



www.torquaypac.ca

Minutes for TPAC General Meeting for April 12, 2023.

Attendance: PAC executive members (Danielle Parandeh, president, Ada Bello, vice-president, Anna Olson, treasurer, Tuire Tammilehto, secretary) Dean Robson, Nancy Hodgson, Emma Marley, Liz McMaster, Ben Koning .

Call to Order at 7:00pm by Danielle.

Adoption of meeting agenda by Danielle.

Previous meeting minutes unavailable.

Opening Remarks: Land acknowledgement.

Standing Items:

Library Presentation by Ben Koning:

School Goals

Last year's theme was diversity. "Diversity is the natural state of the human world and nature."

It's part of the Grade 3/4 curriculum to know the Rights of a Child, outlined in the United Declaration. Students learned how to be diverse in culture, gender, wealth, religion, ability, and race. Through the library, Mr. Koning read stories about these topics. Stories were mostly positive with a few speaking to challenges and what it means to be discriminated. Children were read stories to their level of understanding. Everyone was introduced to common language at the library with the classroom teachers expanding as they liked from there.

This year's goal is inclusion. "It is our response to diversity and evidence that we understand diversity to be okay." Focused on what does it look like and what is it like to be excluded. Our knowledge of diversity makes us more inclusive. The goal was for the children to ask questions and help them learn the answers. We teach about inclusion and diversity because it makes all kids better learners, allowing them to understand various subjects from multiple points of view. (Supported by research). As teachers work together on a goal, it strengthens our children as learners. When our students come to the library, they see the words "inclusivity" and "diversity" often through books, common phrases, and powerpoint slides. We included books on residential schools, the need to include, the need to apologize, how to be a good ancestor, and how to prevent exclusion lineage. In addition to books, we are also using the district library website with resources on these topics. *FREE for parents: elibrary.sd61@bc.ca.

"Diversity is having a seat at the table. Inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard." -Liz Fosslien. These are all the things we are working on in our classes in a variety of different ways. I.e. learning about black, asian history, and still to come, indigenous history in June.

The Library: how it fits into the school.

What is a school library? What is a library learning commons?

The library you experienced as a child, is not the same as now.

A library learning commons is a vibrant, whole-school learning space.

It's more of a kitchen, not a grocery store. A library is becoming a laboratory to build, learn, and communicate. We try to emphasize comfort and create work environments that invite exploration and creativity. We have green screen materials, using tools, lego kinex, robots, magnets. The library also has a huge role in teacher support, learning how to use all these fun and exciting extras.

Access to school libraries result in more voluntary reading.

Voluntary reading is the best predictor of reading, comprehension, vocabulary growth, spelling, grammatical, and writing in students. Kids need access to books in order to be able to read when they feel like it.

Last year, our library had 31,611 books circulated to our teachers and students for a school population of 300-320. That's a lot! We have approx. 15,500 books in our library. Our collection gets outdated fast due to the change of information and children's need to identify with books; Children need to see themselves in the books!

The average publish date of our books is 2007. 11% are 2018 and newer. 40% are considered dated. 24% are diverse titles. Our library needs to be balanced. Every year we are buying new books and weeding old books. New curriculum requires new resources. Last year 679 books were weeded and 850 new books purchased.

To maintain the collection we need to replace 7% a year plus a bit to cover the loss of books.

Annual budget: \$10000: Non-public, \$2000-Times Colonist Grant and \$4000-Scholastic. Public funding, \$750 other grants. School district funding is variable and not set.

Students need spaces to work and create. Our teachers need spaces to share and collaborate!

Lockdown Drills: Dean Robson, a Police officer in Saanich is with the Community engagement division. He is also apart of the Community liaison division, touching on diversity, youth, LGBTQS+, and the elderly.

He explains that in our school community, the police run our lockdown drills by engaging and working with the school admin.

A *lock down* is an immediate threat to the school. I.e. suspicious person in the area who is deemed unsafe through a bystander and reports a situation to police. The police respond and evaluate, then give instructions to the school.

A *hold and secure* would be a less urgent situation, in which the school has time to lock doors, keep everyone inside. I.e. a cougar on the school grounds. The police check the area, while students stay indoors until given the all clear.

In the next few weeks, there will be a drill for the children to go into their lock down spot in their classrooms. There is a lock symbol/sticker in every room. It's a quick visual for the teacher that has been predetermined as the safest spot in that space. Police patrol the halls and check that doors are locked. In our school, it will take about 7mins. Liz will prepare the children by way of announcement the day before. It will be described as being similar to earthquake and fire drills. Ideally we would have 2 lock down drills per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The intention is to remain "trauma aware" and reduce anxiety, while also preparing for emergencies.

Administration Report

Liz McMaster, principal

- PISE: Pacific Institute of Sports Education is coming to coach gym and playground games for 8 weeks.
- School-Wide Beach Day: June 20th, all day event.
- Within our Lambrick Family of Schools, Lambassadors are coming into our school to help with social interactions, games, puzzles, and reading. They are also joining us for track/cross country 3 times per week. Gordon Head volunteers are coming for our English Language learners and beginning some math games. It's a way to encourage our families to stay in our community.
- We will also be joined by volunteers for Fun Day, June 23, in the afternoon.
- 12 drums have been made! A drum gifting and awakening ceremony coming up in May. Date: TBA.
- Grade 5 ceremony is in the organization phrase! More details to follow soon.
- For next year, Liz proposes that PAC Meeting be held on the Second Tuesday of the month, if possible.

Emma Marley, vice-principal

- Rainbow club, A club for inclusion. This grade 4/5 club is for people who identify as LGBTQS+ or an ally. The students are planning an assembly, may read to each class, and would like to make rainbow bracelets for all the students! It's a safe space to communicate, every 2 weeks.
- Earthquake Kiosk: District has come back to confirm that this will be a PAC funded item. Our current kiosk is overflowing after updating our supplies in years past and we are in need of a new one. Pricing details to follow.
- School supply lists are being updated to be more cost effective. It will be the essentials and each teacher at the beginning of the year may also ask for additional items. Be aware that lists may look different this year!

Financial Update

General Update from Treasurer: Chequing account: \$41,532.02, Gaming account: \$10,652.49, Paypal account: \$16,697.62, School held funds \$4626.99

- Grade 5 Fundraising Balance: \$1557.01. Well done so far parents!
- **Funding Request:** The Rainbow Club is seeking up to \$150 for supplies to make rainbow bracelets for each student that attends Torquay. They hope to distribute bracelets in May.
- **Vote: Approved**
- Gym equipment being updated, already budgeted \$600 for this year.

Event Update

- Teacher Appreciation: Will be catered this year. Date TBA. Budgeted \$450.
- Sheepdog Presentation Update: tabled until next meeting.
- Walk and Wheel: Stacey excited to organize again this year. Will be in touch with Liz about a date. Looking for a few volunteers willing to help. Please email: communications@torquaypac.ca

Communications Update

- **Traffic Safety:** Saanich coming this week to assess parking safety in front of our school. I.e. better signage. They will not be painting the curbs but there are other options.
- **PAC Executive Succession Planning:** Next meeting is our AGM! Looking for help to fill our President, Secretary, and Fun Lunch coordinator roles.
- Liz suggests to reach out to new Kindergarten parents during their Meet and Greet June 2, perhaps by way of info sheet/form.

Meeting adjourned: at 8:27pm by Danielle.