

École Beirsto Elementary

Parent Advisory Council General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:30pm at Beirsto Elementary Library

Chairperson: Mandy Pretty (PAC President)

Attendees: Adreinne (PAC communication), Sheridan (District PAC rep), Anna (parent), Chloe (PAC vice president), Karen Smith (parent), Jessica Tanner (parent), Shauna (Parent), Moira Manthorne (School Principal), Erik Neilson (School Vice Principal), Liz (PAC, member at Large), Sam (PAC Hot lunch), Dionne (PAC Treasurer), Karyn (Parent), Dawn (Parent), Charlie (Parent), Shannon (PAC secretary), Brittany (PAC events)

Call to order: 6:34

- 1) **Welcome** - Mandy (President) leads with an acknowledgement of what an honour and privilege it is to live and meet on the beautiful unceded traditional territory of the Syilx nation

- 2) **Attendance & Adoption of Agenda** - Mandy moves to adopt today's agenda, Sheridan seconds, motion is approved.

- 3) **Reports** -
 - i) **Principal - Moira Manthorne:**
Principal's Update and what's happening around the school:
 - 1) Fall fair and BBQ was a success
 - 2) Global TV and the Variety Club interviewed our school about the fundraising efforts for our brain bikes and sit stand desks. The interviews may be aired in a segment during their upcoming Show of Hearts Telethon the week of Oct 16.
 - 3) ONIVA! will be filming with a Gr. 6 class which will be aired on CBC in November; we are excited that filming will be done by a past Beirsto student
 - 4) Class review meetings are ongoing. These biannual meetings take place at the beginning of the year and in May. We go over each class to come up with an overall goal and strength. So far classroom feedback has been really positive.
 - 5) Clubs and Teams have started; the school plans to send out a flyer to increase communication about clubs to parents.

- 6) Conferences will be held at the end of Oct. The format will remain as in previous years with the child, the parent and the teacher talking about goal setting
- 7) Book fair will be in the library during Student Conferences, Oct 26 with Care Russell. She is looking for a couple of volunteers to help out on the day.
- 8) Reporting will look a little bit different this year as directed by the Ministry. There will be 3 formal My Ed reports, one in December, one in March, and one Summary report at the end of school; the teachers will also be sharing about competencies in other ways, like through Padlet, Seesaw or some other program
- 9) Mr. Corbett, the music teacher, is working on a whole school song. We are hoping to film the school singing it at the same time outside.
- 10) We have a group working on gardens; A Learning garden in front of the portables, behind the portables an Indigenous garden that the kids could go in and out of, Raised beds with kindness rocks.
- 11) We are looking at a mural along the front of the school to solve the mud issue
- 12) Orange Shirt Day assemblies went really well. It was planned and organised by kids; 2 girls shared about the competencies and the 4 food chiefs and what each food chief represents: skəmxišt (Bear), n'tyxtix (Salmon), spitlem (Bitterroot) and siya? (Saskatoon)..
- 13) It's really great to have the kindergarteners here

ii) **DPAC - Sheridan Pimson:**

A summary of our recent District PAC meeting on September 27

- 1) Structure: The individual school PAC meets with the administration of the school, the DPAC meets with the Trustees and Superintendent of the School District, the BCCPAC meets with the Ministry of Education
- 2) There are 2 provincial conferences each year, one in November and another in the spring. The Fall one in November is an information and planning session for the year and a bit of advocacy. Do we want to send anyone to the provincial level Fall conference? Spring is a policy session and they will be asking again if we would like to send someone.
- 3) The Assistant Superintendent gave a report which can be found online and will be circulated in a school email. Topics covered in the report:

- a) Gradual entry - this was the first year where gradual entry was consistent across the whole district, it was also the shortest gradual entry. It went smoothly
 - b) early childcare programs, there are 5 in the district now and before and after school care - Beairsto is running a before and after school care program; we had 12 spaces last year, it has now moved and we are working on a space for 24. Priority is kindergarten kids and their siblings.
 - c) E-buses and Propane busses are coming as well as bus Apps and swipe cards; There are some kinks but they are known and are being worked on
- 4) A speaker from the indigenous department discussed Orange Shirt Day. They used some funds to ensure that all indigenous kids in the district had orange shirts. The shirts were designed by indigenous kids in our schools. DPAC now also has a permanent executive position for an indigenous rep
 - 5) The Principal and Vice Principal Association discussed restitution training which is providing our kids better problem solving skills, helping them learn about taking responsibility with less focus on consequences and more focus on the process of fixing mistakes to rebuild and maintain relationships
 - 6) Discussion about capacity building workshops for parents: Annual workshops: Restitution and Understanding Indigenous training
 - 7) There is a zoom account that we can use for our PAC meetings
 - 8) Discussion about the anti SOGI protest. The BCCPAC has formally gotten behind the Ministry for SOGI in our curriculum. They are giving tools and guidance to PAC members for addressing parent concerns and information and guidance to go to the administration rather than take it on ourselves.

iii) **Treasurer - Dionne Martyn:**

- 1) Requests to insert a discussion about the budget so that we can approve it as a general PAC as per our bylaws. Mandy moves to amend the agenda to vote on the proposed budget, Dawn seconds. Motion has passed
- 2) Treasurers overview of last year's Operating expenses and Gaming Expenses.
- 3) Gaming funds have come through at \$12,140

iv) **Events - Brittany:**

- 1) Welcome back BBQ was great, sold out of all of our food, great feedback on Mr Corbett's band and excellent feedback on Gr 7 face painting which could become an annual tradition
- 2) No PAC events in Oct but Spirit club is working on gratitude leaves for the entryway and will be organising Jack O Lantern Lane
- 3) Gr 7 hosting a family dance Nov 3 (5pm-7pm) as a fundraiser for their end of year trip, theme is Monster Mash
- 4) "Peace begins with Me" theme for November. Events include free family yoga class with tea and fruit, mandala colouring sheets

v) **President - Mandy:**

- 1) We have a full executive team this year with all positions filled
- 2) Our biggest challenge for our PAC is parent communication and involvement. We are looking for solutions because we really want to encourage parents to be involved whenever and wherever they can. We are aiming for a rolling parent email list. Asking parents who want to be involved to add their name to the pop up box when putting in their hot lunch orders or sign up on our website; Due to privacy rules we are not allowed to contact parents unless they sign up to be contacted

4) **Budget Approval -**

Dionne presents our proposed 2023/2024 Budget. Dionne moves to approve the budget as presented, Chloe seconds, All in favour. Proposed budget is passed.

5) **Open Floor -**

- i) Adrienne brought up a parent question about bulk buying for school supplies. Mme Manthorne responded with a discussion about trialling this for kindergarten this year and mentioned the school is hoping to add on Gr 1 as well next year. The trial went relatively smoothly and the hope is to continue to add to it moving forward. Discussed the size of our school and the amount of work on secretaries at a busy time of year as primary concerns for adding too much at once. Dionne mentioned Lisa runs a Crayola bulk buy group and wondered about the possibility of the PAC taking some of this on with the help of Lisa as a PAC fundraiser.

6) **Next Meeting Dates -**

Wednesday, November 29th - 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 6th - 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 12th - 6:30pm

Mandy motioned to Adjourn the meeting, Dawn seconds. Motion is passed.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:47pm