

École Beairsto Elementary

Parent Advisory Council General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Nov 27, 2024 (6:30pm) Location: Beairsto Library/Hybrid
Zoom

Chairperson: Dawn (Vice President)/Dionne (Treasurer)

Call to order: 6:30pm

- 1) **Presidents Welcome & Attendance:** In Person attendance: Dionne (vote), Natalie (vote), Chelsea (vote), Erik (Admin), Moira (Admin), Kim (CPF), Navi (CPF, vote), Shannon (vote); On zoom: Jace (vote), Dawn (vote), Adrienne (vote), Mandy (vote)
- 2) **Approval of Previous Minutes and Adoption of agenda:** Dionne moves to approve previous minutes and adopt agenda, Chelsea seconds. Previous Minutes are approved and today's agenda is adopted.
- 3) **Reports:**
 - a) **Principal: Mme Manthorne - With the school Update**
 - i) Teachers have been working hard on assessments and report cards which will come out just before winter break. There are 3 report cards per year via My Ed
 - ii) Teachers are thankful for the \$/class from the PAC
 - iii) Finished FSAs for Gr. 4s and Gr. 7s and M. Nielsen was part of the marking team
 - iv) Volleyball season has wrapped up. We had 8 teams; at times it was chaotic but we've got ideas for Basketball and how we will streamline it. Basketball starts in January.
 - v) Parking lot woes - We've ordered signs that say: Staff Parking Only. We will continue to put out communication to parents to follow our parking policies
 - vi) Thank you for the house team prize, it's pretty exciting and we are working on house team events. Our house teams are the 4 food chiefs.
 - vii) Moustache Vendredi this Friday
 - viii) Santa photos: A Gr 7 student will dress up as Santa for Photos with Père Noel Dec 9-13 to raise funds for the Gr. 7 year end trips
 - ix) Looking for a big Christmas tree for the front foyer.
 - x) Helping NOYFSS with their Family preservation program. We are requesting all donations to be in by Wednesday, Dec 11th. Gift cards that meet a variety of needs are very helpful such as Walmart and

- Superstore, Gas cards, etc.
- xi) LFI and EFI registration and enrollment - new video - will be posted on our PAC website and Facebook page,
- xii) 3 New flag poles - Erik has ordered the OKIB flag and we will have a ceremony for that flag raising when it arrives.
- xiii) Manie musicale - LeFLOFRANCO -Rapper from Montreal will be coming to do a performance at Seaton in Early March, for Gr 6 & 7s and highschool kids.
- xiv) Battle of the Bands for Gr 6 & 7s with M. Corbett was a lot of fun and a great success.

b) [Natalie - DPAC report -](#)

- i) Oct 30th - First DPAC meeting of the year, the new superintendent was there.
- ii) Leadership update -
 - (1) Nicky Dunlop stepped down, Yania Greenaway is the new DPAC President.
 - (2) SD22 has a new superintendent Karla Mitchell; Adrian Johnson remains as Assistant Superintendent.
 - (3) Vernon Principals and Vice Principals Association has new leadership, Debbie Cullum (Cherryville Elementary) is the new VPVPA lead.
- iii) Suggestion to the PAC that we invite Karla Mitchell (SD22 superintendent come to a PAC meeting to discuss challenges specific to Beairsto.
- iv) Discussion - Fall conferences -
 - (1) Concerns at other schools: limited teacher meeting slots at some schools meant not all parents had a chance to connect. (Mainly for secondary schools).
 - (2) Beairsto Update: At Beairsto, parents can schedule alternate times with teachers if needed.
- v) Additional Discussion point: Is goal setting an effective method for younger students?
- vi) Discussion re: Role of DPAC and PAC.
Key Roles:
 - (1) DPAC - supports PACs, works to help resolve any conflicts, communicates district updates;
 - (2) PAC - focuses on student and parent advocacy.
 - (a) Examples of PAC advocacy: Connecting parents with appropriate resources or contacts, assisting parents facing language barriers to ensure access to information.
 - (b) Challenges identified: PACs are often perceived primarily as fundraising groups.

