

# PHSS PAC Meeting Minutes for Dec 15, 2015

## **Present:**

Patti Burt – PHSS Principal

Parents: Dianna Brown (Chair), Nadine Gough (Treasurer), Heather Jones (DPAC Rep plus Acting as Secretary), Eddy Lagrosse, Lauren Martineau

Leighton Wishart - School Board Trustee

**Meeting called to order** 7:05 pm; **Minutes of Nov meeting**: approved. Can now be forwarded to Colleen to post on PHSS website

## **Old Business:**

**PAC Secretary:** Nikki Thieren (sp?) had agreed to be the secretary but she's unable to attend meetings and has stepped down. Heather has been acting as Secretary and will continue.

**PAC Scholarship:** changes made: removed "academic achievement" as a selection criteria in order to remove any barrier to applying for those students whose grades may not be particularly high yet they may shine in other ways. Discussed but rejected was a criteria suggestion that student award go only to the child of an active PAC parent. A note was added that scholarship would be awarded upon receipt of proof of registration in some post-secondary program. Discussed but rejected was a suggestion that scholarship be withheld until the student had proven they had not only registered but actually completed their semester of post-secondary coursework. The PHSS scholarship committee, not PAC, will select recipient.

**Staff Appreciation Event:** previously suggested that this be tied to the Parent/Teacher interview night on April 28<sup>th</sup> (a pre-interview food event for parents and teachers to share together). Patti felt that this timing was not good: teachers would have to commit an extra hour to an already busy and potentially stressful day; also parents might use the time to talk to teachers about their issues rather than wait until the interview process starts at 7:00. PAC considered this input and agreed that the appreciation event not be tied to the parent/teacher interview process. One idea proposed: an Appreciation Breakfast the following day (parents could donate food, help with serving). No decision arrived at: discussion to continue in January.

In respect to the Parent/Teacher interview process itself: good turn-out last time, but this led to long waits; format needs to be adjusted next time to stream-line: possibly by scheduling interview times? Or putting time limits on interviews, with conversations between parents and teachers to be arranged to continue at another time as needed?

**Executive signatures on PAC documents:** forms distributed, signed and Patti will forward to Colleen

**Invisible Disability information:** Eddie Lagrosse has been in contact with Crisis Centre and continues to work on proposal for doing an information session around invisible disabilities such as autism, learning disabilities, anxiety etc.

**Treasurer Report:** No new updates: bank balance is \$5,613 in gaming account plus \$1,800 in other account. No new funding requests received for consideration.

**DPAC Report:** There was no Dec. DPAC meeting. At Nov meeting the subject of funding for School Food Programs had been raised; HJ contacted Angie Clair and Brigitte Avoine to ask about the PHSS food program; was told that a new fridge is a priority. HJ will find out at Jan meeting if DPAC funds can assist with this purchase. PAC agreed that they would consider contributing funds towards this, if a request is received. Eddie provided name/phone number of local business as possible source of fridge; HJ will follow up to get info on pricing etc.

HJ also attended (with DPAC Chair Miranda Berry) the last SD85 School Board Meeting Committee of the Whole (Directions in Education): at meeting HJ raised: 1) First Nations cultural programs/activities in PHSS; 2) Course delivery via shared internet link between the 3 highschool campuses: PHSS, NISS and possibly Eke Me-Xi; 3) How will parents/students be kept informed about the new changes in the provincial curriculum?

PAC discussion/information was provided followed:

- 1) Patti described the variety of cultural programs at PHSS including the Gr 8 course “Shared Understandings”, a regular lunch between PHSS and Eke Me-Xi students, drum-making, visits First Nations elders, some students are doing Directed Studies course work with a FN cultural focus, a “First Nations Academy” being developed along the lines of the successful “Forestry Academy” model; Leighton added info about similar activities at NISS. Both reported that SD85 is considered to be a leader in the field of integrating a First Nations focus into the curriculum: Leighton attended the large FNEsc Annual Aboriginal Education Conference 2015 <http://www.fnesc.ca/conference/> recently which was opened by PHSS student dancers.
- 2) Course delivery via internet links: work in progress to move this forward
- 3) Parents will have an opportunity to learn about the new BC curriculum changes to content plus delivery, on the Feb 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 Non-Instructional Day. However PAC wonders if an opportunity will be made available for parents unable to attend that day session due to childcare or working commitments. Heather will raise at DPAC meeting. Patti noted the newspaper column written by a student for the NI Gazette informs the community about PHSS school activities

**Next Meetings:** Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and then Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (All meetings will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in PHSS Library). Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.