

Minutes

Oaklands Elementary Parent Advisory Committee General Meeting

Monday, September 20th, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:10p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Patti Christianson, co-president of the PAC, made a motion to add new item *Covid Exposure Procedure* and adopt the agenda:

First: Sarah Milbrath

Seconded: Melissa Donaldson

Munchie Cart

Karin Zylstra - Community Services and Development Coordinator, of The Oaklands Community Association presented the following:

- The Munchie Cart is a collaboration between the Oaklands Community Centre, Oaklands Elementary School, and the Parent Advisory Committee.
- The Victoria School for Ideal Education is participating in the program this year.
- The Oaklands Community Centre received funding from the City of Victoria in support of the program.
- The 2020/2021 school year saw approximately 2000 uses of the Munchie Cart.
- This year's changes will include: compostable packages, healthier options, and large visible containers of snacks rather than individual paper bags.
- Volunteers are needed to fill the following roles:
 1. A second person for assisting with putting together the Munchie Cart on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with an approximate arrival time of 8:30a.m. to ensure the cart is prepared for the morning snack time. If necessary, there is some flexibility with timing.
 2. Someone to pick up the Munchie Cart from the office at the end of the school day and return it to the community centre.

Melissa Donaldson has volunteered to pick up the Munchie Cart.

Fencing

A discussion took place around the new fencing surrounding the Oak Trees on the primary side. The following points were made:

- There is a loss of natural space for the children.
- The fencing was constructed due to an incident that took place last school year, where one of the Oak trees lost a branch and fell towards Ryan Street.
- An arborist tested the trees which resulted in one tree showing Funghi.
- There is an ongoing drainage issue. The clogging is happening in a drain that runs under the black top. This drain runs out to Ryan street which is why the trees alongside that street have soggy roots.
- The City of Victoria worked alongside the arborist and took care of trimming and taking weight off the one infected tree.
- All of the trees are on city property.
- Decisions would have been made through the Grounds Facilities Department. They were in negotiation with the City of Victoria, regarding costs and who would provide the labour. The principal has not yet received a report as to how those decisions were made and why all trees were fenced.
- The school administration is discussing the possibility of using the field across the street to replace some of the lost green space.
- The principal will reach out to the Grounds Department and request a full report.
- A discussion took place about possible risks and hazards, being that the fencing does not address the drainage problem and whether the trees need to be removed.
- A conversation will continue amongst the PAC in regards to approaching the City of Victoria on behalf of the PAC.

Courtyard Garden

Dan Milbrath, owner of Costa Verde and lead of the Gardening Committee presented the following:

- The history of the Courtyard Garden and its development and progression thus far.
- Funding from the PAC this year would be used for:
 1. Supplies and storage
 2. General funding to continue the improvement and growth of the garden and its space.

Stefanie Sloboda, Outdoor Education at Oaklands Elementary School communicated the following goals:

- Creating a legacy for the school to ensure the Courtyard Garden can continue to grow and evolve, partly by making the space functional, and enabling any teacher the ability to use the space, In order to continue to develop the program,

resources such as organization carts, tarps, ropes and other equipment are needed.

- Having enough resources to be able to run a full Outdoor Education Program.
- Expanding outdoor education to include such topics as: basic wilderness skills, basic first aid, and knot tying.
- Developing a three to five year plan that encompasses annual necessities as well as goals and objectives for that each year.

The PAC requested a more specific funding request by the October's PAC meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported the following:

- The gaming grant has not yet been received.
- There are still funds in Paypal from those who paid ahead or donated money from last year's pizza days which were cancelled due to Covid.
- We have approximately \$8000.00, not including the gaming grant which should be around \$10,000.

Pizza Days

The treasurer reported the following:

- Pizza Days is now confirmed with both the school and Panago Pizza.
- Melissa needs to receive the class lists from the school administration.
- The first pizza day is set for October 1st, 2021.
- Through the online Hot Lunches ordering page, parents are able to donate additional funds to ensure each child in the school is able to participate in Pizza Day.
- The access code for the hot lunch portal is OHL. It would be helpful to include this in the school newsletter.
- Pizza Day volunteers need to be vaccinated.

School Administration Update

The Principal reported the following:

- There are currently 507 students.
- All classes are compliant with class size and composition.
- Staffed at 23 divisions.
- Currently in the process of moving Music & Strings from a third floor classroom to one of the portables. This has provided additional space within the school and is being turned into an inclusive learning space.
- By September 30th, additional funding may be approved for more Education Assistants.
- Petra has requested funding with the Indigenous Education Department in order to continue and sustain Indigenous learning at Oaklands. This could include music and a student-led art installation.

- Posting closed today for a few teaching positions.
- There is an upcoming Professional Development Day, Monday, September 27th.
- Oaklands is participating in a provincial-wide pilot involving removing letter grades from report cards and instead looking at a competency based continuum of learning. Waiting to receive more information from the school district.
- The principal is interested in exploring with the PAC the possibility of getting an additional flagpole in the Courtyard and flying the Songhees Nation flag.

The Vice Principal reported that John Harris will be returning to Oaklands to work with the children, who participated in last year's drumming, and remind them the songs they learned. He will also work with Jacqui Polson, the music teacher, to teach her songs that have been gifted to the school, enabling her to teach them to the students with use of Oaklands thirty drums.

Patti has requested the administration create a priority of funding requests by the October PAC meeting.

Covid Exposure Procedure

The principal spoke to the current Covid Exposure Procedure. Her understanding is if someone tests positive or is exposed to Covid-19, Island Health contacts the school. She then completes an internal school contact tracing and delivers necessary information to Island Health. Island Health then determines and informs her who needs to receive an isolation notice or a self monitor notice. At this time, general exposure notices will not be sent out unless it develops into a cluster or outbreak.

Adjournment

Patti reported that the next pac meeting is Monday, October 18th, 2021 from 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. via zoom.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

first: Sarah Milbrath

seconded: Jillian Detellis