

TILlicum ELEMENTARY PAC MEETING MINUTES

January 15th, 2025, via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

Executive: Lauralee Wood (Co-Chair), Keja Lake (Co-Chair), Colleen McDavid (Treasurer), Lisa Gelling (VCPAC Representative)

- Admin: Jeff Duyndam (Principal), Karen Higginbotham (Vice Principal)
- Parents: Shannon Karner, Cheryl Ferreira, Laura Hube
- Staff: n/a

Regrets: Celeste Slow

6:30pm – Open Meeting - Brought to order by Keja Lake/Lauralee Wood

- Motion: Cheryl Ferreira
- Second: Lisa Gelling

Introduction - The meeting opened quickly - everyone knows each other.

6:35 pm - Meeting Minutes – Approval of last meeting's minutes.

- Motion: Lisa Gelling
- Second: Cheryl Ferreira

Summary of amendments from Nov 6th meeting minutes:

- Name edits: Shae *Mellors*
- Jodi Dagg does the Granola Drive and Turkey trot
- Christa Easton thanked for involvement in coaching soccer.
- Remembrance Day assembly is Friday Nov 8th at 10:45am
- Buses also secured from Burnside Gorge for (9 weeks of) grade 3 swimming lessons starting the week of Jan 13th
- Gift Sale - Scheduled for *December 10th*

6:40pm - Administration Updates Principal/Vice-Principal Report – Jeff Duyndam & Karen Higginbottom

- Extra recess was awarded to all students this past week (1000 nights of reading)
- Spirit day and jersey day on Friday Jan 17
- Tree plan for the school - we have trees coming! What type of trees will be put in the ground is still up for debate and decision. This money is from the UBCM grant that was awarded to Tillicum School in September 2024. There is a plan to engage the PAC via an information session. The PAC executive will be involved in the future and notify parents
- Discussed use of screens in front of students during eating time with staff, which does not comply with school guidelines
- Winter Concert debrief with staff.
 - A school family donated lights, so all admission funds (approx \$1k will go to music the program. Specific use is still being discussed.
- Registration and transfers coming up
 - Kindergarten registration is online Jan 27-31.
- Nutritional Snack Program
 - Quite a few students come with insufficient food
 - First thing for staff is to call home to let them know food is insufficient

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- Granola bar available in classroom in these circumstances or child may be supported in participating in nutritional snack, but it's a parent responsibility to ensure their children are fed.
 - Protocol to call home introduced because some parents have not realized their child was at school without food.
- Request from teacher (Lee Pittaway, inclusive ed) for PAC funding for PISE wheelchair activity program
 - In-school program (PISE comes onsite)
 - Requesting \$500 for half day for 5-7 classes to participate.
 - Would fill space by starting with offering opportunity to grade 3/4/5 classes, and then open up to others to fill the half day slot.
- Karen to leave meeting early around 7:30.
- Grade 3 swimming lessons started on Tuesday.
- Black Excellence Day assembly today (MLK birthday).
 - Purpose is to celebrate and uplift going into Black History Month.
 - Students found it positive. Talked about library resources. Challenged everyone to learn about someone new. Highlighted famous Canadians.
 - Student participation such as Letter Land parade by Kindergarteners to celebrate growing literacy skills, DIV 4/5/6 students performed Iko Iko song, and student MCs.
- Drive to 5 launched today
 - Thank you to Laura Hube for her contribution.
 - Launch was quite successful - got people talking about how to get to school from a different location.
 - Pearkes had about 30 kids stop by.

6:55pm - Treasurer Report – Colleen McDavid

- **Account Balances:**
 - Tillicum PAC High-interest Savings \$90.60
 - Tillicum PAC Chequing \$18,337.88
 - Tillicum Gaming Chequing \$12,440.72
 - General PAC Account in Office \$15,488.00
- Food for Fun cash still coming

7:00pm - VCPAC Update – Lisa Gelling

- VCPAC meeting was held last night
 - VCPAC Executive sent a letter to Minister of Education and Childcare on Jan 9 that indicated VCPAC would not take a position on actions of the board RE: SPLO, but later in letter read as though they were supporting the board and requested the board not be fired
 - Response to VCPAC letter to Minister of Education was very negative as many PACs do not feel aligned with this statement and letter was unclear that it was sent by VCPAC Exec only

