



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Hastings PAC – Thursday Nov. 26, 2020  
7-913pm ZOOM meeting

1. **Welcome (7-7:05)**
2. **October Minutes review (7:05-7:10)**
  - Motion to accept October 2020 minutes seconded and approved
3. **Introductions /Checking In (7:10-7:15)**
  - Saved on zoom Chat
4. **Reports/Updates (7:15-8pm)**
  - a. Secretary/Correspondence (7:15-7:20)

### i. **Query about hand sanitizer/masks**

There has been at least one parent contact the school to ask about this.

**VP and SD** - The district provides VSB-approved hand sanitizer; donated and/or teacher-purchased hand sanitizer is not allowed; hand sanitizer is not provided or allowed if a classroom has a sink. Hand sanitizer is provided in rooms without sinks, the main foyer, and in the library (no sink).  
-All adults and grade 6-7 students must wear masks in all common areas of the school. The school does have a small supply of disposable masks. All students, district-wide, were given 2 reusable masks at the start of the school year. Some students have been forgetting to bring masks but it's been manageable. To encourage students to remember to bring their masks, they have to go to the office if they forget to bring their mask to school.  
-Donations of masks/hand sanitizer are not allowed as masks have to be approved by the VSB.

**Parent** -So why, then, are teachers asking parents for donations of hand sanitizer and masks?

**VP**- They have been told not to.

### ii. **Parent query about rain shelter / tents? Concern with kids outdoors more often due to Covid.**

**Parent** - Kids, even in rain gear, tend to huddle together under any overhang, trying to stay dry; kids will play and splash, and can we not provide some sheltered area, especially to help limit kids huddling together?

**VP** -it is VSB policy that students must be outside during recess and lunch breaks, as this is where they have supervision. Weather concerns are without credence as we live in the warmest jurisdiction in the country. Hastings applied to VSB for outdoor education funding that included request for outdoor shelter. Much of the application was denied as temporary shelters not approved. Similarly across the district and it is unclear why. Maybe permanent structures would be a better possibility? Vital needs to speak to the Grounds Supervisor to get more info. The possibility of temporary shelters is unlikely, as they make a congregating place when school is not in session.

**MOTION** - a motion was made, seconded, and carried to move further discussion on suggestions for rainy weather gear to the chat in the interest of time.

### iii. **School/class photos?**

**VP**--all photo-taking has been postponed until January at the earliest, due to Covid. Hastings has a tentative date set for January for individual photos; waiting for approval from VSB. Class and school photos are typically done in sunnier weather and outdoors.

**Parent** -can the teachers maybe take informal class photos to share with families?

### iv. **Christmas fundraising**

**Parent** - will there be any Christmas fundraising for purchase? i.e. Poinsettias? Purdy's? Book Fair?  
**JS** - PAC will start a poinsettia fundraiser and look into other fundraisers

### v. **Christmas? – gifts, events?**

**Parent** -can/will there be any holiday-related events?

**VP**- Classes that want to do holiday art/celebrations should share with admin, who will then share photos with families; no plans for Winter Warm-up style event yet. Nicola (former school counsellor) was the Winter Warm-up lead; Admin will bring the idea to the next staff meeting to see if anyone is willing to take it on.

**General Discussion**- parents typically like to give gifts to teachers but there are obvious limitations this year. Any suggestions for Covid-friendly gift ideas? Admin/teacher suggest gift cards as a nice gesture (including e-giftcards); no home-baked goods, etc. There will be no Christmas hampers this year; the district says they will not accept hampers like they have traditionally.

## **b. Administration**

### **i. Vice Principal - Susan (7:20-7:30)**

#### **1. School update**

**SD** -teachers are doing ok, but everyone is really tired.

- there is a group of active kids who are taking on leadership in the school and have organized:
- the photo contest (available for viewing on Teams)
- a pajama day for the second to last Friday for fun/school spirit.
- working on how to update the school website for parents to know more what is going on in schools

#### **2. How does school support families without computers?**

**VP** - If there are any families in need of tech, they need to speak to their child's teacher, who will then speak to Principal who will bring to the district to get them computers.

