



Hillcrest Elementary

PAC General Meeting Minutes

Tues, Nov 17, 7:00pm, Zoom video-conference

Attendees: 18

Action Items

Action	Responsible	Due
Exec to discuss factoring in tech refresh needs for future budget planning.	Next budget meeting	June
Exec post parent survey to decide on scooter or bike rack	Lesley	done
Colby to send graphics to Lesley for communications of the program.	Colby	done
Colby followup to find out if there is a way to cross Grandview @ Greentree more safely and add flashing lights.	Colby	

Welcome and agenda adoption

- Agenda adoption motioned by Erika Palmer, seconded Lindsay Martin.

Technology proposal

- Seeking more chromebooks to support tech learning in intermediate classes (grades 3-5).
 - Mr Lim shared a presentation of some of the work the kids have been able to do using different apps on chrome books. This technology (G-suite) will be what is also used in Gordon Head Middle School.
 - Goal is to meet demand for technology from teachers and students and improve device/student ratio. Currently 1 device per 3.3 students and would like to do better. Most schools are looking at 2:1 ratio of devices to students with partially PAC funded.
-

- Want to do more whole class instruction with safer access (due to Covid cleaning protocols) to devices.
- Lifespan of devices is about 5 years though some have lasted much longer so most students in the school now will benefit from access to extra devices.

Q. The district was supposed to provide 12 chromebooks for the hybrid class, when will these arrive?

- There is no definitive timeline. Cammy has spoken with Director of Technology who is managing all tech requests for the district. A number of schools asked for chromebooks using federal funds. Those would be dispersed first, then they would look at our school request.

Q. What is the district's plan for tech support when computer labs are being phased out?

- District provides equivalent number of devices for 1 full class (30 students), which Hillcrest has. The computer lab that Hillcrest has currently is one of the last in the district and is being phased out. These machines will not be supported going forward.

One parent commented PAC will need to consider replacement of existing technology and looking at refreshing existing technology and ongoing cost and maintenance to this.

ACTION: Exec to discuss factoring in tech refresh needs for future budget planning.

- Lesley confirmed that PAC has funds to cover the entire 30 chromebooks right now, though fundraising efforts this year are limited due to Covid.
- Lesley polled the group to vote on 3 options:
 - Option 1: 30 chromebooks (~\$11,000) ; Option 2: 22 chromebooks (~\$7000)
 - Option 3: deny request.
 - Vote: 8 people Option 2; 2 people Option 1.

DECISION: Funding approved for 22 chromebooks + cart from current tech budget.

Ready Step Roll program

- Ready Step Roll program is about encouraging active travel - walking and wheeling full or part way to/from school and helping students and parents be more confident on the road.
- Program works with 5 schools every year to address travel barriers and encourage active travel to school, partnering with Saanich, Police, School staff and PAC.
- Parent survey was completed in June. Walkabout around school grounds was completed in October with local police, admin, and program leads.
- School will receive a bike rack or scooter rack for participating.

Parent survey consultation highlights

- 171 families from Hillcrest responded to survey
 - 60% of families are currently driving
 - 90% would prefer their kids walk to school.
- Barriers identified:
 - crossing busier roads, vehicle speeds and within school zone, majority of traffic is parents dropping off.
 - No sidewalks in Gordon Head but there are neighbourhood cut throughs.

Strategies to consider

- Placement of crossing guard - is this the optimal location? (consider Hillcrest/Greentree or Grandview/Ferndale)
- Access to school grounds - removing vegetation around blind spots, location to install bike rack.
- Walking school bus (designated drop off with 1 adult walking kids from various points in neighbourhood)
- Drive to 5 (suggest locations where cars can park and then walk for 5 min to school).
- Students participate in I-ride training and Think of me road safety
- Evaluation: tracking volumes at school access points. # bikes on bike racks, # cars entering parking lot.

Other suggestions

Q. Can we extend school zone on Hillcrest Ave/Greentree?

- School zones are regulated as to where they are placed. Reviewing the whole perimeter of the school and look at possibly Houlihan Court or traffic calming measures.

Q. Can we examine placement of school zone sign on Greentree/Grandview to be more visible?

- Add reflective tape to existing school zone signs to make more visible.

ACTION: Exec post parent survey to decide on scooter or bike rack?

ACTION: Colby to send graphics to Lesley for communications of the program.

ACTION: Colby followup to find out if there is a way to cross Grandview @ Greentree more safely and add flashing lights.

Principal's report

Pro-D

- Friday is Pro-D. Staff will discuss how to spend \$5000 federal grant for outdoor education and learn from Lisa Owen (current staff member) who has a background in outdoor education.

Staffing changes

- Extra learning support of 0.1 FTE (T Anderson now 0.3 up from 0.2)
- Counselor is now away until January. Interim counsellor is Franco Chelly (T/Thu), School-based team all members are taking care of kids previously on Ms Suni's caseload.

School preparedness

- Successful lockdown drill completed Tuesday. 8 officers attended school and gave some advice.
- With COVID-19 cases now increasing rapidly, need to continue the good work to keep kids home when ill. Though it is a stressful time, the strategy is working so far.
- Please send kids prepared for all weather, change of socks, etc. Want to spend as much time outside as possible. especially because outdoors is safer with COVID-19 circulating.

Q. Will school be restarting mindfulness?

- Mindfulness class was temporarily stopped (led by Ms Suni) but is left for teachers to do on their own if they would like.

Q. Is Second step program still being used?

- School still has materials, however, with extra 1 hr with handwashing, it is hard to fit all curriculum in.
- Will be talking at Pro-D on Friday about these topics with staff.

Treasurer's report

- Donation drive raised \$3900
- Current Bank balance: ~\$10,000, still waiting to receive gaming grant.
- Savings: \$36,000

Hot lunch

- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee will meet Dec 1 to decide on proposal PAC has put forward to restart hot lunch (Subway) in January once per month.
- Request from parents to make the lunch date cut-off month by month to avoid having to do refunds if winter break is extended or kids doing online learning.

Meeting adjourned.