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- VCPAC had approved a statement at the December meeting and the statement issued was not in line with what had been approved
- VCPAC members feel the Board has done a lot of things without consultation. Many people don't agree with the way the Board is currently handling things.
- The Board's threat of taking the Ministry to court upset people because legal fees would come out of the School Board budget.
- VCPAC Exec indicated this statement was made because they don't believe board has violated school act, so minister doesn't have the right to fire them
- Spectrum PAC motioned to retract statement of Jan 10 because not all PACs agreed with it
- Revised statement was sent out to all PACs last night
- Additional VCPAC meeting to be held January 29
 - Agenda: policy that board wants parent feedback on, first round of budget (VCPAC has in person 1-on-1 meeting about budget in early Feb), Minister reaching out to PACs for engagement
- Minister of Education and Childcare issued a letter to VCPAC on January 14 indicating that Ministry staff would be directed to connect with SD61 PACs over the next week.
- Some school PACs have or intend to write letters to the Minister with a request to have them included in the next SD61 Board meeting package
 - Spectrum sent a letter on January 14
 - Colquitz will likely write a similar letter
- How are other PACs polling their school population for parent input to make these statements? How can this be done anonymously? How to make sure it's parent input and not community at large?
 - District did a very long survey in regards to SPLO program a few years ago
 - A VCPAC member sat on the SPLO committee which gathered information and made a recommendation to the Board. The survey results were used to make the recommendation.
 - VCPAC had a presentation about the data and reviewed some of the data at a meeting. Responses included instances of negative situations, but generally said that the program is good though it needs to change.
 - Paused this conversation as the issue at hand is whether to send a letter from PAC Exec regarding the VCPAC statement
- Tillicum PAC Exec letter RE: VCPAC statement
 - Could send a letter to board if inclined or leave it because other schools are doing it. VCPAC already somewhat recanted. Seemed to be a learning experience for them.
 - Letter would be about VCPAC letter/stance not being representative of PACs. SPLO is a separate issue.
 - Reasons in favour of sending a letter:
 - Representation of schools at all grade levels
 - Important to say something especially in light of Esquimalt Nation coming forward.
 - Want kids to be familiar with and comfortable with first responders.

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- Not allowing SPLO makes executing some community programs challenging.
 - Keja and Lauralee will spearhead letter writing.
- SPLO Program:
 - SD61 SPLO FAQ indicates police are allowed in schools (<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/splo-faq/#Q9>), but this has not always been the lived experience. E.g., police officers have not been allowed at Tillicum to support the bread program.
 - Board seems focused on having control over the program, where officers are, etc.
 - Liaison officers are not regular patrol officers, they have special training in multiple areas. Under SPLO, if the school calls dispatch, that officer comes to the school, but that is not the case now.
- SD61 is the only school district in the province that doesn't have a program.
- Ministry staff will reach out to PACs in the next week. Don't quite know what that means or how that will look.
- A one week timeframe is insufficient for appropriate consultation.

Review of Fundraisers

- Winter Market: \$1969.97 chequing, \$888.00 to Gaming
- Dec Food for Fun: \$1559.17, awaiting Calling All Cows invoice
- Kids Gift Sale: \$2627.66
- Purdys: \$703.50
- Poinsettia: \$401.45
- All were great successes from PAC perspective. Please send any feedback to the PAC email to continue improving on these events.
- Gift sale was a very heartwarming experience for parents.
- Gift sale feedback: could use more people to wrap gifts, some teacher feedback to incorporate.

