

Minutes of Meeting

Braemar PAC Monday November 28, 2016 7:00pm Braemar Elementary, Activity Room

In attendance: Lora Hargreaves (Chair), Ria Terins (Vice Chair), Jacquie Kydd (Treasurer), Amanda Nichol (Member-at-large, DPAC Rep), Eva Ciperá (Member-at-large), Amanda Faragher (Secretary), Sanj Johal (Principal), Sandra Singh (Vice Principal), plus a further 8 parent attendees (as per the attendance sheet record documented on the night).

Apologies: Nil

**** Guest Speaker: Brad Baker, Squamish member and District Principal for Safe and Caring Schools and Aboriginal Education in North Vancouver.**

Brad gave a very informative and inspiring presentation on how North Vancouver teachers are indigenizing the curriculum for all students and how we are addressing the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations in addition to our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

Following Brad Baker's presentation, Lora Hargreaves called the BPAC Meeting to Order at 8:00pm. Amanda Faragher appointed as Minute Taker.

1. Principal's Report

Both Mr Johal (Principal) and Ms Singh (Vice Principal) addressed the meeting, presenting the following information items:

- The Braemar Code of Conduct has been updated and will be posted on the school website. It must align with the Ministry of Education mandate to include the following:
 - Anti-bullying measures will ensure all students, regardless of their sex, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, enjoy a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment.
- There are currently three "Braemar Cares" Initiatives underway: the Giving Tree, Movember Day, and Movie Night.
 - The Movie Night was very well attended and a great success. With so many families in attendance at the movie night, the launch of the Giving Tree Initiative (Braemar families helping our local schools) was also a huge success with all Gift Wish envelopes being taken up on the same night. Additional envelopes were arranged and these have also all be taken up by Braemar families.
 - Movember Day – this Wednesday (30th), children and staff are encouraged to draw a crazy moustache on their face to help highlight Mens' Health issues.
- Circles in Schools
 - This is a Restorative Justice Program, about community building and being mindful of our thoughts and actions. It currently involves 4 "circles" (Gr 6/7 French and Gr 6/7 English).

- There has been some interesting and positive feedback from teachers reflecting the benefits of the sessions in making students feel more comfortable in sharing their feelings. Comments included that it is a positive 40 minute session spent being mindful of others.
- Mr Johal will have a blog on the school website about the Circles in Schools that will be coming out shortly.
- School Blog
 - Both Mr Johal and Ms Singh are blogging on events and activities that are happening in our school. They have asked that parents and students take the time to go onto the School Website (under the “About Our School” top tab, then “Blog” on the side tab), read the blogs, and comment on them. Mr Johal and Ms Singh would like some feedback on the blogs.
- School Action Plan.
 - Ms Singh reported that the development of the School Action Plan is going well and to check out “the Blog” for more information to come.
- November Staff Collab:
 - Braemar Staff Collaboration day, Wed Nov 30th saw a very informative presentation from Mrs Corey Howie, Occupational Therapist, and member of the NVSD Schools Therapy Team. The presentation looked at social emotional learning for student self regulation, setting up “sensory smart classrooms”, and alternate work spaces and dynamic seating. Check out the Blog on “Self-Regulation and Learning Environments” for more information.
- Report Cards and Conferences:
 - Electronic student reports go home on December 9th and by now all parents / guardians would have received an email with the link to visit to ensure access to the reports once they are ready.
 - Student conferences will be held on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December with Early Dismissal during these days. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the foyer during the week of Monday 5th to sign up for the specific times and dates for the interviews.
- Aboriginal Education:
 - Teachers are infusing Aboriginal Education (Ab Ed) into the curriculum and have had support at Staff Collaboration days as well as from our School-based Ab Ed Committee.
 - BPAC is supporting Ab Ed by bringing in Brad Baker (as guest speaker tonight)
 - Brad Baker addressed the meeting and acknowledged that small steps are being made towards Indigenizing the school curriculum. Students are being encouraged to become more aware, and open-minded, to gain a greater sense of appreciation of Aboriginal culture, heritage and history.
 - Dallas Gus, member of the Squamish Nation, and a First Nations Support Teacher, will come in to the school a total of 6-8 times this year and work in classrooms. Dallas has already been into the school once this year taking part in our Remembrance Day Assembly.
 - Mr Johal informed the meeting that, although it is not mandated by any directive, it is a personal choice that the traditional welcome is said at every Braemar staff meeting. Mr Johal stated that the more the children hear it, the more questions they ask and the more informed they become.