- vii) Parent Engagement & Communication
 - (1) Barriers to Engagement: Timing of meetings, unclear benefits of attendance, and uncertainty about PAC's purpose.
 - (2) Proposed improvements:
 - (a) SD22 is revamping its website with multiple language options to improve accessibility and navigation
 - (b) It was suggested to SD22 to form a parent focus group to provide feedback on website updates
- viii) PAC-Parent Feedback: What specific support do Bearsto parents and students need from DPAC?

c) CPF - Kim, President & Navi, Vice President

- i) Only one new member from efforts at BBQ. We are trying to get new members, it is free, and CPF Vernon gets funding per member from CPF National. The funds go toward community events
- ii) Bonhomme visits will happen again. Unfortunately we don't have enough people to do a skate with Bonhomme this year
- iii) CPF has \$3000 to donate to the Vernon library for French books
- iv) The French summer reading club will be happening again, last year the prizes were fantastic.

d) Dionne - Treasurer Report-

- i) Since our last GM we had our budget approved and we allocated our funds: \$250 for field trips per division for a total of \$7000; Lison Ensemble \$150, Kindness Club Intermediate - \$125; Kindness Club Primaries - \$200, 2 battle of the books, one in English \$850, and one in French \$700, Beading Club \$300, Field trip Bike locks \$250, Board Game Club \$250, Storytelling club \$250, House competition \$500 all from our gaming Funds. The Gaming funds came into the account in Oct totalling \$12,680.00
- ii) Current Account balances as of today: Gaming account \$12,891.90 and Operating account \$17,379.15. These totals are not including paying out our Vendors for our December Hot Lunch orders and it doesn't include what we have brought in from our Purdy's fundraiser.
- iii) Hot Lunch is still running and is successful. We've launched a survey for feedback on Vendors. For January we will be able to offer the kids pizza on Boston pizza day, Samosa Joes will be offering a chickpea curry with rice for a more substantial option
- iv) The school is brainstorming ways to reuse the paper bags which are very plentiful and costly

e) Chelsea - Fundraising Report

- i) Profits from past fundraisers: Davison's \$500, Zelaney's \$260, Vaz Art \$500, Purdy's \$2900.
 - ii) Up and coming Fundraisers: Vernon Teach and Learn Shopping Night, another Zelaney's fundraiser right before the holidays, Shuswap Pies at the end of Feb, Green Bush Flowers for Mothers Day, Burger and Beer community building night near the end of Feb
 - f) [Mandy on behalf of Brittany - Events Report](#)- Possibly a Movie night in mid January
 - g) [Mandy Pretty - Presidents Report](#) -
 - i) The empty property we had discussed as a potential opportunity to have the SD purchase for extra space is owned by Imperial Oil and there is an environmental assessment on it so we have stopped pursuing it as it wouldn't likely be a safe space for children.
 - ii) It's been a really busy year but we've had great communication within the executive, we have an amazing group of people working with the school and for the school and we'll just keep trying to get our communication out there. Just like CPF, it's hard to get people engaged but we're working at it.
- 4) [Budget Amendment: Discussion & Vote on extra expense approval \(presented by Dionne\)](#):
- a) We were given two receipts at the beginning of the year, for M. Corbett's family band from last year.. The 2 receipts are for \$300 so \$600 total.
Discussion point: do we have it in our budget? Yes.
 - b) Dionne moves to approve the \$600 extra expense for payment of the invoices, Shannon seconds, all in favour. The extra expense is approved.
 - c) BCCPAC membership \$100 - Dionne moves to approve spending \$100 on our BCCPAC membership, Chelsea seconds, all in favour. Approved.
- 5) [Open Floor](#):
- a) Dionne mentioned, on behalf of a parent, a pledge for keeping screens out of the school, called Wait until 8th which can be found at waituntil8th.org
 - i) Moira mentioned chatting with Gr. 12 students at the recent DELF exams. They had asked the students what they thought of the new school district policy on cell phones. The kids shared that they felt that the new policy doesn't work because it depends on the teacher and kids are having their cell phones anyways.
 - ii) Dionne mentioned attending a volleyball tournament at Sahali School in Kamloops where they had cell phone jammers so the

school doesn't have any cell service whatsoever but they have WIFI. Other schools have pouches where students must leave their phones. The pouches have a wifi lock on them which unlocks at the end of the day.

- iii) BC didn't take a very firm stance like some of the other provinces on this topic.
- iv) Beirsto does have students with phones and smart watches. M. Neilson mentioned we don't tend to see students using phones much during recess and in the halls. The Admin feels that overall we have a fairly good culture around student cell phone use at Beirsto.
- v) Beirsto has another phone available for student use in the office.
- vi) M.Neilson mentioned the book *Anxious Generation* as an interesting read on the topic

Next General Meeting is March 5th at 6:30 and June 4th at 6:30pm is our AGM.

Meeting Adjourned: 8pm