

## **December 2023 PAC Meeting Agenda**

December 11, 2023

Welcome: Dana Orrego

Adopt minutes: 1st: Nicole  
2nd: Kourtney

Adopt agenda: 1st: Jackie  
2nd: Elisa

**Principals report:** Andrew Furneyhough

### **Construction:**

- Garden is now fenced in. Dirt and plants to follow but currently no timeline for the next steps.
- Outdoor classroom is now complete and fully accessible.

### **December's happenings:**

- Winter Market took place December 2nd and was a success.
- Santa's Workshop is still in the gathering stage. Donations accepted until Dec 20th
- The churches helping with hampers and will have these completed and returned to the school by Dec 19th.
- Classroom hamper items are due by thursday Dec 14th
- Mrs. Phye's Indigenous Education Christmas gatherings will happen on Tuesday Dec 12 (intermediate) and Wednesday Dec 13 (primary).
- EDAS: Lots of school involvement with cookie baking, decorating and bagging. Classrooms participated in bag decorating.

### **Festive Fridays:**

- Important clarification that this is not specific to a Christmas theme and that anything can be considered 'festive'. The school would love to encourage other ways of showing what festive can look like

**Winter Concert:** Two daytime showings at 11am and 1:30pm approximately 40 mins long.

### **Keltie's Corner:**

- Great job everyone!
- Merry Christmas!

### **Grade 6/7's at Arden:**

- Mr. Ferneyhough has inquired about grade 6/7 students returning to Arden and for now the feedback that was received is that:
  1. It is a much larger decision making process and it is a School District reconfiguration issue.

2. At present the school does not have the capacity for the additional number of students.
3. Classrooms and/or spaces that can appear available have been filled with other support services for the school that in previous years were not there.
4. Portables are used for oversizing not for expanding purposes

**Trustee Report:** Sara Jane Howe

### **Strategic Plan**

Superintendent Morrow talked about our upcoming work with Lisa Bernoties McCullough and how we will be engaging with her in January on our new strategic plan and its process. So, we will likely amend our working plan and strategic plan after we engage with Lisa in January. He spoke about our Trustee Academy a speaker that we heard there (Kevin Lamoureux, University of Winnipeg) and how it is our sacred responsibility to love and care for our children.

He clarified 5 ways our system can experience love in meaningful way:

- The students we serve see themselves in our system
- Take the time to honor culture
- They get the message that every single child is capable of succeeding.
- Every student gets the message that they are strong and capable
- As a system we recognize that every child has gifts and we create the space for them to share that

He spoke about honoring these thoughts as we move into building our strategic plan. These concepts are alive and well in SD71 but until every child gets this experience. We need to be relentless that every child feels this: every child, every chance, every day and it is our intention that our new plan captures the spirit of this.

### **Policy work:**

- The Board ad hoc policy committee has met and are working on few specific policies and making a review plan.
- The committee discussed the practicability of completing the annual requirements as currently stipulated. Further review will occur to align policy annual requirements with our Board Work Plan.
- Policy #1 – Foundational Statements & Policy #24 – Equity and Non-Discrimination have been identified and are being worked on now.
- Trustees that are working on it are Trustee Aldinger & Trustee Mc Cannel-Keene

### **New Senior Staff:**

- We are currently in the process of Hiring new ST. Things are moving along More to come in the January meeting.
- Superintendent Morrow shared information regarding the hiring of a new Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education

### **Accessibility Committee:**

- We had an update from the district a committee has been established and there is a working group that formed to ensure that we meet the requirements of the accessible BC Act to better serve the needs of students.
- There is a place to provide feedback on our website under “Our District” then “Accessibility in our schools”
- There should have been an email sent out from CCS with an opportunity to provide feedback as well.

### **Early Years Update:**

- Lisa Pederson Skeene talked about childcare spaces in general in our district and provided some data in our package around the numbers and the stress that strong start is facing due to limited ministry funding. She is doing great work with all families to try to ensure smooth transitions to school and shared some info of a few early years conferences coming up to work together in the Comox Valley to continue to support early years and some of the programming that has been happening.

### **Chair Report:** Dana Orrego

- Nothing new to report at this time.

