

# MINUTES

## Peachland PAC Meeting

*Date:* October 18, 2019 – 9:00 am | *Meeting called to order by:* Leath Strench

Meeting adjourned 10:02 am

September Minutes, *Motion to Approve:* Leath Strench (amend Amy – Book Fair contact), *all in favour*

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### In Attendance

Leath Strench – President	<u>Parents</u>	
Emma Webber – Vice President	Amy Grundy	Jessica Loewen
Shawna Quinn – Secretary	Terri Lynn Carrington	Kristen Friesen
Erin Chadwick - Treasurer	Sherri Olsen	Daeshel Heidelberg
Ross Hett – Principal		

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### Welcome Back BBQ

Weather was rainy and cool, so the event was held in the gym. It was a good attendance, lower than the end of year event but on par with what was expected. Because it was held in the gym, it was a bit crowded and hectic, and Emma made the suggestion that the event be held earlier in the year next year. It would align with the “back to school energy”, and the chance of better weather is improved. Next year the intention is to have the new executive voted in the previous year, so it will be easier to plan for the event in advance.

Feedback was positive, and we were able to give the new barbecue a test run, which was very successful.

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### Gaming Funds

\$3440 were allocated to PLE this year, based on the prior year’s enrollment. As a smaller school, we receive less funds than in previous years, but this is still substantial funding for activities and initiatives to support student experiences. Last year the funds were used for initiatives including Hip Hop classes, STEM activities, and gym equipment. Parents are encouraged to contribute ideas as to how to allocate these funds.

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### Artist in Residence

Leath explained that the Artist in Residence program is something offered to selected schools, supplemented by the district, to give students a chance to develop artistic skills. This year the artist is a watercolor painter.

Leath made a motion to **approve \$600 to go toward the Artist in Residence watercolor program.**

**First:** Erin Chadwick

**Second:** Sherri Olsen

*All in favour*

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### Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run took place on Friday September 27, and was a very successful event. Erin Chadwick with Vantage One set up a booth and water station, along with Community Policing to support a safe event for the students. Amy suggested that the school offer an online option, as middle schools do, for parents to donate funds as an alternative to coins. Sherri explained, however, that Peachland Elementary consistently raises more funds than other schools in the district, and this can perhaps be due to the change donation system.

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## School Book Fair

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Every year the Book Fair takes place over the course of a week. Monday the Fair is set up, with Tuesday as a walk-through day for the students. Wednesday and Thursday have hours open to the students/public, including evenings, so some volunteers would be welcomed for support. Friday the Fair is wrapped up and cleaned before the weekend.

Amy Grundy has been responsible for running this event, but this will be her last year, so Emma will be “shadowing” to learn all of the details and systems for operation. Emma will be a point of contact, and will help coordinate volunteers etc.

Leath made a motion to **approve \$450 for a Book Fair float, which will go back into the account.**

**First:** Amy Grundy

**Second:** Kristen Friesen

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## Hot Lunch Team

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We have had amazing support for the hot lunch program this year, with several volunteers contributing to the smooth delivery of the program. Ideally, the PAC would like to organize two teams for hot lunch – one for pizza days (every other Thursday), and one for “cooking” days, including Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, etc. Although we will still promote volunteer sign ups through the online platform for each individual week, it would be of value to have blanket teams in place to help efficiency and standardization to the process, and save stress each week. This will be discussed in further detail in the near future, with the goal of setting these teams in place by the new year.

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## Bank Update

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We have officially changed banks, and have set up the PAC account with Vantage One in Peachland. Leath and Shawna will go to Valley First next week to close out the old account.

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## Rotary Club

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Leath followed up with the Rotary Club regarding suggestions to support a raffle. There had been a misunderstanding that the club would facilitate the initiative, but it was discovered that the offer was more to advise and direct the PAC on how to facilitate our own raffle. As the PAC is comfortable with organizing the details of a raffle on its own, this initiative has been deferred until further discussion.

