

PAC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

1. Introduction and Welcome – Kristin

- Kristin, Ken, Kimberly, Kathryn, Hazel, Paula, Julia, Krista, Shelly

2. Administration Update – Ken

- A week today is our district wide orientation afternoon. Grade 6s host incoming grade 5s through a series of “Explore Monterey” activities, grade 8s go to their high school, and grade 7s remain with their regular classes.
- He just came back from a social/emotional learning (SEL) conference in NYC with thousands of educators in attendance. One of the keynotes said that not enough jurisdictions are doing enough about SEL except BC, which is a leader in education right now.
- There will be one more grade 8 class next year. The rest of the grades are about the same as this year.
- Noted that third phase of Boundary Review process is open for consultation and most relevant to Monterey is the proposed start-up of Bank Street/Sundance Elementary School (which would be English Track only and feed Monterey). Questions and discussion ensued, which noted that: As Central Middle’s population is over-capacity, the proposal includes FI kids from Margaret Jenkins School (MJS) going to Lansdowne instead of Central (first at a new south campus for grade 6s opening at Richmond School site as part of Lansdowne), resulting in some Margaret Jenkins parents expressing concerns at the travel distance and proposing Monterey be a dual-track school. Further discussion noted concerns of Monterey parents around that possibility, although it was pointed out that there’s been no indication from the District that they’re seriously considering making Monterey dual track, and parents can still provide feedback to the Boundary Review team on the proposed changes (see district website) before the Board makes their final decisions (likely in early June).
- One recommendation from the district’s Middle School Review Committee was for middle schools to get parent feedback about their communication practices. Ken reviewed Monterey’s evolving communication methods and solicited PAC feedback, most notably that current emails work well as main form of communication with parents (especially weekly “Next Week @ Monterey” and “Monterey Athletics” plus intermittent “Principal’s Message” emails) and questions/suggestions about possibility of sending daily announcements (those made over PA) home to parents (with some discussion of pros/cons, challenges, and options in that regard).
- Playground giant net climber – the final phase of our multi-year Playground Revitalization Plan – is being installed. If there are no delays, it should be ready to use in about 2 weeks. Kathryn reminded that a climber ribbon cutting ceremony should be planned, inviting those parents who were instrumental in planning and fundraising. Ken will connect with PAC Exec in the coming weeks to plan that.

3. **Year in Review – Kristin**

- We had a really effective, positive, low-key year. In September we had the Welcome Back Coffee and then cookies for Meet the Teacher. Lots of good feedback. We had 3 great guest speakers: Dr. Shawn Davison (physical fitness), Dr. Magali Brulot (anxiety) and Kingsley Strudwick (Ambit – gender diversity). A thank-you to Mercedes for the Kingsley idea. She's always open to new ideas for speakers. A special highlight of the year is the holiday hamper program. Krista was new to the role and did a great job and made it more efficient. A lot of positive feedback. Next year we have some changes: we are scrapping class reps for each division and will instead only ask for volunteers to assist in the hamper program in November/December. February saw our Staff Appreciation Lunch organized by Kimberly. Staff really appreciated it. In March we hosted back to back pizzeria evenings at Young Entrepreneurs and Math Games nights. Willows Pizza donated all the pizza which made it a great fundraiser. Thanks to Sharon for representing our school well through Fun Foods and creating opportunities such as this. Thanks also to Shannon Phillips for stepping up on the math night to help out when Kristin and Sharon weren't available. Thanks to Joanne for looking after the Smile Card program. A big thanks to Paula who is the PAC co-chair, looks after our social media presence and is chairing the grade 8 celebration. Her daughter is moving to Oak Bay in the fall so Paula's time at MMS is almost done. And thanks to Kathryn for her great Treasurer role.

4. **Treasurer's Update – Kathryn**

- At some point over the summer somebody should look over her Treasurer stuff for transparency's sake. June 30 is end-of-year. Her dad is going to convert records over to software rather than continuing to use Excel. In terms of moving forward, if people could think about somebody to take over for her so that they can shadow her next year while she is still in the role. She shadowed Kimberley R and that made the transition easier. At the end of the year, we are on track for what we had expected from the September budget. The only thing that was a bit off was parent education – we didn't spend as much as we planned for. Next year we need to adjust that money down. The major source of funds was Fun Foods and pizzeria nights: \$21,000. In relation to last year, we made about \$13,000 profit. We will make about \$1,700 with Smile Card revenue. We didn't have any big fundraiser but weekly Fun Foods days generated most of the money. Thanks to Julia for the jersey program. As much as possible, we are going to move to online payments to streamline payment process for PAC events. She wants to recognize the school (Blanche, Jeri, Barbara) for helping out when necessary. Next year she'd like a few more processes in place to make money transference more transparent;
- A couple of weeks ago she sat down with Ken to get suggestions for how we could spend the remaining 2018-19 PAC money, which has resulted in allocating \$2,800 to Athletics (with around \$6,000 needed in future years as,

based on parent feedback, Athletics will end the Entertainment Books fundraiser), \$4,000 to the Performance Hall (as portion of >\$20,000 plan cost-shared with school budget and district grant), and \$4,000 toward digital devices (approximately 1/3rd cost-share with the 2/3rd from school budget).

- For next year, it was suggested that maybe more money can go to hamper families (\$25 grocery gift card for turkey/ham doesn't go very far anymore). Proposed we double the grocery card to \$50.

5. Grade 8 Celebration – Paula

- Planning is going fine. June 1 a request will come out for grade 7 parents to help with the potluck

6. Speaker Ideas for Next Year

- Kristin would love ideas for speakers. She's not sure if Ladan is going to continue in this role. Julia offered to take it over if Ladan is wanting to step back.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm