

**Parent Advisory Council
Spring Creek Community School
Minutes of January 19, 2012**

1.0 Call to Order 8:48a.m.– Tanya Goertzen, Chair

2.0 Check of Membership

a. Directors: Christiane Loring, Angela Morris, Kerri Fletcher, Rob Cox

b.Members: Heidi Groot, Kathleen Withey, Andrea Legge, Glowena Erickson, Adele Ferguson, Shelley Herron, Caralyn Haasen

c. Regrets: Tracy Kerr, Lara Wall

d. SD48: Rachael Lythe, Karen Saenger, Janet Penny

e. APE: Sharon Tyrrell

3.0 Adopt Agenda

Motion: Rob Cox and Angela Morris that the Agenda for January 19, 2012 be adopted. Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of November 17, 2011 minutes

Christiane Loring and Rob Cox approved minutes via email on November 29, 2011 so that they could be circulated to membership. Minutes will be approved with a motion at the January/ 2012 PAC meeting.

Motion: Angela Morris and Kathleen Withey made a motion to approve the minutes circulated via email on November 29, 2011. Motion Carried

5.0 Reports

5.1 Chairs Reports – Christiane Loring/Tanya Goertzen

Attached

SCCSpac@gmail.com – email us if you have any queries and we can farm your request or query out to the right person to handle. This will get you directly involved with the PAC

5.2 Treasurer report – Christiane Loring on behalf of Lara Wall

Attached

Discussion about how to request bus money for field trip. Can teachers' advise and request funds for specific field trips. Karen will talk to Janet Penny about this.

5.3 Principal's Report – Karen Saenger

Attached

Discussed different styles of teaching and noticing the absence of children for certain sports because of where we live. Could we do things differently and what do parents want so that we can embrace where we live instead of have to catch up for missed school. Karen very aware of our wonderful surroundings and doing her best to research styles of teaching.

Parents with issues and want to request help for child. Brenda Montani is an internal help. You must go through your teacher or principal to talk to her. She is in the school on Wednesdays.

Need to let parents know that website froze and can't be updated. Shannon Susko and Karen working on new website. Can still go on google calendar.

Administrators and superintendents will be looking at how the \$300,000 grant for technology for the district will be dispersed. Ms. Saenger will let us know.

With respect to numbers in the school we had a new student in Gr 7 come in and couldn't take the sibling in gr 2 as it is full. Not being able to take the gr 2 affected 7 families in our communities. We are at full capacity. Knowing that we have people in our catchment not being able to come here we can expect to see a change.

5.4 École la Passerelle Report - Sharon Tyrrell

January 24 – anti bullying discussion. John Hall. Really great presenter. Everyone encouraged to come out. Approximately one hour 7:00 to 8:00 pm

More syrup. Contact Sharon Perolli@telus.net. Only for syrup requests please.

They are having a fundraiser on Valentine's Day at Creekbread. Everyone welcome.

Had their holiday concert. Was challenging because teachers did not come. Artist in residence came in and kids did a presentation. Was great for parents. They would consider doing it again. Was too bad teachers' weren't able to participate

APE PAC Thursday, January 26, 2012

5.5 Committee Reports

5.5.1 DPAC Report – Chistine Loring

Meeting January 25, 2012 – report next meeting

Lisa (Superintendent) the super will be there and Beth Miller (Union Rep for Districts). If you have questions for them send email to Christiane

5.5.2 Hot lunch Online Program – Chistine Loring

Attached

5.5.3 Fundraising – Kerri Fletcher

Bingo night but will discuss in new business.

5.5.4 Lice – Caralyn

Will be doing check next week.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Supervision on outside playgrounds – Tanya Goertzen

-Glowena – Safety Committee

Has got idea from website – government website. Amazing information www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/elem_callsafe.pdf. We should be getting a committee together from all the schools so there is awareness and there are things that need to be discussed. If you go to the website there are 7 steps to prevent bullying in schools. Every school can design it for each specific school.