- There are around 40 families in Option 4. Most of these families have internet and computer access; if they don't, the district may provide basic laptops (Chromebooks) to families.
- There is a charitable organization that can supply families (via schools) with laptops.

### **ii. Principal - Vital (7:30-7:45)**

#### **1. Updates from District**

-There has been no confirmation from the VSB regarding extending the Winter break. It is a Ministry decision; the media will report it in tandem with schools being told.

- At the meeting this week the VSB encouraged schools to remind students and staff of the Covid safety procedures.

- January – What it will look like will be determined by the VSB under directives of Province/Dr. Henry. Consultation with stakeholders about Options (i.e. transition, extended vacation)

#### **2. Responses to parent queries – See above under 4) a.**

#### **3. FSAs**

Foundation Skills Assessment Tests – standardized tests for students in grades 4 and 7; This year it had been planned to happen closer to the beginning of the year but was postponed due to Covid. The plan now is to start around January 18<sup>th</sup> and move into February. Info from the VSB and the BCTF regarding the FSAs should be coming out soon. PAC has asked Admin to find someone to speak to parents, (possibly at a PAC meeting), from the VSB and the BCTF, to discuss pros and cons of FSAs as there is some debate about their merits.

## **c. Chair - Jacqueline (7:45-8:00)**

### **i. PAC updates**

#### **1. 2021 Goals**

**JS** – In response to what was discussed at the October 2020 AGM, PAC will focus on community building as much as possible; supporting families and teachers; and will adapt fundraising to the times.

## **2. Fundraising**

### **a. Responsive Neighborhood small grants (Raingear Drive, Notice Board), Best Buy, poinsettias,**

**JS** – since October PAC meeting, the following PAC-supported fundraising has occurred:

- Two PAC members applied for and received “Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants”. 1) Marcie – Funds for notice board at the corner of the school grounds (Franklin & Penticton) so that families will be able to see school/PAC notices. VSB is in process of approval, and budgeting. 2) Claudia – Rain gear drive – which, since COVID makes it difficult to share rain gear, the program may evolve into more of a purchase of gear. Claudia to look into alternatives. Perhaps large purchase of Umbrellas? Could lead to a future fundraiser
- Best Buy Tech grant applied for \$10K – to offset cost of Projectors – Decision by Best Buy in mid December
- Poinsettia Fundraiser is now live! Maria worked very hard to get School-cash Online set up. This is running in tandem with Tillicum PAC, with a very small fundraising goal. If there are community members that want to order but don't have children at either school, they can contact Jacqueline directly. Has been added to Facebook & Twitter. JS to send Vital details to add to the school e-newsletter

### **3. Teachers Union (BCTF): encourage children wearing masks in the classroom – how can we assist?**

**VP** -what the media reports isn't necessarily what all teachers want.

-Hastings is focused on following evidence-based public health guidelines such as maximizing physical distance, not attending school while sick, and doing daily health checks. The use of masks in reducing Covid exposure isn't the top priority.

**SD** -Admin is working to balance risks. There has been very little transmission in children 10 and under while there is also a very big mental health risk, so trying to make schools as normal as possible.

#### **5. Special Guests (8:00-8:10pm)**

##### **a. Teacher Rep – meet Erin our new librarian**

Erin Rickbeil, our new temporary librarian; in her fourth week at Hastings. She was a public librarian for the VPL for over a decade, was an instructional librarian with a focus on digital literacy. She recognizes the challenges in life without having digital skills and is very passionate about info-literate communities. She covers teachers' prep and sees all students in the school; 15 divisions for prep, 11 divisions for book exchanges. Hasn't had a planning session with Vital yet. The library has a very rich collection and the kids are very excited. It's a temporary position, as she doesn't speak French.