- Important Dates:
 - Wednesday November 30th, Movember Day and 2pm dismissal for Staff Collaboration Day
 - Friday December 9th – Report Cards are sent out electronically.
 - Tuesday December 13th – Thursday December 15th – Parent Teacher Conferences and 2pm Dismissal.
 - Friday December 16th – Winter Sing-a-long 1:30 – 2:30pm in the gym. Fun Christmas songs with band and strings. Standing room only
 - Friday December 16th – Last day of school before Winter Break.
 - Tuesday January 3rd – School resumes

2. PAC Survey and Focus Group

Lora Hargreaves, BPAC Co-Chair, has completed some initial work, with another parent volunteer, on the electronic survey as she has had previous input and experience with the past BPAC survey. Amanda Faragher, Secretary, will arrange and facilitate a Focus Group meeting early in the New Year to be integrated with the Survey.

3. Class Rep email System

To ensure BPAC communication is timely and effective, the Class Rep Co-ordinators (Lynn Fogg and Jen Richardson) have asked each Division's rep that either Lynn or Jen are "CC'd" into their emails as they go out. This is to help with any emails that may get lost in the "sea of emails" and to help maintain timeliness of communication.

4. Movie Night and Xmas Giving Tree – Braemar Cares Initiatives

As per Mr Johal's earlier comments, Amanda Faragher (on behalf of the other two organizers Cathryn Cifkins and Sarah Cormack) re-iterated that both the Movie Night and the Giving Tree project, were overwhelmingly embraced by the school community!

Amanda acknowledged and thanked the many volunteers who helped before, during, and after the movie with set-up, concession, supervision, and clean up.

Due to the large numbers attending the movie night, the concession unfortunately ran out of popcorn and candy. This will be taken into consideration for next year's event!

The Giving Tree project is still on-going. All envelopes containing the gift wishes of the children have been claimed from the tree. The return of the wrapped gifts will begin next Monday and Tuesday (before and after school), and the date for delivery of the gifts to the two participating schools will be Monday 12th December.

In relation to scheduling a date for next year's Movie Night and launch of the Giving Tree project consideration needs to be given to the Braemar Gala on Nov 2nd. A date to consider may be Friday 1st December 2017.

5. Technology Funds

The Treasurer, Jacquie Kydd, informed the meeting that the response this year to the School IT Contribution has been quite poor, compared to that of previous years. The contributions are still being collected, however compared to this time last year where we had between \$5000 - \$6000, we currently have just under \$3000.

An email reminder will be going out soon in the hope parents may just need reminding.

6. Budget Update

Jacque provided an overview of the BPAC budget and stated that we are on budget so far. Most programs occur in the latter half of the year, so the majority of our budget has yet to be spent.

In regards to the Grade 7 Poinsettia sales, Jacquie informed the meeting that this specific fundraiser has always been intended to be a Grade 7 Fundraiser, with all funds from the sales going straight to the Grade 7's. Jacquie identified that due to a printing error on the order forms, that this may not be clear. In order to clarify, and follow correct process, a vote was necessary to make sure the funds are correctly directed to the Grade 7s.

Motion: Lora Hargreaves :

"That all funds raised by the Braemar Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser go directly to the Grade 7 Fundraiser".

Seconded: Laura Fisher

Carried: All in favour.

7. Gala Update and budget vote

Ria Terins, BPAC Co-Chair, provided an update on the preparations for the upcoming 2017 Braemar Gala,.

- Michelle Dunn, a parent from Grade 4 French, has kindly volunteered to be Gala Co-Chair with Ria.
- Date is set: Thursday November 2nd 2017.
- Venue: "The Pipe Shop", at the Shipyards, Lonsdale Quay. This is an empty shell, and we will fill it with "Canadian Camping" themed decorations.
- There will be a Canadian Hip Hop artist, finger food (camping style!) and beer and wine available. The bar shuts by 11:00/11:30pm with the venue needing to be cleared and cleaned out by midnight.
- It is an "adults only" event, with the ticket prices yet to be determined.
- There will be a "wine wall" fundraiser during the evening as well as a silent auction which will be the big ticket fundraiser.
- The committee is looking for food and beverage ideas as well as people stepping forward to donate items / services / skills, and volunteer their time. Please email Ria Terins at: goneirish@me.com if you have any ideas, can volunteer your time, or donate or sponsor any items or services.
- An email will go out to the school community in January with more information.

It was discussed that Committee will need an initial operating budget to move forward on this event. The amount of \$2000 was agreed upon.

Motion: Lora Hargreaves:

"That the amount of \$2000 be set aside from the BPAC Operating Budget to be used for initial costs associated with 2017 Braemar Gala"

Seconded: Laura Fisher

Carried: All in favour.

8. Cobs Bread reminder

Lora Hargreaves reminded the school community that Cobbs Bread, Edgemont Village, donates 5% of sales back to Braemar School if you mention when you are buying from them that you are a Braemar parent / student.

9. Close of Meeting:

With no further business, Lora Hargreaves closed the meeting at 8:45pm.