6.2 Social Responsibility – Christiane Loring

Erin McCann is having a baby very soon – congratulations! Her husband is on his way back from Fiji and will be bringing letters and pictures and will give to Mme Jensen. Rob Cox can get Bicycles Through Humanity to donate up to 500 bikes if Erin and husband can figure out how to ship them. The Penpal relationship will continue.

6.3 Class Parents – Tanya Goertzen

Tanya will take this on as this chain of communication needs to happen and parents need to be informed regarding all issues

6.4 Volunteer Coordinator – Tanya Goertzen

Really need someone to take on this job. It is mainly a computer communication job.

6.5 Santa’s Workshop – Kerri Fletcher

Jacqui Tyler and Vicki Swan reported that Santa’s Workshop raised \$1,552.86 and that all proceeds were being donated to Whistler Community Services.

6.6 Holiday Celebration – Tanya Goertzen

This was a wonderful event but certainly was not to replace our Christmas concert. We hope to see our children singing next year and in this regard the Holiday Celebration likely will not be a continued event. A big thank you to our Grade 6/7 students who volunteered. Also thank you to Grimms who donated the hot dogs, Coca Cola who donated the water and Whistler Village Market who donated the supplies. The donations raised were \$371.10 and this will go towards the Gambier trip.

6.7 IPAD/Laptop – Tanya Goertzen

The children have started to work on them. They are bringing in their own USBs and creating sites where they can do projects etc. One class has their own website where they check homework and have their own personal emails and the teacher has access to all. Very exciting. Perhaps we should bring in someone to train teachers on the MACbooks.

6.8. SCCS Constitution – Christiane Loring

Prepared by Shannon Susko. Will post to Hot Lunch website. Please review so we can vote on it at February meeting. If you have any questions please email SCCSPAC@gmail.com

7.0 New Business

7.1 Rachael Lythe – SD48 School Trustee – Tanya Goertzen

Accepted her resignation from the PAC and would love to have someone in her place to sit on the Exec in her place. Caralyn Haasen has volunteered and will take Rachael's place on the executive. Thank you.

Trustee Report: Report Attached

If you need to contact Rachael she is at Rlythe@sd48.bc.ca

We discussed inviting different trustees and the superintendent to upcoming meetings.

7.2 Bingo – Kerri Fletcher

Potential date March 1 – 5:30 to 8pm in Daisy Lake Room. Will use Cheakamus for food because of kitchen. Donations for prizes ie. Like Santa's Workshop. Will utilize Gr. 6/7 volunteers to help distribute prizes etc. This message should go out by next week so we can start collecting prizes. Food will be Chili (beef and veg), chili dogs (or plain), baked potatoes, salad. We will have punch out bingo cards. Have already put committee together. If you would like to be a part of this please email SCCSPAC@gmail.com

7.3 PAC Funds

Decided as a group to hold off on the \$6000 that is usually given for fieldtrips until we know what field trips the children are going on. We will discuss this with Ms. Saenger on how this process shall work.

Looking at requesting sports equipment/arts/music supplies in our grants for this year.

Perhaps two schools can join together to get new equipment. Sharon will bring up at their PAC

7.4 Teachers' Strike Action – Christiane Loring

Janet Penny was in attendance. She is the union representative. Discussed about job action. Karen has been amazing and supportive of what is happening. Teachers are unable to do written information of any sort to Principal and vice versa but we can talk to her. The teachers and administration have communicated verbally. She is aware of what is happening in the classroom. Teachers are aware. Teachers are allowed to go on field trips but are not allowed to do paperwork. They can have parents do that. Can't order buses but Karen can do that. Teachers are in class teaching but all the extras they usually do they have stopped doing. Everything has stopped that has not directly affected the teaching of the children. The children are the main focus. They are pushing for smaller class sizes. Kids labeled with special needs to have less in the class. Work with principal on how it will work with what kind of assistance you get. Spring Creek has two intermediate classes that are fully loaded with special needs but both have TAs. Principal has helped and Julie Boshard has helped immensely. With respect to parent/teacher communication if you have any questions or concerns they will be happy to meet you if you call. They are breaking that rule as it's supposed to be informal but our teachers will meet you privately if you request. If there is a problem with your child you would know by now as you would have been contacted by the teacher. They are still marking, still taking in marks. Just not doing report cards. The teachers' hope that if parents have a concern, they should contact the teacher or write in agenda and set something up.

