

McKenzie Elementary PAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 15, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

Attendance: Shelley Pugh (co-chair), Melanie Nielsen (recorder), Lana Hansen (co-chair), Colleen Leithwood

Admin reps: Carmen Gauvreau, Misha Gibson

Teacher rep: Arlene Salido

1. Teacher's Report – Arlene Salido
 - Budget conversations coming up and potential cuts to elementary strings
 - If so inclined, please do share your opinions about the continuation of music funding (emails to trustees are an option)
 - Please connect with other parents to discuss and connect on this

2. Admin Update - Carmen and Misha
 - SDs must run balanced budgets, SD 61 currently in a \$4M deficit
 - Spending freeze across the district (e.g., no new library books, new folding chairs, cancelling in-person meetings)
 - Not likely to impact students but will let PAC know if there's an opportunity to fund things that otherwise could not happen
 - Have been spending conservatively
 - You can watch the budget deliberations on YouTube
 - Staffing season beginning to determine divisions (likely to be 12 again); 32 kindergarten children registered so far
 - Request that **PAC submit dates for events outside of school hours by May 15th** to block off the rental calendar (dances, welcome BBQ, etc.)
 - Clothing exchange has been accessed about 10 times all year, can it be pared down?
 - Suggestion to move one bin/rack at a time outside for parents to access. But challenge with lack of volunteers.
 - Twice a year clothing exchange or free store may be an option (with leftovers donated). With welcome BBQ and spring date? Yes, we'll move forward with this approach.
 - Many facilities projects on the go right now.
 - One tree has been removed (two will replace), one more near parking lot being watched.
 - No information back from SD yet around nature play requests. **Carmen has submitted and will be able to share as soon as info is available.**
 - Fun day planned for June 26, PAC plans to contribute funding
 - Does anyone have a lead on a dunk tank?
 - June 27 Grade 5 recognition (Grade 5 teachers organizing)
 - June 28 all-school field trip to Gyro Park (buses booked)
 - Track will start up in April, May 31 Track day at UVic, **looking for parent volunteers**

- Rugby start-up after Spring Break, 2 teenaged volunteers to help and Misha will find a coach

3. PAC General Updates

- Funding for nature play – we should vote on reallocation at a future meeting.
- Any plans for spring fundraisers? PAC to check

Adjourned: 6:37pm

Next Meeting April 12 @ 6:00pm, virtual