

PAC Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2021

In attendance: Bekki Stemp, Tiffany Perreault, Mark Lawson, Cindy Schaeffer, Kelly Farmer, Donna Buchan, Karli Reimer, Melissa Soutter, Jason Dodd, Jaret Thiessen, Jamie Williams

Call to order: 6:32

Secretary's Report: Tiffany Perreault

Tiffany reviewed the minutes from the February 2 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes: Cindy Schaeffer, seconded by: Jaret Thiessen. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Farmer

-sadly we didn't win the Balmoral Rec Center 200 Club raffle

-cheque was written for outdoor ed equipment as well as lunch for teacher appreciation week.

Principal's Report: Mark Lawson

1. COVID Update & Planning-No confirmed cases yet at Balmoral School
-New VOC guidelines
2. Upcoming Events
April 7 - Immunizations
April 14 - Day of Pink
April 16 & 27 - Bus evacuation training & practice
April 22 - Earth Day
3. Portfolio Night – Substitution Video's Home
4. May 12 – Oak Hammock Marsh (virtual)
5. June (3rd week) – Tabloid Day/Week (Physical activities to be completed in gym & trivia in classrooms)
6. End of June - Celebration of Learning / Grade 8 Grad
7. PAC suggestions on community involvement?
8. Staffing Planning/Updates
Current posting closing on April 12 for upcoming leave.
Staffing conversations for next year are underway
Potential grade groupings for next year:
K (11), gr 1/2 (19), gr 2/3 (20), gr 4/5 (21), gr 5/6 (22), gr 7/8 (21)
9. K-12 Education Review
Community members are encouraged to have a look at the government's proposed changes to K-12 education found at: bettereducationmb.ca.
The government has a feedback survey open until the end of April 6 at <https://engagemb.ca/better-education-starts-today>
10. PAC Wishlist Conversations
Community Building & Engagement
New outdoor basketball net(s)
Outdoor soccer nets

Sensory Pathways for the School Hallways (\$400-1500)

Playground wind shelter /Trees

Garage

Ski boots (additional sizes)

Snowshoes (additional small sizes)

-Kelly made a suggestion for the grade 8 grad based on what Stony Mountain did last year. The staff had tables set up outside, grade 8s drove through with their families and stopped at each table to receive something (like a balloon, a certificate, their report card, etc.)

-Kelly also suggested an idea from another school: we create a diagram of where the school would like to plant trees, and the type of trees, and how much they cost. Then families could donate money towards specific trees and families would be recognized with signage in the school of their donation.

-Jason asked about the division of classes for next year. He asked about whether there is an impact on students if their grade is the one being split up between 2 rooms. Mark replied that there are many benefits to having multiage classrooms. As a division, schools look at lots of data especially with literacy and numeracy. Here in Balmoral, our students are scoring at or above level on these assessments. There did not appear to be any data that showed splitting a grade between 2 classes had any impact on the students.

-Jason asked about how Bill 64 will impact our school. Mark replied that hopefully changes won't affect the quality of education at Balmoral school. Our PAC could have a larger role and a name change, but we are unsure of what the future holds. Jason asked about the loss of local representation. What do school trustees do for us? How would this impact us if we lose them? Jaret replied that it sounds like our PAC would have more authority with the school and would impact decisions being made instead of a board of trustees. Other decisions would be made by higher up positions.

Teacher's Report:

Dona Buchan: Her class was chosen during I Love to Read by the Winnipeg Jets to have 2 Jets players read to the grade ½ class. This will happen on April 19. There will also be a virtual field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh in May. The class is also going to be hatching butterflies as well.

Melissa Soutter- grade ¾ is learning about fractions in math. They wrote about how to catch a leprechaun and had lots of fun. They will be doing science activities that involve design.

Old Business:

- Spring fundraising ideas: Bekki brought forward some ideas that were submitted:
 - Peak of the Market Farm to School- vegetable selling
 - Cards in a Box- selling greeting cards
 - Mom's pantry
 - a virtual raffle- sell spots for a specific item for a set price and then mail the prize to the winner.
- Karli suggested we pick a large wish list item from the school to use that towards the grant idea. She also liked the tree idea that Kelly had suggested.

- Jason brought up that the spruce trees that line the school field will not last forever, so maybe we should be looking to add another row. Kelly added that she thought families in the community would support the tree idea, even if they didn't have students that attend the school now. Jason felt that maybe the tree situation might be a Rec Center topic, instead of a school topic. He said he would check with the Rec Center as to how we could look into that and he will get back to us.
- Tiffany asked Mark what the top item would be on the wish list. Mark replied that the outdoor basketball nets and soccer nets would be top of the list. Kelly suggested we look at supporting that through fundraising, and leave the trees as a bigger project idea, possibly for grants in the future. Bekki agreed that we have been supporting outdoor ed this year already, so we could continue the theme.
- Bekki asked for volunteers to set up the vegetable fundraiser for the PAC. Karli said she would work with Bekki to get that started. Cindy volunteered as well.
- Bekki postponed reaching out to Laine Wilson about grants until we have a plan for what we would like to fundraise for. She asked the PAC what our thoughts are- possibly reach out to her for the tree idea?
- What are our goals for PAC? Bekki suggested that our role as a PAC could be changing based on Bill 64, so perhaps we want to hold off of setting any major goals right now. Mark wondered if perhaps parents might be interested in having virtual parent nights for literacy and numeracy in the future. Bekki suggested that we survey the community to see what they would like to see from our PAC. Karli thought that would be a great idea to reach out to the community and ask about fundraising and what else the PAC could do for the community. She also thought we should ask the whole community, not just the parent community. Jason suggested posting a link to the survey on Facebook. Karli said she would be willing to help organize that. Jaret said he will help as well.

New Business:

- The Stonewall PAC would like to know if we are interested in joining them in purchasing a Zoom licence for the 2021/2022 school year. It could be used for PAC meetings and PAC events for parents and guardians. The licence is \$200 per year and provides 30 hours a month of meeting time. Mark organizes our Zoom meetings, but he also suggested that we use Microsoft Teams as the school has the software. Tiffany asked what benefits we would receive with a paid membership. We would have more options as far as meeting length, polling options, number of people joining. The PAC decided that we could get what we needed through teams or the Zoom account that Mark has been using so we agreed not to go in on the membership.
- Karli asked about suggestions on how to involve parents more in PAC. Jaret brought up that people are afraid to come to meetings because they might have to join a committee or get pulled into doing something they don't really want to do. Jamie said that people forget, lives are busy. Meeting virtually makes it easier. Jason suggested we remind our friends in the community about our next meeting. He suggested we could also record the meetings so that people could see what our meetings are like. Kelli suggested that moving forward, we might want to continue with virtual meetings as that is easier for families. We could add that to the parent survey.

- Mark will move ahead with purchasing the nets and basketball hoops and then he will bring that bill to PAC. We have committed to supporting that purchase.

Next meeting: June 1 at 6:30

Adjournment 7:53 pm