There has been a lot of communication with Beth Miller who is the representative for the District.

FSA testing will be done by Ms. Saenger not by teachers. These tests are administered in Gr 7 and Grade 4.

If parents want to help they can write to MP or school board.

A member asked: Is it possible for class parent to work with the teacher to take on the paperwork side? Can the parent do all the paperwork and deal with the administrative side or will this not help the strike situation? Tanya Goertzen: I think everyone feels we need to inform the parents but as parents we need to voice our concerns to school boards, MLA, online petitions etc.

We will get a team meeting with class parents so that parents are informed. Especially in the new Kindergarten classes. A standard email will go out to each class parent.

What Teachers can't do is report cards, nothing with school letterhead, Anything on mass but doing a couple letters is okay .

Tanya raised questions about \$6000 that goes towards bussing. Teachers were not aware that this is in addition to the \$250 they already get. This extra \$6000 is to go towards getting the students to the field trip like outdoor school. Teachers are not supposed to touch any money. Parents are taking on the task of transferring money from classroom to Ms. Tyler. Teachers are able to call classroom parents and let them know when they need help. Ms. Saenger will talk to Ms. Galloway to see where that money (\$6000) went last year.

Don't have staff meetings but they do have primary meetings, intermediate meetings, safety meetings. All are aware of what's happening in the school.

Any issues with the overnight trips? Ms. Penny: Not supposed to do but are not technically teaching. Worked really hard to nurture one school with three schools inside it. Gambier trip will definitely happen. Teachers are working towards going. There is a meeting today with a core group to find out what's going on. Sue Allen did say Big House trip is slated to go June 20, 21. Issue of fundraising. Bingo chili night – that fundraising will go towards some of these trips. The Grant requesting money for outdoor school was successful. Angela Morris will advise of that amount.

8.0 Adjournment: 11:44 a.m. Next meeting February 16, 2012

Submitted by Kerri Fletcher

Hard to believe Christmas was only 3 weeks ago!

Already 2012 is busy and we have hit the ground running this year at Spring Creek.

Our fabulous parent volunteers and PAC members have been taking a great deal upon themselves to help the smooth running of fundraising and special events.

Our slapped together answer to the lack of official Holiday concert this year resulted in the well attended and very lovely Family Holiday Magic Night. Huge thanks go out to Angie Morris, Janis McKenzie & Kerri Fletcher. They worked really hard to get it together. Our Grade 6 & 7 students were very instrumental setting up and food service too. Thomas Loring & Lar Rhode did a great job of tech support. It was a really good night. Feedback was very positive. Not sure if it will be repeated next year though.

We continue to seek out a volunteer coordinator – to help get the various committees and programs organized. It would take less than an hour a week and be huge help to PAC. We would be able to accomplish so much more if we had a behind the scenes person doing this.

We have had a parent volunteer to work with our photo club. Tony Horn has volunteered to help out the students with this.

We are on to our second term of the hot lunch fundraiser – Sushi Daze, Pizza Daze & Pasta Daze. Most parents have been able to get the orders in on time and paid – but we continue to tweak the online program to ensure the easiest way for both students & volunteers. As always we need any hands we can get for Tues & Thurs at lunchtime. Pasta daze is on the calendar one Wed a month – help out if you can.

This spring we look forward to a few more family projects like Bingo Night. And we continue to hobble along with the teacher job action.

Report of Treasurer

Hi Christiane,

attached are the budgets for Angie (I don't have her email at home here so if you could forward it to her for the meeting that would be great) and a few points for the meeting.

Nothing crazy to report. No big expenses right now but have only had a few invoices come through for hot lunches. Please let me know if I am to be calling Samuri, King Solomon and Dominoes to find out the invoicing. I had thought it had been arranged that we were to get monthly invoices but that hasn't happened. You can refer back to the email I sent you before last week's executive meeting about what invoices I have paid. And if you could let me know about a possible missing pasta invoice for Margie (also in a previous email I sent you before the executive meeting last week).

