from the Torquay PAC Executive on time-sensitive details with the proposed SD61 budget see:

[Torquay Elementary PAC Facebook page](#) or [Torquay PAC website](#) or email questions to:

communications@torquaypac.ca

-Important dates on this issue:

-School Board Trustee debate: May 17th

-SD61 budget vote: May 31st

-At the end of the day, we can advocate, but the school board trustees will be the one that will vote on this budget.

-Teresa will follow up on all available avenues and communicate to parents anything we may hear.

Meeting adjourned: at 8:22pm by Teresa.

Next meeting is May 12th, AGM