##### **b. Food Security in our School community - Shauna (parent)**

There has been a huge increase in the number of people who need access to food; there are many programs in the neighbourhood (school, Kiwassa); maybe the PAC can help promote opportunities that already exist? Perhaps include in the PAC email to increase awareness.

-Hastings families can be added to the Kiwassa food hamper list.

-Possibility of holding food-focused events in the future? Very open to ideas and input. maybe the PAC can initiate a “fun”, low barrier lunch day? E.g. Pizza day?

-There are people who are new to food insecurity (Covid job losses) and need to know that there are resources available—just need to raise community awareness.

-PAC role – We can compile a list of resources – Subcommittee – please contact Shauna

#### **6. Sub-committees (8:10-8:30):**

##### **i. Speaker series -Tision**

3 speakers lined up for the new year.

- 1) January 20, 7-8pm, with Michelle Wing: anti-racism and anti-oppressive practices. Michelle has an anti-oppressive psychotherapy private practise, works a lot in the BIPOC community.
- 2) February 11 (tentatively), 6:30-8pm, with Ali Afzali: children's mental health in the Covid-era and how to support them. Ali is a mental health and behaviour expert.
- 3) March 9 (tentatively), with Merlyn Horton: parenting and parenting control online.

Merlyn is an online safety expert; she is pro-tech and wants to make K-7 kids safe in their tech choices. Vital will look into connecting with Merlyn to potentially come in to the school to speak, as well.

-the PAC has set aside \$1000 for the Speaker Series but maybe parents also donate. Share with Tillicum and other schools in the neighbourhood; Susan pointed out that kids need help with online safety, and that other schools are a part of our larger community.

-save the date notices for the PAC email

ii. **Anti racism** – Lisa/Marcie

-will be holding their second meeting on Monday, November 30, 7pm

iii. **Communications** – Marcie

-PAC survey went out ~10 days ago; have had ~100 respondents so far; trying to gauge the best forms of communications with families; survey closes next Monday and we'll have a much better idea then.

-website needs a complete redesign.

iv. **Teacher appreciation** – Claudia, Deb, Kelly

3 ideas:

-“Fab Fridays” idea: to piggyback on the healthcare worker appreciation; make noise/cheer at 8:55 am on Fridays.

-East Van Panto will be live-streamed this year; there is a group sale option to purchase tickets with PAC funds as gifts to all staff, could also tie into a staff Christmas party? \$25/ticket; time and date specific; RSVP deadline would create a set number, there are 10 days of Panto; Saturday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> @7pm seems like a good date. Admin to check with staff to see if they are interested in this option.

- if teachers don't want/aren't able to attend the virtual play, they can have a gift card to Laughing Bean instead.

**MOTION** - a motion was made, seconded, and carried to increase the staff appreciation funding for 2020/2021 to \$2000

v. **Food security** – Shauna – see above

vi. **Multilingual translation** – Jacqueline

Haven't done anything on this. Need help getting started – Deb to help

## 7. **New Business**

a. Can the PAC help support the purchase of Grade 7 hoodies using Gaming funding? PAC would like to play a role in reducing costs for families. Some families have already stated that they can't afford it.

There are 89 grade 7s, so asking for \$1365 from Gaming Account.

**Q's** Will this set a precedent? Will this be a grad gift? Is this a camp replacement?

**Discussion** – Won't necessarily set a precedent as nothing that happens one year necessarily means it will happen the following year. Not a gift, rather, an offset for a cost to make it easier for families.

Not a camp replacement because no one know yet what, if anything, will replace camp this year. VSB will begin to outline these types of things in the spring.

**MOTION** - a motion was made, seconded, and carried to subsidize \$15 per student (for 89 students) for grad hoodies (for a total of \$1365 from gaming account).

**Adjourn (913pm)**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, January 27th @ 7pm**