Upcoming events/fundraisers

- **West Coast Seeds - Runs Jan 27 - Feb 9**
 - Seeds delivered before/during Spring Break
 - Simple fundraiser with link going out - pared down catalog for schools
 - Will start advertising approx 1 week prior
- **Parent Education Events: Finding a Balance with Digital Technology - Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**
 - Shared on Facebook page
 - McKenzie Elementary (in-person), will also be streamed
 - Will ask Jeff to send a notice out school wide
 - Shannon Husk, registered clinical counselor
- **Winter Royals game (2025)**
 - Season close to winding down

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- Would like to leverage one of the theme nights:
<https://app.selectyourtickets.com/VictoriaRoyalsTickets>
- Friday March 14 could be a fun kickoff to Spring Break, but people leaving for holiday may impact ticket sales
- Kids Take Over is afternoon of Family Day Monday, which would be challenging with many families traveling
- Nickelodeon Night could be fun (Saturday, March 1, 6:05pm) - consensus is to try for this night - good timing and has a kid focus in the theme
- Will consider feedback of seats being too stretched out last year; would be better to be in a more condensed block
- **Game night - Thurs Feb 6, 2025 6 - 8pm in the gym** – volunteers needed

Ongoing - Fairway Market Community Cards, Emily Press Labels, Bottle Depot

7:40pm – New Business

- Salish Sea Trip for grade 5s tomorrow - we wish them a wonderful adventure!
 - PAC contribution has been paid
- CRD Drive to 5 launch was today - Jan 15
 - See Administration update above for more details
 - Overall went well, nice to see so many families out.
 - Happy to do more education/communications as construction ramps up, if helpful. Any input is appreciated.
 - Some participants had scary experiences with cars running a red light and a family almost getting hit by a car; further supports need for advocacy RE: crossing guard funding to stay.
 - Incidents were reported to police. Saanich is going to check the visors on the traffic lights to ensure lights are visible.
 - Crossing guards are meant to stay on site until 8:45, but EAs are also on at the school at 8:45 so it's tricky to balance
 - Safety with regard to walking to school is an ongoing issue in the neighborhood - many experiences with cars running stop signs, etc. Can't trust the drivers to allow kids to walk to school on their own.
- Executive Shuffle for 2025/26 - new secretary and Chair and Vice Chair positions open (can be a co-chair scenario, with no Vice)
 - Talk up the opportunities; dads are very welcome!
 - Getting word out early to have overlap in PAC meeting attendance for learning/onboarding (e.g., budget approved in May meeting for following year)
 - Next year: Lauralee will still be involved, but not on Exec. Keja moving on to a new school. Lisa G staying on as VCPAC rep.
- Lauralee intends to follow up with Saanich re: tree \$\$
 - Jeff has already done this; trees are coming! Jeff will connect PAC when contacted by Saanich.
 - Intend to leave space open for an additional 3 portables if required in future
- Money that was designated for forest - where/what to put it towards for the campus

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(i.e. hockey nets, another legacy project etc...)

- Approx. \$2k to spend
- OPTION: Sea cans for emergency supplies
 - Existing containers have to be replaced anyway
 - Pearkes is the secondary site in an emergency, but this would allow Tillicum to bulk up supplies onsite so could be at Tillicum longer
 - No AEDs in emergency supplies, not allowed at schools
 - Question about whether District funding is available for something like this; unsure, but funding is generally limited regardless
 - Cost varies a lot based on size; there would be cost of install as well
 - Possibly located near portables
 - This would need more research
- OPTION: Buy lights for Christmas concert or contribute to renting them
 - School probably wouldn't want to own these. \$130-150ish to rent.
- OPTION: Hockey nets
 - Lauralee will look into this idea - funds could potentially come from Gaming account
- PAC will take time to research some things and discuss again in February
- Need to consider what to do with Gaming funds as they're meant to be spent with a specific scope of what they can be spent on
- PISE wheelchair activity - \$500 request for half day
 - Could we expand it to cover more classes?
 - Half day can do 5-7 classes, more classes = more funding
 - If offered, would like participation to be as inclusive as possible
 - More information needed (e.g., what age range is this appropriate for? would they be available for more time?)
 - Jeff will ask Lee to reach out with more information
 - Need to look more closely at the budget to decide how much can be spent
 - If it goes well this year, PAC open to funding this as an annual event for a specific grade level (similar to swimming for Grade 3s)
- Other Parent Education ideas?
 - Email PAC with any parent education topic suggestions

8:22pm – Meeting adjourned.

- Motion: Colleen McDavid
- Second: Cheryl Ferreira