Have passed along the two cheques to SCCS as requested, \$3200 for the classroom fund and \$3000 for the classroom fieldtrip fund. We are holding off on the \$6000 for special school based bussing until we have a better understanding of what these funds are going to be used for and that we would like to request invoices before paying any of this line item out.

Family fun night brought in \$371.10 and I have been told it will go towards Gambier. If this could be confirmed and if you could let me know that would be great so I can record it accordingly on the budget.

That is all and please let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,

Lara

December - January, 2011-12

PAC Meeting – Principal's Report

Ms. Saenger's Personal Goal: Working together to create a positive, healthy school community within a culture of collaboration.

Ms. Saenger's current research: Early education: Reggio Emilia approach and the emergent curriculum

Announcements

- Thank you to Vicki Swan and Kathleen Withey for organizing this year's Santa' Workshop. I was particularly impressed by caring and nurturing expressed by the Big Buddies as they helped the younger students with the purchasing and wrapping of gifts.
- Jackie Dickinson, Outreach and Drug Prevention Worker, Whistler Community Services continues to provide programs for making good choices in our classroom. She also visited each of our classes to discuss the Whistler Community Services and how the earnings from Santa's Workshop go towards helping others in need.
- Congratulations to our returning School Trustee, Chris Vernon-Jarvis and newly elected Trustee Rachael Lythe. I look forward to working with both of our Whistler Trustees.
- The Director of the Heritage Education Foundation, Mr. Scott McIndless, presented Sandra Epplett's National Excellence Award for Teaching at a Special Recognition Assembly. I was pleased that our distinguished guests, Superintendent of Schools, Lisa McCullough, School Trustee Chris Vernon-Jarvis and Rachael Lythe, and former Spring Creek Principal Gerri Galloway, were able to join us in the celebration. When a teacher is honored by such a prestigious award, which comes from a parent nomination, it reflects positively on all of us: first it acknowledges that our community values education and the important work of teachers, second it helps us to recognize the teaching excellence that has become a tradition at Spring Creek, and lastly it provides us with the opportunity to thank parents for being involved in their children's education. I wish to personally thank all of our parents and families for contributing to the education of our children and for supporting their childrens' learning.
- We welcome back Kelly Jensen teaching our grade 6 French Immersion class. Mme Jensen has been approved for a 20% Parenthood leave. The appointment of Jane Millen, her teaching partner has been made and was announced first to parents of that class through an email letter before the holidays in December.

School Climate and Student Behavior

- Good work continues around social responsibility and kindheartedness.
- My weekly supervision meetings focus on problem solving and targeted interventions to help students develop social skills.
- Brenda Montani, school counselor, will continue working with classes in the New Year
- Teachers continue to assess positive social interactions and are providing intervention as indicated through the kindheartedness self-assessment.

Technology

- Shannon Susko and I met in December to review the school website. The current website hosting application, Joomla, is not meeting our needs for a user friendly management system. Therefore, we will be changing to Wordpress platform and plan to have a website which can be updated frequently functioning in the New Year.
- The lap tops have arrived and teachers are developing lessons plan to integrated their use in the curriculum for the New Year.
- Jacqui has been utilizing the parent email list successfully for home-school communication.
- The Whistler-Blackcomb Foundation has granted \$300,000 to SD#48 for technology.

Renovation Grants

- The library will be getting new shelving to create a teaching space. A proposal has been submitted for the Raise a Reader program for pre-school children and parents. If the proposal is successful we will add a literacy program for parents to access on Wednesday afterschool during the Moving Mountains time (3-5pm).
- We also are enhancing our gym storage areas with some changes to the storage areas.