### **DPAC report:** JJ Goff

#### **Rent Bank:**

- Works with all renters from across the Valley who have fallen on financial hardship/short term crisis.
- Provides low barrier loans with a low interest and a repayment period between 24-36 months. Repayment is based off what is affordable to the applicant ie: \$5
- Requirements of the program are that the cost is no more that \$3,000 per month, that the applicant is no more than 2 months in arrears and that they are capable of paying the loan back.
- Time is spent with the applicants to understand their circumstances
- awareness of community supports in the valley

- The program offers a low stigma and does not impact in a negative way for the applicant.
- Goal of the Rent Bank is to provide housing stability and prevent homelessness.
- Program has been in the valley for 13 months and has provided \$35,000 in support.

**AGM:** January 8, 2024

**BC Summit:**

- The ministry does not cover the cost of a portable. The cost comes directly out of a school's funding.
- Every dollar that is spent on a portable is no longer going into a classroom

**Emergency Preparedness:**

- 4 year replacement plan with \$25,000 provided each year to replace the food for C-Can
- A main focus is to have consistency throughout all Comox Valley Schools.
- Financial responsibility to fall on the school district.

**Suicide Prevention:**

- 988 suicide prevention hotline, free of charge across Canada

**The Link:**

- There will be a youth resource fair December 14th from 2-5pm

**Accessibility Committee:**

- Feedback was provided about the accessibility committee. Discussion about the lack of parents on the committee, no real understanding on who is involved. Looking for more transparency across the board.

**Green Team Report:** Jesse

- Nothing new to report at this time.

**Treasurer report:** Jackie Minshall

- Gaming \$17, 422.53
- General \$546.05
- Savings \$5.22
- \$745.90 that is a combination of miscellaneous money + bake sale from the winter marker to be deposited

**Hot Lunch Report:** Nicole Mann

- Profit to date: \$1,938.83
- Donations to Salad Bar: \$457
- Menus for the new year will be available after the current session ends Dec 21.

**Fundraising Report:** Jessica Witt

**Winter Market:**

- Vendor profit was \$1266
- Bake sale was very successful. Profits are still being finalized, as well as the silent auction items.

**Purdy's**

- Orders have arrived and are ready for pickup

**Spirit Wear:**

- The hope is to have this organized for mid January

**New year ideas:**

- Lots of discussion about different fundraising event options for the new year ie: school dance, movie night, easter chocolates ect. More information to follow.

**Salad Bar Report:** Lesia Wick

- Approx 200-210 students served each week (about 25 absent and only a handful who take nothing). Teachers and support staff are being well fed. Averaging around 235 servings each week at the school.
- We received the Comox Valley Community Foundations grant (\$3000) to purchase a Speedibin composter to support salad bar through 'garden to plate and back to garden' connections with salad bar as well as additional cupboards for the multipurpose room for food program storage.
- Division 7 (Mrs Smith's grade 3's) won November "Least waste" challenge for compost. The school as a whole has reduced their weekly salad bar compost from 2.5 buckets down to 1 bucket!
- Jennifer Steel has had a compost bucket donated to each classroom
- JJ, Wade and Lesia all participated and completed the foodsafe program over the weekend.

**New Business:**

**Christmas break:**

- Last day of classes will be Friday December 22, 2023.

**Playground equipment:**

- \$3500 available to purchase a new swing set. Still working on finding the most suitable swing set that will allow for 6 new swings. Update will be provided as the process moves along.

**Penny Carnival Committee:**

- Committee will be organized and begin in January 2024.

**Old Business:** Dana Orrego

-any ideas of when would work for a movie night or dance?

-new playground equipment

-\*Penny Carnival committee to be organized in January 2024

**Extra discussion:****Dr. Cameron McCrodan:**

- JJ has arranged for an interactive round table discussion with Dr. Cameron McCrodan at Arden school January 26th from 6-8pm. Dr. McCrodan focuses on neural vision therapy and supports patients of all ages and abilities including those with reading and learning issues, concussions, head trauma, and sport vision needs. For anyone interested he has written a book titled "Optimize: A New Way to Look at Dyslexia, Concussion, Attention Deficit, Reading Comprehension and Athletic performance."

**PAC Parent of the Month:** Winner is Kourtney Van Velzen

**Adjourn:** 1st: Kourtney

2nd: Jackie

Next Meeting is January 15, 2024