For further relationship building, Erin with Vantage One is involved with the club, and will continue to evolve our partnership moving forward.

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## Fruit & Veggie Program

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Ardelle is managing the Fruit & Veggie Program again this year, which is a government initiative supplying students with fruits and vegetables approximately every three weeks, along with milk.

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## Facebook Page and Communications

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Feedback is that the communications have been consistent and helpful, so we will continue to promote special events and important information through these channels.

Anna has been very helpful with marketing documents/flyers etc., and the suggestion has been made to add her to the list of Editors on the Facebook Page moving forward.

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## Treat Day

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The suggestion to have a cotton candy treat day was made, along with popcorn for this year. Mr. Hett will take over treat days this year, and this will not be a PAC responsibility.

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## Teacher Appreciation - Christmas

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Leath made a motion to **approve \$250 to support a teacher appreciation initiative for the teachers.**

**First:** Emma Webber

**Second:** Kristen Friesen

*All in favour*

The specifics of what to provide will be discussed in further detail, with suggestions to use local restaurants. Mr. Hett suggested that the event take place on a Thursday in December.

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## Spirit Days

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D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) will take place this year on Wednesday, October 23, but due to a limited preparation time, we will not offer cookies and milk. Students can come in their pj's and read with their parents. Additional Spirit Days should be included, and ideas discussed. Dauna sent suggestions for themes, including Book Day (dress up as your favorite character), 100 Day (dress up as a 100-year old man/woman), Christmas Craft Day, Parkour/Gymnastics, Dance Play and Crazy Hair Day.

Next meeting more ideas will be discussed and a potential schedule to put into place, and once every couple of months was suggested. Moving forward, outlining a schedule for the year (Spirit Days, Special Events, Hot Lunch, etc.) ahead of time would help structure things for the year.

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## Parent/PAC Communications & Discretion

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Emma suggested that parents need to be informed that the PAC is their platform for having a voice in the school, and that it can be an opportunity to discuss sensitive or discretionary ideas without feeling uncomfortable or exposed. PAC executive members can act as a liaison or advocate for parent concerns, and should feel comfortable bringing forth ideas through this context. More ideas as to how to communicate this to all parents can be discussed, but ideas to put this thought/message somehow into our communications.

Sherri explained some of the previous concerns of parents that have left the school included how bullying is handled, as well as the lack of communication between parents and teachers regarding homework, classroom issues, expectations etc. Mr. Hett addressed the issue of bullying, stating that some particular issues are currently being handled, but that further attention to this is needed, including social media concerns.

Amy mentioned that the school does not have enough CAs, which means that the students that are causing issues consistently take the attention of the teachers and support staff, taking away their ability to support the rest of the student population.

Erin brought up a podcast called "Why Kids Bully" as an educational piece to help support students and parents in dealing with and understanding bullying issues.

Emma has concerns that there is a reputation at Peachland Elementary for not handling problems at the school, and wants all parents to know that there are opportunities to address these issues through the PAC without having to leave the school.

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## Treasurer's Report

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Documents provided.

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## Trustee's Report

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*Moyra Baxter sends her regrets.* She requested that parents go through the survey from the district addressing transportation issues.

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## Principal's Report

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Mr. Hett explained that a new learning plan is being discussed moving forward in the school year. Teachers were already asked for contributions, and Mr. Hett requested that the PAC to provide some feedback regarding priorities for this plan. This was facilitated through appreciative inquiry, asking for feedback on what is already being done well and building on this. Teachers, parents and students will be asked to contribute their thoughts, with posters available to add "sticky notes" of ideas at their convenience. This feedback will be posted on the website and evaluated, identifying keywords and concepts that come up and analyzing where the priorities lie overall. The PAC will post information regarding this request for contributions on Facebook, along with info in the newsletter.

Mr. Hett explained that he would like to educate parents more about the Leader in Me program, and suggested that a day time informational meeting be conducted and videotaped, so that this material can be posted on our communication platforms for reference.

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## Next Meeting Date

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Friday November 8, 2019