Up Coming Events and programs

- Leadership Program
 - Our student leaders continue to make us proud.
 - Photography Club – Joern Rohde has been teaching our students the elements of photography during lunch hour workshops. Classroom photographers are in place.
 - Ms. Hamersely’s weaving club is in full operation.
 - Ms. Allen is supporting a hip hop club.
- Walksafe, will be offered to our school by RCMP Constable Tara Merrie
- Primary Assembly to celebrate Math – Thursday, January, 19th
- Primary Literacy Celebration – Wednesday, January 25th – 1:00 – All families welcome
- Intermediate Author Visit: Lee Edward Fodi – Tuesday, January, 24th
- WhistlerBlackcomb Mountain Safety Program – TBA in Ms. Allen and Ms. Penny’s classes
- 100th Day of School: Monday February 27th – 8:45-12:05
- Primary Celebration of Learning – Wednesday March 8th 1:30-2:30

School Planning Council

- We will be trying a new format this year. Replacing the “reporting out” system of previous years will be a visit to schools. The Board will come to our school on April 25th for a walk about and discussion on school improvement, growth areas, future vision.

Strike Action Update

- Teachers will not administer the Foundational Skills Assessments (Gr.4 and Gr.7). This means that I will coordinate and administer both the eFSA components and the written components beginning in January

Kindergarten Registration

- January 23, 2012

French Immersion

- Parent Information Meeting – Thursday, Feb. 2nd at the Whistler Public Library 6:30pm
- Registration – Feb. 15th beginning at 8am at Spring Creek

Hot lunch program report

Our numbers seem to be down by 25. Not sure if it is because of the message that didn't go out well. Despite it being on FB and email blast.

We had some problems with the switch from winter schedule to spring schedule.

Some kids showed up to take their lunch, insisting that they were supposed to get it even though they were not on our list. This created a shortage of sushi...despite ordering extra rolls! And headaches for our sushi coordinator.

We still have a lot of outstanding accounts.

To resolve those problems for next year, we are thinking about not allowing to place an order without payment. And we would offer the option to order for the whole year in September. We would also split the weeks more equally.

We are still in need of volunteers for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Submitted by Christiane Loring

January 18, 2012

Report from School Board Trustee, Rachael Lythe

To the Spring Creek Community School Parent Advisory Council,

I was asked today to submit a report to SCCS PAC for tomorrow's meeting so here is a brief synopsis of my experience so far. I have actually been in the School Board Office all day for our Trustee orientation which was very informative especially for us newly elected Trustees!

There is not a whole lot to report since being elected November 19th, however the learning curve has been steep. I would like to thank you all for your support and I look forward to representing the Whistler community and being a regular face in the schools.

We were sworn in December 7th in Squamish, a memorable day as my first Trustee invitation had been that morning to be a part of the assembly to recognize Mrs. Epplert and her Heritage Canada Award win for teaching excellence.

December 7th was a public board meeting where the new Superintendent submitted SD48's Superintendent Report on Student Achievement. It is very interesting and I will have a copy at the PAC meeting.

On December 8th, 9th and 10th the BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) held an academy for Trustees from all over the province where the Minister of Education spoke to us about Education in BC including on the new BC Education Plan.

Along with the other new Trustees in SD48, I will be attending another 3 day Trustee Academy geared towards those newly elected- Trustee bootcamp! In addition I will be attending a 1 day SFU conference just prior about Implementation of Technology into the classroom. I am very much looking forward to this and will provide a report back to the School Board and expect I will be able to report back to PAC on this as well. I'm sure people will be interested in this.

Starting in February we will be commencing the School Planning Committee (SPC) process where I will be participating in visits in Squamish schools and then Whistler.

Something for SCCS to consider:

I get weekly newsletters from some of the other schools and it's good to be informed on a regular basis. This could be useful for us at SCCS and help raise the profile of PAC, get volunteers etc. I will have a copy of Garibaldi Highland's Elementary newsletter with me.

It was brought up in our orientation today that we need to celebrate the success of our students more regularly (to inspire our kids as well as our staff who do a terrific job).

I'd like to bring this to the table for discussion if you are interested and think of ways that we could implement this (and spread district wide) and take it to the board.

Thank you,

Rachael Lythe