



Meeting minutes
12 November 2020
Zoom meeting

Total attendees: 16 including Krista Henry (Acting PAC Chair), Ryan Ziegler (Treasurer), Bronwen Sharpe (Secretary), Mercedes Calvert, Catharine Meir and Shaza Regehr (Members-at-large) with Ken Andrews (Principal) and other members.

Regrets: Michelle Haidar (Vice-Principal).

The meeting commenced at 19h01.

- Introductions
Skipped introductions in a bid to give our speaker, Mary Klovance, more time at the meeting and because most attendees knew each other.

- Administrator's update
 - Ping-pong tables: Principal Andrews delivered a letter to each of Monterey's closest neighbours about the next phase of playground upgrade plans and received no negative feedback. None responded to an invitation to join this PAC meeting's overview and consultation regarding playground plans. One neighbour wrote back with positive feedback about the plans and the school in general, and another neighbour (who lives adjacent to the school) spoke to the principal to indicate they were good with the plans and that they "love the sound of kids playing".
 - Remembrance Day: a bagpiper joined the ceremony, circling the school with the Honour Guards of the school. Many classes observed the ceremony while practicing safe physical distancing. A slideshow video set to music performed by the Junior and Senior Choir and Gr. 8 Band was played by each teacher in their class.
 - Guidelines for school sports have been issued. LIMSSA has set up a basketball tournament that will take place before school.
 - Drama Club has moved online, headed up by the retired teacher, Mr. Barnes.
 - Yearbook covers have been submitted. Over 35 this year! Ms. Thornton and the Spirit Council will work on getting the submissions voted on.
 - Fundraisers: Playground Fundraiser - Max and his family donated supplies and made over 100 concrete skulls and sold them at \$10 each. Total of parent-donated funds: \$5,565. That plus \$1,000 from the skull sales means that the kids reached their \$6,500

goal on time so Principal Andrews will be sleeping overnight on the roof of the school before the winter break. Each permanent ping-pong table costs approximately \$6,000 but it's good value as it is half the price of a four-person swing set. The fundraiser was recently featured in the Oak Bay News and the school will reach out to local charities to possibly add to our fundraiser. The school and the Andrews family will also be contributing further to the fund. Principal Andrews shared a map of where the ping-pong tables will be placed on the school grounds. Near the climber and basketball courts is the most likely place due to level ground, good visibility and situated away from neighbours.

- Budget update

Ryan Ziegler (Treasurer) shared the budget for 2020/21. \$7,500 dollars received from the Gaming Grant.

A motion was put forward by Krista Henry to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Catherine Meir. Motion approved.

- Hamper update

Krista Henry (Acting PAC Chair) explained the way the hamper donations would be working this year due to Covid-19. Monterey supports families chosen from three elementary schools: Quadra, George Jay and Tillicum. This year fewer families will be supported in a contactless way. The hampers will be smaller and consist of more gift cards. The school counsellors' responses have been positive to the revised plan as grocery gift cards are preferred. Most of the families are immigrants and would like to have the option of buying their familiar groceries for the holidays. Eight hampers will be assembled for families outside of Monterey. In addition, one hamper will be for a Monterey family. Cohorts (i.e. two classes) will work together to support one family. The delivery date for the hampers: 18 December. Catharine Meir volunteered her assistance.

- Fun Foods update

Shaza Regehr (Fund Foods Coordinator) is meeting with Sharon Dowling (former Fun Foods Coordinator) about the programme to get some more info. Willows Pizza is waiting to hear back from us on how many orders we'd be looking to order. Covid-19-friendly individual slice boxes packed with pizza would be delivered to kids. Catharine Meir offered to help Shazza on pizza day. Looking to kick off a Fun Foods day in the new year.

Action: Survey will be sent by Shaza to parents to gauge interest and gather rough numbers to share with Willows Pizza.

- Presentation from Mary Klovance (School Counsellor)

Mary opened the floor to parents to bring questions forward on topics of concern for them.

Mary discussed how a lot of this term her work has focused on relationships with friends and

how to cope during Covid-19, how to make new friends, how to move on from old friends and how to survive being apart from friends due to cohort separation.

Recommended resources:

- The “Big Life Journal” was recommended as a resource. “The Stay at Home” package in particular is useful for this time.
<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/stay-at-home-printable-pack-families>
 - Documentaries: “The Social Dilemma”, “My Octopus Teacher”, “The Biggest Little Farm”.
- Mary highlighted how important sleep is. 11 pm is the time kids in middle school should be asleep. She advised turning off wi-fi on kids’ devices if they don’t have their own data plan. Apps to help with this are Blue Curve for Shaw and My Wi-fi for Telus.
 - Discussed phone use and what is appropriate privacy-wise and time use-wise.
 - Online gaming: check usernames in group chats and make sure your kid is chatting and playing with known people. It’s a space as important to monitor as Facebook and Instagram accounts.
 - All kids want to be heard and accepted. Use reflective listening when talking with your kids. No need to problem solve. Explore the story more. Find out how your child thinks. Stay curious, ask questions. Trust and acceptance is the goal. Meet them where they are at.
- Other business
 - Neil Marcovitz reported back on the pilot programme BC has about Active Routes to School. Neil sat in on a Zoom meeting they hosted as they are choosing 10 schools. Monterey is not a good fit as it is too urban. CRD offers a programme to promote Safe Routes to School which is more aligned with Monterey’s needs. Neil and the PAC’s letter to the Oak Bay Council has been received and we will be kept apprised of any developments at the council level. Neil suggested groups setting up ‘bike trains’ as a way for kids to get to school safely. Maps showing the safest route to the school could also be made available to help the kids navigate their way.
Action: Neil will draft a note on forming bike trains and send it to Ken for inclusion in the school newsletter.
 - Principal Andrews received a request from a doctorate researcher (University of Calgary) on how anxiety affects girls. Several executive members voiced support for this.
Action: Principal Andrews will support the research project for any interested families at Monterey and Catharine Meir (PAC Education Coordinator) will connect with Principal Andrews around having the researcher present on this topic at a virtual PAC meeting in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 20h24.

The next PAC meeting is via Zoom on 14 January 2021.